

GraceNotes

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Christian Church

Grace Christian Church
1713 E. Sevier Avenue
Kingsport, TN 37664
(423) 247-2691

Dr. J. Edward Clevinger, Minister



June 2022
Vol. 4, No. 6

www.gracechristiankingsport.com

GROWING IN GRACE “WIND CHIMES OF THE HEART”

Just inside the kitchen window at my house there is a decorative copper-tube wind chime. During the winter months it hangs in solemn silence, but when summer arrives, a light tinkling sound can often be heard floating melodiously through the house. Obviously it means the wind is blowing, but it also means something else. Remember, the chimes are inside, so it must mean the window is open. And since the window is open, the chimes are heard outside as well.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit is like the wind: “It blows and you hear the sound of it” (John 3:8). Perhaps, too, our hearts are like the chimes. Without the wind of the Spirit inside, there is no music of life. Chimes never ring until the wind blows and souls never sing until the wind blows inside.

On the Christian calendar, June 5th is Pentecost Sunday. It commemorates the outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit. Scripture says it arrived “like a mighty rushing wind and filled the whole house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2). Evidently, the sound was also heard outside the house. Acts 2:6 says, “When the sound occurred a crowd came together and all were bewildered for each heard in his own language.” So what did they hear? The summary of Acts 2:14 – 36 is that they heard the Gospel. It was a miracle! The sound heard inside became the sound heard outside. The great take-away is that God intends for the Gospel to be heard and understood by one and all.

As we continue GROWING IN GRACE together, let us be sure to open the windows of our hearts. Spiritual winds are blowing all around. The sound can be heard. And, yes, the sound must be heard inside if it is to be heard outside. The church must chime within if it is to ever chime without. The implication of such for our worship, study, and discipleship in the church is profound. The application of such for our witness, evangelism, and service in the world is equally profound. As per the day of Pentecost those profundities are underscored, highlighted, punctuated, and emphasized when the hearers outside “were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, ‘What shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37). Peter chimed, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). They obeyed and the hearers became chimers. Acts 2:41 says there were 3,000 of them. And that was only day one. Today there are millions all around the world whose lives chime for Jesus. GCC represents some of those in Kingsport.

It is important to remember that it is the Holy Spirit who keeps the chimes ‘chiming’ across the ages. The big question is whether the windows are open. Shut windows in a house are a

-continued-