

## We Become the Source

With all the recent rain, there has been an appearance of springs bubbling up from places where there hadn't been water before. Streams that had been dry creek beds are flowing. Everywhere you look you can see water sources. It reminded me of this scripture in John, (John 7: 37 – 39). There were streams of living water coming from everywhere.

Today we celebrate Pentecost. We recognize that on this day more than 2000 years ago the Spirit did indeed come down and touch believers making each one of them the source of living water for the world.

Last Sunday was Mother's Day, a day not recognized by the Church calendar, but a day certainly worthy of recognition in the church because what better contemporary example of sacrificial love can we have than the love of a mother for her child? Sometimes Mother's

Day and Pentecost fall on the same Sunday. The church, the body of Christ is often referred to in motherly terms because the function of the church includes the nurturing of the believer in spiritual matters, just as a mother nurtures a child. So, in a sense today we celebrate the birth of the Christian church our spiritual mother.

I want to focus on the scripture in John rather than the story of the spirit's arrival in Acts. I think there is an aspect of the words of Jesus that we have overlooked, from where does the living water come? (read scripture again) Believers come and drink from the living water that Jesus offers, and something happens to them. It says out of their hearts will flow streams of living water. We become the source of the living water. The water flows from us. Just as after the rain here in Somerset streams of water seem to bubble from

everywhere, carrying nutrients and life-giving moisture to plants further downstream, when we receive the holy spirit, we become a stream of living water ourselves from which the holy spirit flows into others. We become the source of a new stream that then gives life to others. Ours should be an active living faith that is not stagnant. Jesus chose his metaphor well. We are not ponds of living water that stay in one place waiting for believers to come and drink. We are not lakes of living water for others to float on for the rest of their lives. The spirit is not to be dammed up inside of us for us to dispense according to our will. We are to become a river or stream of living water that flows freely out to others who then once they have received the Holy Spirit become a source of living water themselves. The power of the Holy Spirit is expressed in the way we love and care for each other and our neighbors and by

the way we love and respect God. A fine example of the kind of love I am talking about is the way a mother loves her children. That is the way God loves us and wants us to love each other. To help us do that God gives us the Holy Spirit through which we have the power then to help others become children of God too.

Participating in the sacrament of Holy Communion is another great way to connect with the Holy Spirit and become a torrent of the Spirit's power. The next communion will be on June 3, but you don't have to wait until then to drink in Christ. Prayer, reading and meditating scripture and doing acts of loving service will open the floodgates of your hearts. Remember the words of Jesus, **John 7:37-38** "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, <sup>38</sup> and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"