

## A NOTE TO PARENTS

There is a joke about a missionary who was teaching a class on the Trinity. The class looked more and more puzzled, till finally one member stood up, folded his hands, and bowed respectfully. "Please," he said, "Honorable Father, very good. Honorable Son, good also. Honorable Bird, we do not understand at all."

I remember praying very hard, at the age of twelve or thirteen, for an understanding of the Holy Spirit. Like the missionary Bible class members, I had powerful mental images of God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and of Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. But on the Holy Spirit, I drew a complete blank.

What I did not realize then, is that in the very act of praying, I was working intimately and powerfully by and with the Holy Spirit. We do not have clear and emotionally affecting mental images of the Spirit, because the Spirit is the very power working within us that enables us to image and love the Father and the Son. The Spirit is the voice of prayer, praying through us when we turn with love and longing to our Creator and beg to be made new in the image of Jesus. The Spirit is, one might say, the electrical current that enables us to turn on the television set where we see the image of God in Christ; the Spirit is what connects us to each other and to God, so that a movement of atoms in my brain becomes living speech, understandable to you. Without the Spirit, we would all be in unending solitary confinement, locked within ourselves.

The Pentecostal images of fire, wind, and speech are all forces that move, invisibly, to animate and set in motion. The other image for the Spirit, a dove, combines the idea of arrow-like flight with a deep sense of benediction and peace. But these are not the only ways we can approach the Giver of Life. Try drawing pictures with your child of times when you have felt very close to God. Your picture need not be realistic: just something that reminds you of the feeling that you got from the experience. The picture itself, and the act of telling about it, become images of the Spirit, who is always seeking to open our lips and our hearts.

© 1988 by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard. All rights reserved.

THE SUNDAY PAPER, 19 Colony Road, New Haven, CT 06511, USA

203 - 624-2520 • [www.the-sunday-paper.com](http://www.the-sunday-paper.com)

