

The Miracle at Pentecost

By Michael Jackson

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

Pentecost was one of the three great pilgrim feasts of Israel, along with Passover and Tabernacles (2 Chronicles 8:13). It was at this time—after Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and ascension—that the apostles were praying and waiting for “the baptism of the Holy Spirit” to come (Acts 1:4-5). And it certainly did come, with a miracle that is hard to visualize in our minds, even with the clear description that is given to us in Scripture.

It’s hard not to be enamored with the “show” that went on that day as recorded by Luke. Fire, violent wind sounds, and spontaneous “foreign-language speaking” are not common everyday occurrences in our houses. The impression that this made on the crowd that day is nothing short of spectacular (“bewildered” 2:6; “amazed and astonished” 2:7; “amazement and great perplexity” 2:12).

If we read the text carefully, however, we are clued in to a greater purpose. It is apparent that Luke wants the “miracle at Pentecost” to affect us in the same way it did those who saw its events unfold with their very eyes. This greater purpose is encapsulated in the reaction of 2:12, when the witnesses looked at one another and said, “What does this mean?”

It is evident by what happens next (perhaps the most significant recorded sermon that happens after the life of Christ), that the miracle did indeed “mean something.” God was revealing to the crowd present and to us today that he was about to speak through his apostles, and the message he gave through Peter was one full of meaning—Jesus died, was buried, and God raised him from the dead (2:14-36).

For Luke, the miracle was a vehicle for the message. May we endeavor to seek out meaning as we study our Bibles and see the testimony of these eyewitnesses.



Super Bowl Party
Tonight Following Service
In the Annex
Bring Finger Foods & Drinks
Everyone is invited!

Note
The remainder of the CYC money is due
by next Sunday, February 12

Donation

A donation has been made to the Mission Fund by Gary & Norma Gandy in memory of Mike Farris & Olene Hanback.

A donation has been made to Highland Park in memory of Dorson Vickery by John & Tommie Lowe and Patrick & Kim Lowe.



Elders
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SERVICE SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY:
9:00am Bible Class
10:00am Worship
4:30pm Prayer Session
5:00pm Worship

WEDNESDAY:
7:00pm Bible Class
Wed—Kenny Ford

The Record You Help Make

Bible Class183
AM Worship274
PM Worship168
Contribution.....\$12,238
Child Care.....\$78

The Highlighter

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HELLO GOODBYE, HELLO GOODBYE

I feel a little bit like the sentiment of the old Beatles song that use the words above. While we say “goodbye” to some parts of our ministry here, we are saying “hello” to many others. Kenya and I realize that we are so blessed to be a part of such a loving and warm congregation here at Highland Park. Our lives have been rewarded so much by our work with you in the last 3 1/2 years. We hope and pray that we have been as much of an encouragement to you as you have been to us.

Of course, as we have talked about with the teenagers and their parents, we are not leaving that work completely. In our view, the youth group is a part of the church as a whole; designed to work within the constructs of the body of Christ. We look forward to being active in their events and working closely with the next youth worker who joins us. We also look forward to being a part of the events of the many other ministries that we have here at Highland Park. I will continue to teach the teen class on Sunday mornings but will begin teaching the young adult class on February 15. Over the next few weeks I will be sharing in this bulletin slot the class schedule, my new office hours and contact information as well as ministry ideas for the future.

I would be doing this congregation and one of its great ministries an injustice if I did not mention that this is Mike’s last Sunday with us before leaving for Nepal and then Bangladesh. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in those countries back in the fall. The fellowship with the brothers and sisters and the landscape were priceless. Yet it was the time spent with Mike and Brenda that encouraged me the most. Michael Jackson and I have discussed on many occasions how we hate to see them leave for each new trip. They have been such an asset to this congregation for so many years and his wisdom and guidance to us “younger guys” on staff is always appreciated. Although we are selfishly disappointed to see them go, we are excited to see the impact that they will make on that part of the world on this trip. Mike’s work in Nepal this time will be heavily evangelistic, including gospel meetings. I hope that as a congregation we are committing to prayer their safety, health and work, as well as the work of the many preachers that we support in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Serving Christ Together,
Ben



Pat & Heather Quinn Heather went back to the doctor last week and received a good report. **Betty Williamson** (Evan Mansell's girlfriend's grandmother) is undergoing treatments. **Sue Martin** (Dot Crowden's sister) is undergoing treatments. **Jean Jackson** went back to the doctor this week for her back. **Opal Farris** is now under Hospice care. Calls are welcome but no visitors at this time please. **Betty Davenport** is home and doing well. **Janie Simpson** will be going back to the doctor in Huntsville for a second opinion. **Marilyn Davis** is doing well. **Adrian West** (Robin McCollum's mother) had a lung biopsy done this past week and it came back negative. **Keith Jones** (Heather Morgan's dad) will be having surgery on his foot in Huntsville February 17. **Kenneth Jackson** is home recovering and doing well. **Carolyn Thrasher** is home recovering. **Ben South** will go back to Birmingham February 23 for a MRI. **Angela Kimbrell Yuille** is now home. **Geneva Risner** is home recovering from a stroke. **Ginger Gresham** (sister in law of Jean Jackson & June Thompson) is in Keller Rm 237 recovering from hip surgery.

Nifty Fifty's

Thursday, Feb 9 @ 11:30

Entertainment by Roy Thompson & the Jericho Quartet

Bring a covered dish.

Everyone is invited!!

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to Blanche Reid in the loss of her husband, Paul. His funeral was Thursday.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Mildred Aday. Her funeral was also Thursday. This is Ruth Moore's son's mother-in-law (Pam Moore's mother).

Upcoming Showers

Bridal Shower– Amy Waycaster

TODAY 1:30-3:00

Baby Shower– Megan Henry

Sunday, Feb 12 from 2:00-4:00

She is registered at The Baby's Room, Dillard's, and Target... IT'S A GIRL!



New Baby

Congratulations to Eric & Melissa Morris on the arrival of their sweet baby girl, Molly Katherine. She weighed 6lbs 12oz. Proud grandparents are Robert & Becky Morris!

Thank You Card

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your love & support during this difficult time. I don't know how we could get through it without you. Our family is grateful for all of your acts of love & kindness. We are overwhelmed by your concern & generosity. Thank you for the food, visits, prayers, cards, and other acts of love. Mike wanted each and every one of you to know how much you meant to him.

We Love You All,
Pam, Brad, & Audrey Farris

Memorial Service

A small memorial service will be held on Thursday, Feb 16 from 6:00-8:00 to celebrate the life of Mike Farris. It will be held in the multipurpose building.

THOSE TO SERVE

10:00 AM WORSHIP

Read Scripture.....Ben Allen
Opening Prayer.....Benjamin Crump
Closing Prayer.....Nick Berryman

5:00 PM SERVICE

Read Scripture.....Youth Led
Opening Prayer.....Youth Led
Closing Prayer.....Youth Led

Building Lockup.....Russell Smelser
Greeters.....Terry & Susan Williams

February Contact Elder Russell Smelser



Prayer Lists:

Austin & Betty Davenport,
Mabeth Jones, Pauline Jackson, Harvey Hasha, Rayburn Moore (Melinda Logan's brother-in-law), Vic & Margaret Addington, Lois Black, Opal Farris, Guy Jeffreys, Reagan McBride, Jimmy Hanback, Albert Sharp, Kim Hallmark, Christine Kirchner, Edmund Cagle, Jewell Morrison (Diane's mother), Paul Barcomb, Christine Davis, Hailey Walton

Please remember our cancer patients:

Robin McCollum, Brenda Pettus, Adrian West & Peggy McCollum (Robin McCollum's mother & sister-in-law), Norma Hallmark, Shelia Renfro, Vicki Henson, Kenneth Harrison (Dot Crowden's brother), David Blazer, Ann Hargett, Betty Barnes, Dot Willis, Danny Edmonds, Garey Austin

Widows & Singles

Will meet at
Zaxby's following tonight's service



Pantry item
Cereal

Observations

This morning we will have a special recognition of Ben Hayes new work as the Preacher for the Highland Park Church. Following that I will speak on "The True Vine" from John 15:1-8. I appreciate very much the opportunity to preach here on this last Sunday morning before departing once again for South Asia.

Tonight Brenda and I will go to Brilliant, AL to report to the congregation there. They have generously supported our work for well over 10 years. It is always a joy to visit with them and renew acquaintances.

I fly out of Huntsville about noon Thursday (Feb 9). I will travel through Atlanta, Amsterdam, Mumbai (India) to Katmandu, Nepal. In Nepal I will stay in Katmandu from Saturday through Tuesday morning, then travel to East Nepal where I will conduct evangelistic meetings at Surunga, Samalbung and Birtamode through the next Sunday (Feb 19).

On Monday I will cross over into India to hold meetings at the Solkapara, Kurti and Mirik churches. Then Saturday, Feb 25 I will fly to Dhaka, Bangladesh by way of Kolkata, India. Brenda will arrive in Dhaka that same morning and we will spend the night there, driving to KBC the next morning (Sunday, 2/26).

I have listed my itinerary in detail because I would like everyone to remember my travel and especially the meetings with the churches in your prayers. Please mention each of these places as I progress, asking God to bless our efforts so the churches will be strengthened and many souls will be reached with the gospel.

I do not always stress evangelistic preaching in my campaigns. My work focuses more on training and motivating local Christians to evangelize their own countries, and providing various kinds of support for their work. On this trip however I have been asked to assist them by holding gospel meetings to encourage many with whom they have been studying to obey Christ. I anticipate good results, and want you to join us in this work by asking for God's help.

Many have given generously to enable this trip. Thank you for all you do. I will miss you greatly, and before I arrive there I will be anticipating the time when I can once again be with you.

M.E.B.



Potluck Lunch

Next Sunday, February 12

In honor of Ben, Kenya, & Family

Bring a covered dish & plan to stay with us to help welcome Ben & his family into their new chapter here at Highland Park