

## “My Spirit Poured Out on Young and Old”

by Neil Amstutz, pastoral team leader

On Pentecost last Sunday, Pastor Cindy spoke of the Spirit of God poured out on all believers, causing such a stir among the witnesses that they figured these people speaking in strange tongues were drunk! For most of June and July, our worship series will continue in a Pentecost-oriented theme, drawing on Acts 2:17 as the key verse, quoting from the prophet Joel:

*‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.’*

This worship series aims to highlight how God’s Spirit continues to be poured out on women and men, young and old. On some Sundays, instead of a sermon, we will hear stories of how real people have seen evidence of God at work, including a variety of people ranging from elementary school students to some of our older adults. There will be a Sunday of intergenerational stories of seeing God at work, with pairs of grandparents/grandchildren from this congregation. High school youth will share of their “Spirit-sightings” from a service trip in Chicago. When we do have sermons, these will focus on biblical characters through whom God was active.

The evidence of God’s Spirit active among us will not come only from preachers and storytellers selected in advance. It will come from you each week! In our sharing time in worship, we want to hear from many of you some short examples of how/where you saw God’s Spirit in action. You may share such “Spirit sightings” orally as we often do in sharing time, but we’re also giving you three other options, so please start actively looking for God at work, and sharing those stories during your week rather than saving them for Sundays.

Here are 3 ways you can share without speaking aloud in church:

1. Each week there will be a bulletin insert inviting your response to the focus question, “Where did you see the Spirit working?” Write your response on that insert immediately and put it into the offering, or take it home, write on it, and put it in the offering the following week. By having our offering earlier in the service, ushers can pass along these inserts to the pastor leading prayers for that same service.
2. Post your response to the focus question on Waterford’s Facebook page, for others to appreciate. In order to be included on Sunday morning, it will need to be posted there by 9:00 p.m. Saturday night.
3. Email your response to the focus question to a special email address set up for this purpose: PouredOut@waterfordchurch.org. These responses will be forwarded to pastors, and again, must be received by 9:00 p.m. Saturday for inclusion on that Sunday morning.

We hope to have the problem of receiving too many responses to be able to share them all on a given Sunday.

Our intention is that all responses will be shared as part of our Sunday morning Sharing Time, subject to schedules and other special circumstances in worship. The pastor leading prayers will have discretion for appropriateness and sensitivity of what gets shared aloud. We encourage you to sign your name to these. However, another option is to identify yourself with something like “female in her 60s” or “male in high school.” This would help us see that God is not revealed only to people in one age group.

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## In the Nurture Wing ...

Today in Sunday school, children in preschool through eighth grade explored this lesson. Consider using this information for conversation that nurtures your child's faith.

**Text:** Luke 10:38–42; John 12:1–8

Mary

- 1 | Read John 12:4–6. Judas criticized Mary for "wasting" the perfume. John says this wasn't the real reason Judas was angry. What was?
- 2 | Talk about one of the ways you can show your love for God.
- 3 | Light a scented candle so the smell can fill the room, just like the scent of Mary's perfume did.

### Did you know?

When Pharaoh Tutankhamen's tomb was opened, there were more than 3,000 bottles of perfume found inside!

### Prayer for the week

*God, we have many choices to make today.  
Help us honor you in all we do.*

## Stephen Ministry Continues Behind the Scene

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry continues its work behind the scenes of WMC's more public ministries. The Stephen Ministers are currently providing on-going care to nine persons. The Stephen Ministers' May peer group supervision gathering included a continuing education topic related to understanding the role of the Stephen Minister as the caregiver, and trusting God to be the "cure-giver." The Stephen Leader Team is currently planning the annual Stephen Ministry retreat for the end of August. It is also assembling materials in anticipation of recruiting another group of Stephen Ministers this fall, for training January–May 2015.

—Stephen Ministry Team: Bill Minter,  
Mel and Lorna Claassen



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## Year of the Bible

READ IT STUDY IT PRAY IT LIVE IT

It was wonderful to hear how quickly many people responded this past Sunday when invited to name scripture passages that have been meaningful and memorable to us. After all, as the scripture itself says, God's word is "a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path" (Ps. 119:105).

Many of us have internalized such passages throughout our lives, and it is our hope to encourage memorization over the course of our "Year of the Bible." Any time is good for memorization, but we want to make it a particular priority for our congregation in 2014–15. This might happen in many ways:

- Might families choose to memorize scripture together at the dinner table or in the car on the way to an event?
- Might adult Sunday school classes dedicate a portion of their time together to internalize

scriptures, perhaps some of the "Dig In" scriptures referenced in last week's Buzz?

- Do people in your small group have meaningful scriptures they would like to learn as a group?
- Could memorizing scripture be a part of your regular exercise activities, working from an index card as you walk along the millrace or pedal on your exercise bike?

The memorization task force (Cynthia Bontrager, Jane Detweiler, Jerry Detweiler, Jane Ross Richer, pastor Lyle Miller) has been working to develop ideas that might help this happen. We are exploring ways to celebrate memorization together in our church space, perhaps with hallway or ceiling decorations.

Though people are welcome to memorize any scriptures, we are also putting together a list of potential verses to start from. Do you have suggestions for such a list? If you have verses that have been meaningful and that might be helpful for others to learn, please share them with a member of the congregation or place a note in the church mailbox. We'd love to be swamped with suggestions!

—Lyle Miller