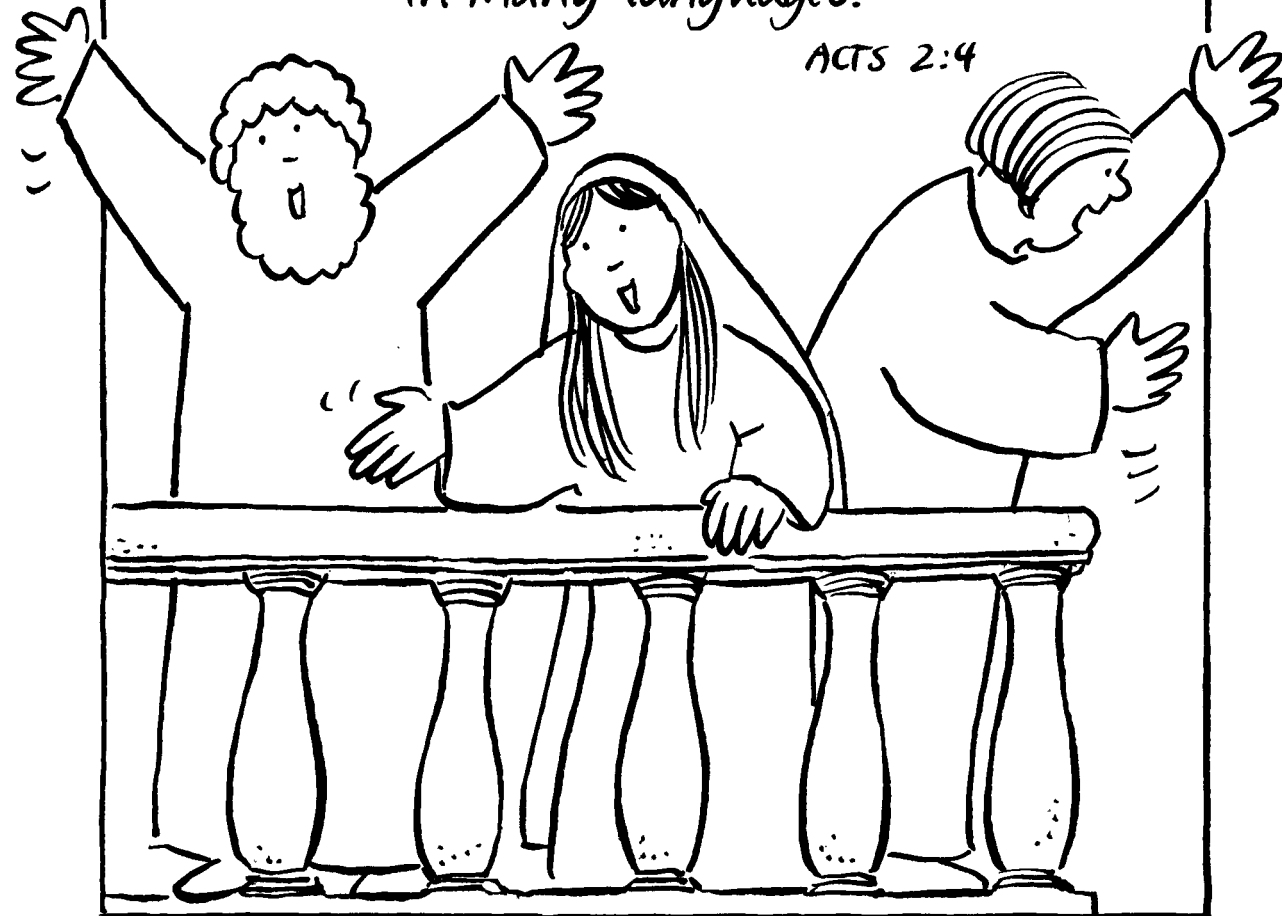


# THE SUNDAY PAPER JUNIOR



*They were all filled with the HOLY SPIRIT,  
and began to tell the good news  
in many languages!*

ACTS 2:4



TODAY IS PENTECOST.

After Jesus went away to be with God, his friends stayed together.

They waited and prayed. Suddenly, they felt a powerful wind!



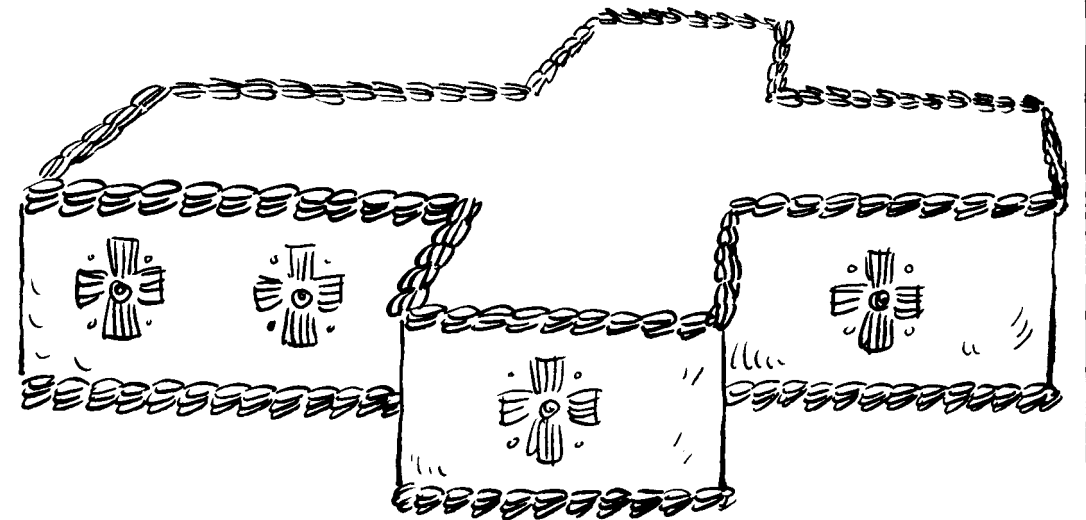
They saw sparks of fire on each other's heads! God's Spirit had come to them.

They were filled with love and power. They spread the Good News far and wide.



Jesus promised his friends that he would not abandon them when he went back to God. His power and love would be inside them all the time. They would be able to teach many different kinds of people about God's love. They would be the beginning of God's CHURCH.

PENTECOST is the day when this began to come true. We call it "the birthday of the Church."



God's Church is nearly 2000 years old. How many candles can you draw on its birthday cake?

# THE SUNDAY PAPER

YEAR A  
PENTECOST



This Sunday is PENTECOST, one of the great festivals of the Church. It is the day when we celebrate how God kept Jesus's promise to be with us forever, and share with us his new life and glory. On Pentecost, God sent his SPIRIT to Jesus's friends. From then on they knew that God's power and Jesus's love were with them, all the time. They were no longer just a group of friends who had known a very special person. Now they were God's family, the Church!

<p><b>ACTS 2:1-11</b></p>	<p><b>PSALM 104:31</b></p>	<p><b>JOHN 7:39</b></p>
<p>(The Spirit comes to Jesus's friends like a strong wind and flames of fire)</p>	<p>"Lord, when you send out your Spirit, you make the world new"</p>	<p>"The Spirit could not come until Jesus was glorified"</p>

We call Pentecost "the birthday of the Church." From its beginning, the Church has spread through the world. It can do God's work, because his Spirit is still with us!

## HOW GOD'S SPIRIT WORKS

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

ST. PAUL WROTE THESE WORDS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF CORINTH!

GOD'S SPIRIT WORKS IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS! GOD GIVES US LOTS OF DIFFERENT GIFTS THROUGH HIS SPIRIT!

HE MAKES SOME PEOPLE VERY WISE!

HE GIVES OTHERS GREAT FAITH!

OTHER PEOPLE CAN WORK MIRACLES BECAUSE GOD'S SPIRIT GIVES THEM POWER!

OTHERS HAVE SPECIAL GIFTS OF PRAYER...

BUT ALL THESE GIFTS COME FROM THE SAME SPIRIT!

GOD'S CHURCH IS LIKE A BODY, AND HIS SPIRIT GIVES IT LIFE! GOD GIVES US HIS SPIRIT WHEN (1 CORINTHIANS 12:13)!

# Activity: Pentecost Pinwheel

"And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2).

Wind is one of the symbols of Pentecost. Make a symbolic pinwheel to remind you of the sound of violent wind at Pentecost.

**Note:** If you have young children, they may just color their pinwheel. Older children, youth, and adults can freehand draw the symbols of Pentecost (the seven-tongued flame and the descending dove).

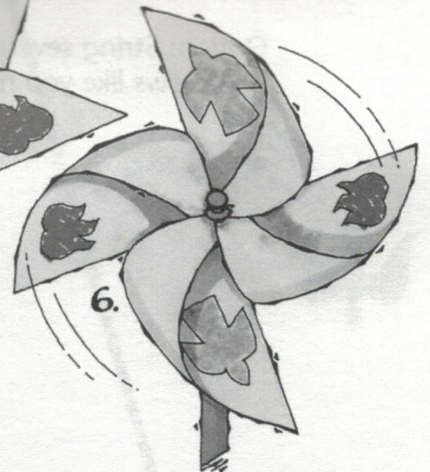
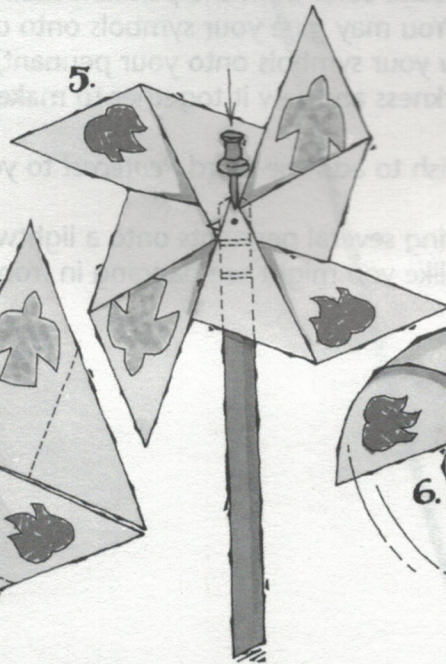
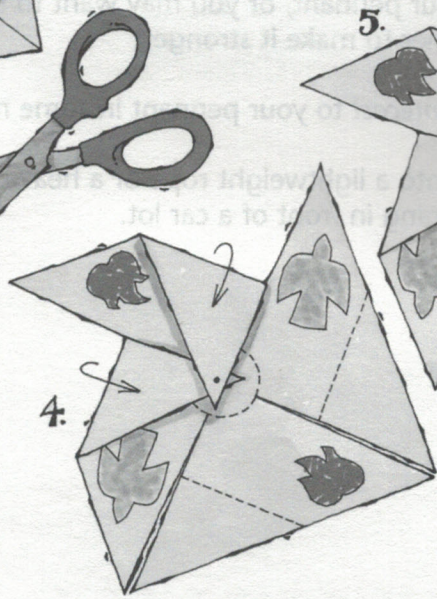
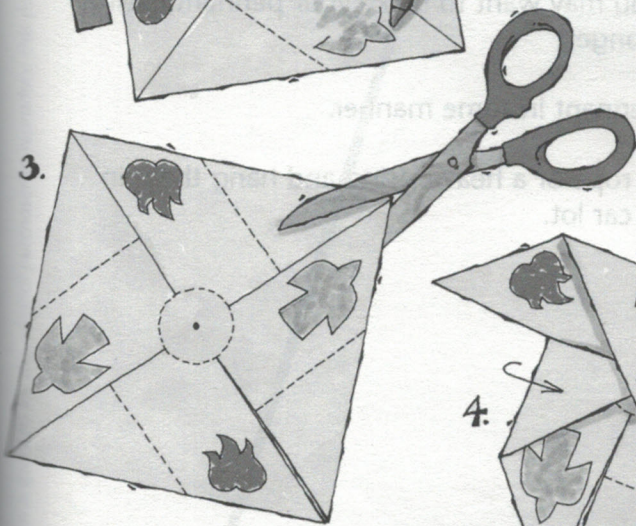
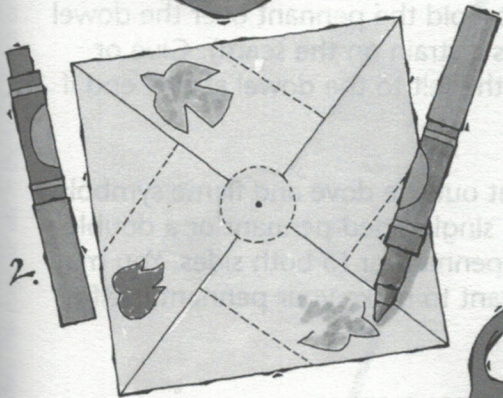
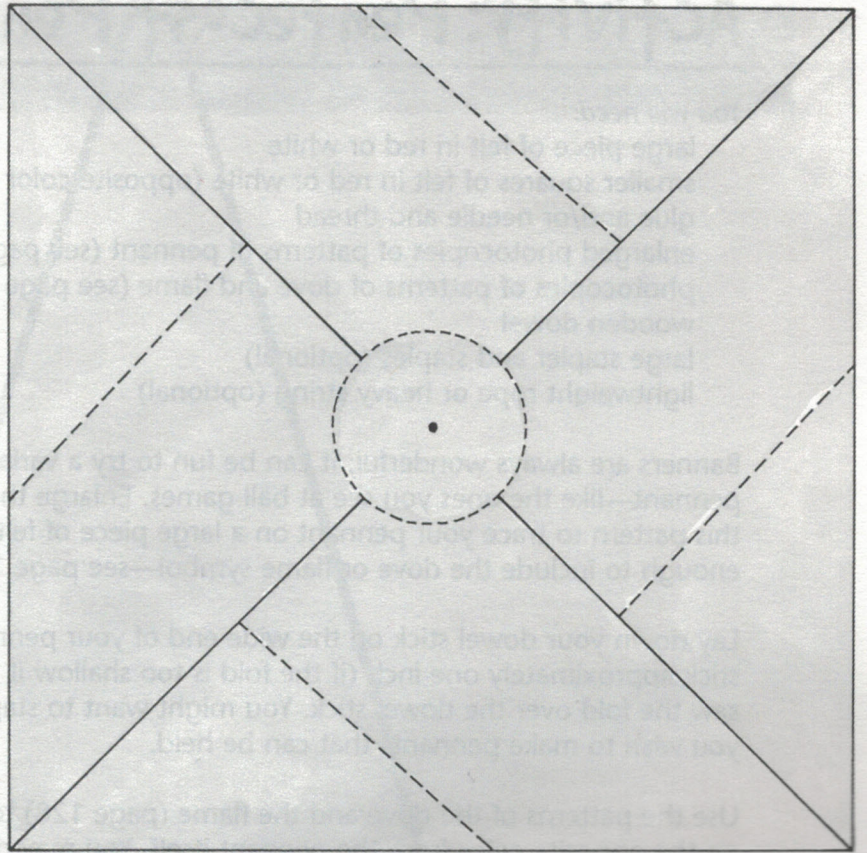
*You will need:*

