



**Knox Presbyterian Church**

20 Quebec Street  
Guelph, ON N1H 2T4  
Telephone: (519) 821-0141

E-mail: [office@knoxguelph.ca](mailto:office@knoxguelph.ca)  
Web page: [www.knoxguelph.ca](http://www.knoxguelph.ca)

Rev. Johan Olivier  
Minister

Anne Eaton  
Pastoral Assistant

Chris Fischer  
Director of Music Ministries

Wilma Welsh  
Mission Coordinator

Jessie Bush  
Session Clerk

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**



Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune  
Nancy Dickieson  
Kathy Stirling  
Stephen Leaders

*"Christ caring for People  
through People"*

May 23, 2010

**Acts 2:1-21 (The Message) A Sound Like a Strong Wind**

<sup>1-4</sup> ***When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.*** <sup>5-11</sup> ***There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency, This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:***

***"In the Last Days," God says,  
"I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people:  
Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters;  
Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams.  
When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy."***

Greetings & Blessings,

Did you notice that the day of Pentecost was a specially recognized day before the event that we as Christians celebrate, the coming of the Holy Spirit? Indeed Jesus had told the disciples to wait for this day. There were three annual feasts of the Jews, the Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Pentecost celebrated the beginning of their harvest. Pentecost, a term found only in the New Testament, was first called "Feast of Harvest." How appropriate that on this 'Day of Harvest' God's new harvest of his people would begin. The gift of the Holy Spirit was not simply to be enjoyed like we might enjoy a Christmas or birthday gift. It was given by God to be used in His service. ***"I'll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy."*** It was time for the disciples to get down to the work for which Jesus Had called them in the first place. Jesus said he would make them into 'fishers of men.' Now it was happening. The time was right. ***"There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world."*** And together with the gift of the Spirit came the gift of boldness, the gift of prophesy and the gift of communication. Unlike the tower of Babel when the human efforts to make a name for themselves resulted in a confusion of languages so that people could no longer understand one another's speech, this time God gifted the listeners so they could all understand the disciple's speech regardless of their native tongue.

In the same way God will give us the right words at the right time to share the message of his love with those who he brings to us. And we each have our own circle of contacts. We who are shut-in are just as valuable in this way as was Paul while confined to house arrest later in Rome. God will bring to us those to whom he wishes to speak. Our task is to be faithful to share his love and truth when he provides the opportunity. And remember, it's his work, not ours.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin