**Queens Chapel U.M. Church**

**Beltsville, MD**

Rev. Dr. Will Butler, Pastor

**“The Power of Becoming the Church” (Part 2)**

**Acts 2:38**

“Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

1. When we hear the word church
2. Church is much more than a physical building.
3. Ecclesiology--Greek word: “ekklesia,” the assembly of believers who belong to, who worship and follow Jesus Christ.
4. **Acts 2:38 (NLT)**

 “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

1. Salvation just don’t happen
2. One must repent
* Change one’s mind about sin and be willing to move in a new direction.
* Repentance brings restation to your soul.

**Acts 3:19 (The Living Bible)**

 “Now change your mind and attitude to God and turn to him so he can cleanse away your sins and send you wonderful times of refreshment from the presence of the Lord”

1. Be Baptized in the Name of Jesus
* Peter was obeying Christ command Matthew 28:19

 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

1. In the name of Jesus
* For them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ was an expression of their belief and complete trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
* Baptism made it also clear that they identified with the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ

 **Romans 6:3-4 (NLT)**

 3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?

 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

1. Forgiveness of your sins”
* The act of Baptism is declaring to the world that we have been forgiven of our sins
* The act of Baptism does not cleanse you from your sins—it declares we’ve been washed by the blood of Jesus Christ

**1 Peter 3:20-21 NLT**

 20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.

 21 And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Isaiah 1:18 (NLT)**

 “Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.”

**Ephesians 1:7 NLT**

 “He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins”

1. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
* The Holy Spirit is a gift because Jesus Christ promised to give it to every believer.

**Luke 11:13 NLT**

  “So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

**Ezekiel 36:26-27**

 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations