



June 4, 2017

Communitas Highlights a Unique Church Event

Taking Church "Beyond the Walls"



On May 21st **St. Peter's UCC in Pine Grove** continued in our ongoing efforts to take church "beyond our walls." This time we did it on motorcycles and were blessed to have the assistance of several churches in the Schuylkill Association of the UCC.

During our worship we offered liturgy for a "Blessing of Bikers" with the assistance and participation of our children bravely leading the way for our biker friends. We even had two motorcycles placed in the front of our sanctuary!



Immediately following a worship and blessing that was visibly moving to many, a Motorcycle Poker Run began at our church. This Poker Run was organized and run by Alternative MC a family oriented and sober living motorcycle club. Participants traveled throughout Schuylkill County with stops at the Schuylkill Veteran's Memorial, **St. John's UCC in Tamaqua**, and **St. Paul's UCC (Summerhill)**. We are so thankful to **First UCC of Schuylkill Haven**, St. John's UCC, and St. Paul's UCC for all their assistance! Though our first "run" was small, all who participated had a great time and your hospitality will not be forgotten!



Pentecost Sunday

The first Pentecost must have been amazing!!! I wish I had been there. If you are not familiar with the story, please read The Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13. In The Message, Acts 2: 11-13 reads:

11 "They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!" 12 Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?" 13 Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine.""

Can you imagine being in a church when the Holy Spirit was moving so amazingly among the community of faith that people outside the building gathered to see what was going on? That people around the building heard the community of faith describing God's mighty works in their lives?

When was the last time that you shared with someone about your experience of God? Feeling a bit uncomfortable? In 1964 in a small German Reformed UCC church in the Shenandoah Valley of VA, a young woman was going to sing a solo. Before she began to sing, she shared her experience of the mighty works of God. I still remember my parents discussing it in the car all the way home, "How dare she speak about her faith! That is not to be spoken, that is a private matter." You would have thought the world was coming to an end. That was the German Reformed way.

Sadly, that is the very reason that many of our churches are struggling today. We are not willing to share our experiences of God with others. Evangelism has become a "dirty" word. Guess what? If we don't start sharing with others about our experience of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, there won't be anyone left to worship.

I dream of a day when the winds of the Holy Spirit will rip through our congregations and people will begin to tell about God's mighty works in their lives! I dream of a day when there is joy and energy and a foolishness in our churches that causes people to think that we are drunk!

I challenge you on this Pentecost Sunday to share with someone how God has moved in your life. I challenge you to ask someone to come with you to church and see what God is doing there. You will be amazed how easy it is to do once you have done it a couple times.

Then e-mail me (morris@psec.org) sharing your experience. Let's start a new Pentecost in 2017 that shares with those who have never heard about the mighty acts of God.

- Rev. Sharon S. Morris, Assoc. Conference Minister