- photocopies of pattern (see p. 125)
- paper
- scissors
- crayons or markers
- pencils with erasers
- pushpins or tacks

1. On a piece of paper, make a square with lines and a circle in the middle as is shown in the pattern on page 125.
2. Decorate the square using flames or a descending dove. The color of Pentecost is red so you will probably want to use that color somehow. Be creative; your pinwheel should look the way you want it to look.
3. Cut out the square. Then cut along the solid lines toward the center. Be careful not to cut into the middle circle.
4. Fold the points of the square along the dotted lines into the center.
5. Push a pin (one with a big head) or a tack through the center being sure to catch each point in the pin or tack. Then push the pin or tack into a pencil eraser. The eraser protects you and others from the sharp tip of the pin or tack, and the pencil becomes your holder for the pinwheel.
6. Open the spaces where the points are folded down so that air can get in.

**Note:** This pinwheel is manually operated. You will need to blow (or stand outside in a good breeze) to make it spin.





© 2003 Abingdon Press. Permission is granted for the original purchaser to reproduce this page for use in the local church or educational setting. Copyright notice must be included on reproductions.

# Activity: Pentecost Pennants

## You will need:

- large piece of felt in red or white
- smaller squares of felt in red or white (opposite color of large piece of felt)
- glue and/or needle and thread
- enlarged photocopies of patterns of pennant (see page 127)
- photocopies of patterns of dove and flame (see page 128)
- wooden dowel
- large stapler and staples (optional)
- lightweight rope or heavy string (optional)

Banners are always wonderful; it can be fun to try a variation of a banner—that is, a pennant—like the ones you see at ball games. Enlarge the pennant pattern on page 127. Use this pattern to trace your pennant on a large piece of felt. (Make sure your pennant is large enough to include the dove or flame symbol—see page 128.)

