

## ***Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, May 15, 2016***

### ***Pentecost Sunday***

#### **Notes for the sermon on Renewal in the Spirit**

**Ps 104:24-34 and John 14:8-17 – Sermon Text = John 14:17**

***This is the Spirit of truth,  
whom the world cannot receive,  
Because it neither sees him nor knows him.  
You know him, because he abides in you,  
and he will be in you.***

**[Hymns = 386, 399, and 404]**

**Key ideas = two renewals – the first was in Jesus Christ that renewed the world as God desires it to be – where love of God, others, and self provides the foundation for the care-taking that will enable the whole world to flourish – this renewal is achieved – a done deal - the second is the ongoing process of bringing this fact to its full fruition – the many, varied, and surprising ways in which the Spirit spreads its gifts and produces their results in world, communities, church, and people**



#### **Bikes & Burning**

The lady on the bike is Renee Charbonneau – ‘Belt Drive Betty’ – legend in the biking community – organized food for 2,000 first responders at Fort MacMurray – in an interview on CBC, said “When you help, you are happy.” – simple sentiment, but so profound – struck me as a great summary of what’s happening with the gift of the Spirit as Jesus promises in John’s gospel and Luke describes in the Acts of the Apostles –

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God taking delight in redeeming the world and giving the world his ongoing energy for the completion of the job

## Two Forms of Renewal

The **first** work of renewal is the salvation of the creation that God accomplished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in his incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension – this event in history changed the nature of reality – God’s love is now the determining energy in the world – God’s power abides in us – it’s truth is that evil and death are defeated – they are not going quietly, but they will not have the last word

The **second** work of renewal is the work of the Spirit within us – the many and varied ways in which God’s energy of love supports and shapes us to be the people God created us to be – relies on an intentional and disciplined cultivation of the gifts of the Spirit – as Thomas Keating (cf *Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit*) summarizes them:

Reverence  
Fortitude  
Piety  
Counsel  
Knowledge  
Understanding  
Wisdom

- Reverence = trust in and reliance on God’s love
- Fortitude = resilience in the face of ongoing evil and death
- Piety = disciplines of a life lived in following Jesus Christ
- Counsel = conversations that witness to the power of God’s love
- Knowledge = knowing, in the depths of our souls, the story of God’s redemption
- Understanding = learning how that story shapes lives of helping and happiness
- Wisdom = when the mystery of God’s presence becomes our true delight

Cultivating these practices is the business of the church – how we nourish souls to flourish in the grace of Jesus Christ – how we cooperate with the Spirit in bringing God’s renewal to the whole creation

How the gifts are cultivated every week in worship, learning, fellowship and service – gather in reverence, to be built up in God’s fortitude, that strengthens our piety, so that we can help nourish the world with God’s knowledge, understanding, and wisdom through our counsel

And sometimes, in nourishing all of this, the Spirit uses the strangest and most startling witnesses to remind us of her gifts and fruits – in this case, ‘Belt Drive Betty’ from Grande Prairie, AB, who gets the profound simplicity of the Spirit of God – “When you help, you are happy.”