

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

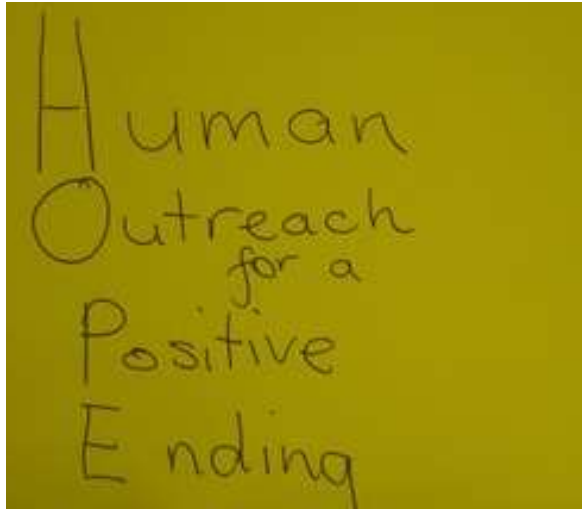
MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF JUNE

The first service in June was both a bilingual service and a Memorial for Sally Lewis. Vaughan and his four daughters were present along with family members. All of the hymns which were sung were favorites of Sally and they were tremendous choices including *Pantymfedwen*, *Diolch i Ti*, *Rhys*, *Nes i Dre* and *Cwm Rhondda*. Merched Dewi, to which Sally belonged, sang *Y Nefoedd*. Meryl Davies and Raymond Mathias read the lessons in Welsh (English translations are provided in the bulletins and on the screens). Hefina Phillips read Psalm 23 and gave the Words of Remembrance about Sally, due to her long friendship with her (as written in the previous Gadwyn).

The June 9 Pentecost service focused on the Spirit of God, as the breath of creation and the wind of change that blows through our lives. The readings from the Acts of Apostles recalled the day that God's Spirit brought all of the Jewish dispersion together to hear the disciples speak the same language which they are able to understand as their own native tongues. As Rev. Liz described in her sermon "The Holy Spirit can be understood as the peace of Christ breathed on us so that we are loved and given the power to love and heal and mend God's world. We are made a new creation in the renewing and refreshing wind of the Spirit dancing in our lives, bringing the gifts that make each one of us a part of the body of Christ."

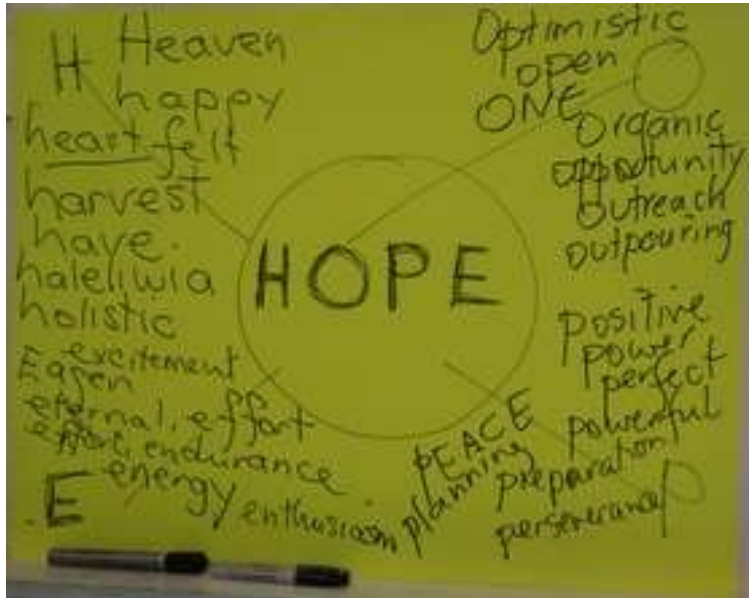
On Trinity Sunday June 16 we looked at the mystery that our one God can be understood as three persons - God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit. Rev. Liz reminded us that the triune concept was the subject of long (about 700 years) and sometimes violent discussions and confrontations in the early years of the church. Christians have never stopped trying to figure out this mystery called God whose being seems to be revealed in so many different ways. It is a mystery that emphasizes that none of us know the "whole truth" about God. Rev. Liz concluded "on Trinity Sunday, we celebrate that we were made to be in relationship by a God who shows us perfect relationship. A God who is the Source of all love, who sent to us Jesus, love incarnate to show us how truly loved we are, and who has given us love's power through the Holy Spirit to heal this broken world that God loves so very much."

We sang the beautiful hymn from Voices United (# 625) *I Feel the Winds of God today, today my sail I lift* for the Second Sunday after Pentecost on June 23. Anyone who sails should have a listen to that hymn. The theme of the service was the death of the prophet Elijah and the meaning of his whirlwind of an ascent into the heavens as witnessed by his successor, Elisha. This reading can be seen as a metaphor for other whirlwinds, such as when we are in the midst of change and loss. Most of us are like Elisha when faced with the overwhelming – we get panicky, we despair that we will not be able to bear it. This is also how the disciples felt after the death of Jesus but they came to understand that they were to face loss and grief head on and then carry on with the work of building the kingdom of God.



As Rev Liz was back in Regina organising her house sale, the last service was presented by members of the congregation, using notes from Rev. Liz. Merched Dewi sang *Let There be Peace on Earth*. We read Psalm 31 which asks that God be our rock of refuge, and then Pam Evans read a paraphrase of this by James Taylor from his book *Everyday Psalms* which is subtitled *Out on a Limb: Don't let all the effort you put into me go to waste; I went way out on a limb for you, Lord*. These are "translations" using modern imagery. Other readers included Risti Jensen, Nest Pritchard, Nia Davies and Hefina Phillips. Sarah Evans sang *On Eagle's Wings* which is Psalm 91 put to music (*And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and*

hold you in the palm of my hand). The first reflection, a poem by Michael Coffey called *God's Bathrobe*, was read by Rosemary Black. The second reflection was lead by Betty Cullingworth on the theme of the service "Where is Hope?". We had time to do some group work to think of words beginning with the letters of HOPE and Betty tied this back to what our hopes are for the future of Dewi Sant church. It is not sufficient to hope for a new future for the church – everyone needs to participate in the actions required to bring about this future. Ideas from the discussion are shown in the attached photo (as written out by Hefina at the front of the church). Betty summarized this as "Human Outreach for a Positive Ending".



It would be great if readers of Y Gadwyn send in their ideas for the future direction of Dewi Sant church. We would like to hear from the greater Welsh community, many of whom support Dewi Sant Church but perhaps are not able to attend. But it would also be good to hear from those who have decided not to attend and what the church could do to be more welcoming/meaningful for you.
The Editor

DONATIONS FOR LANSING UNITED CHURCH FOOD BANK

The need for donations for the Lansing Food Bank continue, as the need keeps increasing. All contributions to the donation box in the Narthex are welcome. But you don't have to come to church to bring these - the Food Bank is also in need of financial contributions as it must purchase 60% or 6 tons of its required food items each month to meet the needs of the volume of clients it now serves. The cost of basic food items has increased 15% or more in the past 6 months, and coupled with the volume of clients now needing assistance, the Food Bank is buying basic food items at the

