

Service and has held several overseas posts as Consul.

Donation \$5.

RSVP to Ida Reeves on 9510 2612 by Tuesday, 16 June.

We are inviting other churches to come, and would also welcome any members of our congregation able to come.

*** Looking Ahead: Presbytery Lecture**

“Strange Gods and Alternative Altars” by Phillip Johnson, lecturer at Presbyterian Theological Centre, Sydney.

Thursday, 2 July, 8.00 pm at John Knox UC, Brighton.

THE ECUMENICAL SERVICE

AT PENTECOST,

THIS SUNDAY, 31 MAY

10AM AT UNITING CHURCH

We would appreciate people bringing a plate of food for morning tea with our Holy Advent friends after the service.

The Minister:

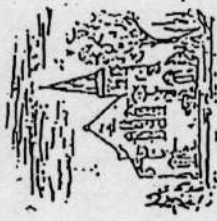
The Rev. Dr. Max Champion

Minister in Association:

Deaconess Lesley McMullin

Director of Music:

Mr. Laurie MacLennan



AUC NEWS

NO. 4

May, June, July, 1998

Minister's Comment

Pentecost Sunday concludes the great festival season from Christmas through Easter and Ascension, which culminates in the gift of the Spirit and the fullness of God's promises. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit all Christian work is bound to fail.

Strangely, church people do not realise the force of this statement. Many Christians regard the Spirit's coming as a mere piece of ancient history, hardly relevant to what we call 'church life' today. Other Christians over-emphasise the Spirit's gifts (*charisms*) to the extent that they sever the present work of the Spirit from his relationship (within the divine Trinity) to Christ, whose active presence in the world he is.

Christians should maintain a proper balance in their living and their thinking. We become unbalanced if we give greater priority to the Spirit than to Christ, who gives the Spirit to the Church to guide and strengthen us (John 16: 7-14). If we could sum up the Spirit's work in a few words we might say something like this:

The Spirit comes from the Father to bear witness to the Son, so that his church is not left without direction or the strength to follow in his way. Above all, the Spirit is the true interpreter of Scripture. Only with the Spirit's help can we find in the Scriptures the living Word who is Christ himself.

Warren Clarnette.