Dear Friends,

I have never actually done speed dating; have you? I never, ever in my wildest imagination thought I would want to try speed dating……but I am learning not to be so rigid. To loosen up a bit. And so I am going to give it a try. And I am inviting you to join me.

On June 4th, Pentecost Sunday, we will all get our chance to try Speed Dating Christ Church Style.

Let me tell you about it: Pentecost is that major feast day that we set aside to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to enliven and invigorate the Church. We believe the Holy Spirit still comes to us, the Church ever-living, and that we are a part of the work that Spirit is doing in the world.

What better way to “keep the feast” than to listen to what the Spirit is saying to us right here and now? To actively discern where the heart of our congregation is. Where it is the Spirit is taking us next. The vestry and I want to hear from you: we want to hear about your desires, your ideas, your vision for what we can do – not just within the four walls of our church – but beyond. We are planning a Pentecost like no other Pentecost at Christ Church to do just that. And we want to throw some spirited fun in the mix.

Since Pentecost falls on the first weekend of our summer schedule (Mass on the Grass at 5:00pm on Saturday and one service at 9:00am on Sunday) we plan an outdoor celebration that morning! Dress casually, bring your lawn chair for some extra comfort and join us back in the grassy area at the south end of our parking lot. The Eucharist will be casual. The music will be light. The color will be RED – after all, it is Pentecost! Here is the best part: you will all be part of the sermon: which as you may guess, centers around a kind of Speed Dating, Christ Church Style. Various tables will be set up with various outreach ministries represented at each table. You can pick your table and for five minutes, find out what it is about and offer your own thoughts and opinions. When the “five minute bell” rings, you can visit another table. This is a whole new kind of speed dating! While adults make their way to whatever interests them, children will have their own activities to enjoy.

Following the service we will remain outside for a special meal (in place of the Coffee Hour). You will be hearing more about this, and what if anything, you can bring to share.

Why are we doing all this? Besides the fun of celebrating on the site of our Saturday Worship Service, we hope to get good, creative feedback that will help the vestry assess various ministries and help us decide where the parish would like to place its energy in the year to come. We hope to discern – all of us together – the mind of Christ and the work the Spirit longs to do through us.

So mark your calendars. Circle it big in RED. Invite a friend to come join us – it is a perfect time for them to experience the Christ Church community. And come with an open heart, an open mind, an open spirit; for we are God’s people, we are Christ’s presence in the world, and we invoke the Holy Spirit to be with us now, and always.

Peace,
Mother Lisa+