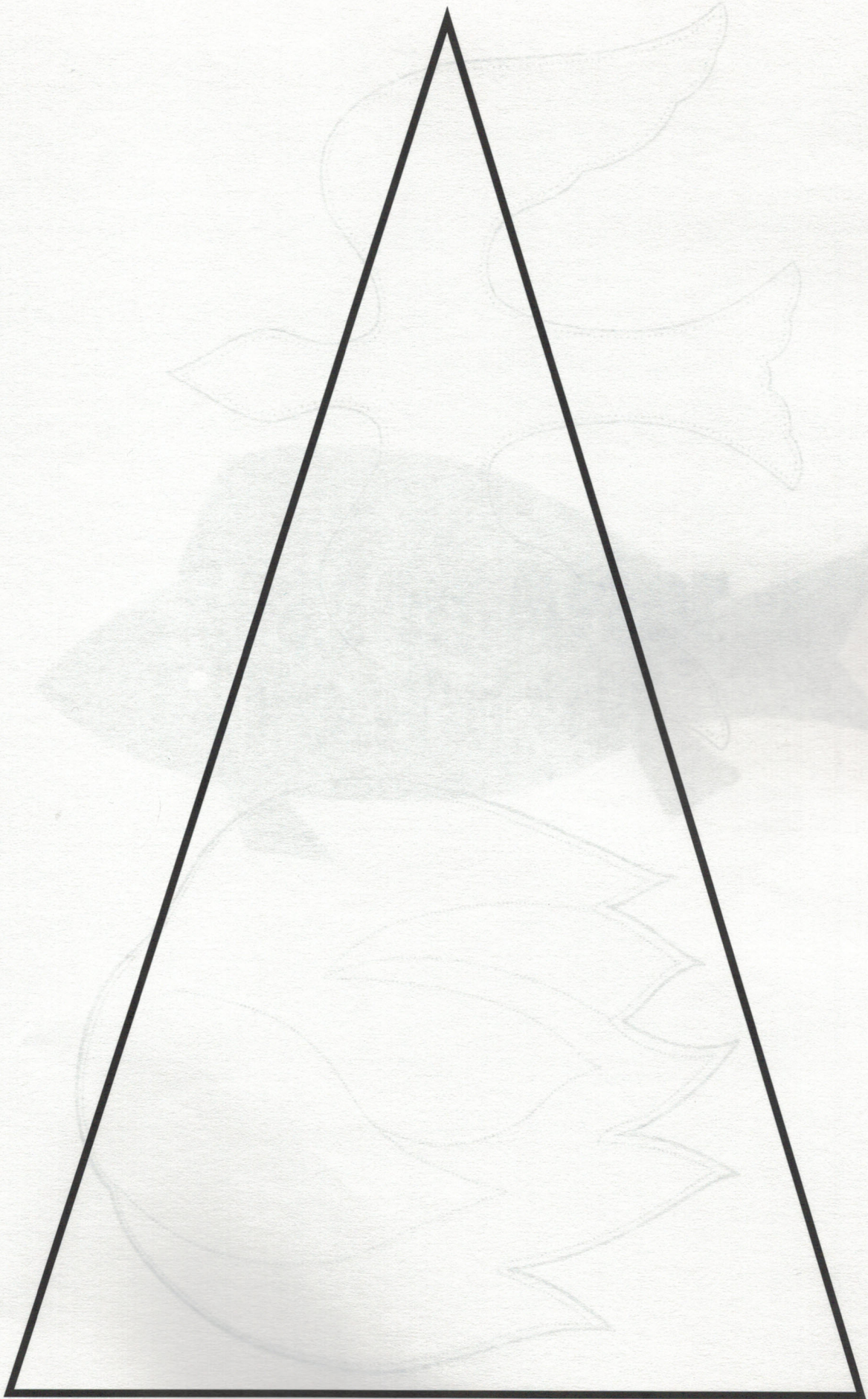
Lay down your dowel stick on the wide end of your pennant. Fold the pennant over the dowel stick approximately one inch (if the fold is too shallow it puts a strain on the seam). Glue or sew the fold over the dowel stick. You might want to staple the felt to the dowel at one end if you wish to make pennants that can be held.

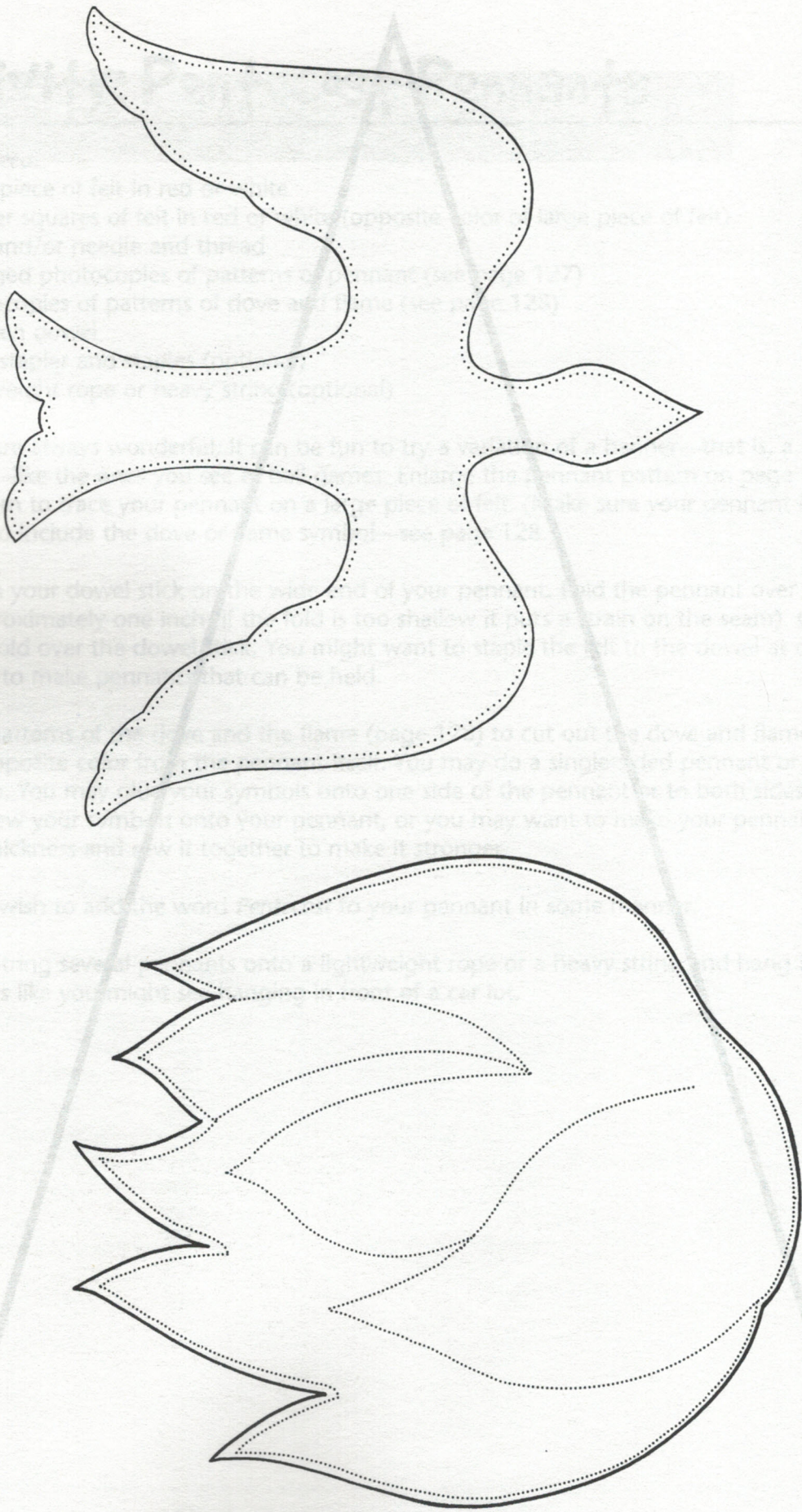
Use the patterns of the dove and the flame (page 128) to cut out the dove and flame symbols on the opposite color from the pennant itself. You may do a single-sided pennant or a double-sided one. You may glue your symbols onto one side of the pennant or to both sides. You may wish to sew your symbols onto your pennant, or you may want to make your pennant itself a double thickness and sew it together to make it stronger.

You may wish to add the word *Pentecost* to your pennant in some manner.

Option: String several pennants onto a lightweight rope or a heavy string and hang them in large rows like you might see hanging in front of a car lot.









## **“Holy Spirit” - 5 Translations**

1. I Have “Espiritu Santo” (Spanish)
2. I Have “seonglyeong” (Korean)
3. I Have “Heiliger Geist” (German)
4. I Have “Roho Takatifu” (Swahili)
5. I Have “banal na Espiritu” (Filipino)