



SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sharing God's Grace, Love, and Joy!

On the Journey...

Summer is finally here - at least Memorial Day and the "unofficial" start of the season! For some people summer is a time of ease when the hectic pace of life slows down a little, but for many people every minute of the longer days seems to be filled with more activity!

The church year is the same. As we begin the season of Ordinary Time we approach the ordinary days in the journey of life. These are the days in our spiritual lives when like the green plants and trees around us, we continue to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, both as individuals and as the body of Christ, the church. In this season *we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament which is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love* (Ephesians 4: 15-16).

In Ordinary Time we encounter all of the extraordinary possibilities before us. The session is in the process of updating the web page for Salem and developing other areas of social media to reach out to those in the community who are seeking a church home. Thanks to Sherrie Morris for all the work she has done on the current web page (www.salempresbyterian.com). The Morning Bible Study and Lunch Bunch groups will continue to meet through the summer as we seek to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* (2 Peter 3: 18a). You are always welcome to join us!

In this edition of the newsletter we welcome contributions by Hazel Bush and Berdine Dent, two excellent writers. *Thank You Notes* will be an ongoing column. We thank Hazel and Berdine for sharing their talents, and we invite you to submit articles to the pastor to be included in future Salem newsletters, too.

Be sure to read about upcoming events at Salem so you don't miss a thing during this extraordinary season!

Blessings, Karen



***Trinity Sunday
Communion Worship
in the Prayer Garden***

at 11 a.m., THIS Sunday, May 31, 2015

(Weather permitting. Please dress accordingly)

"The Prayer Garden"

Written by Hazel Bush, October 10, 2013, revised December 19, 2013

The Prayer Garden that means so much to me is located at Salem Presbyterian Church. Salem is a quaint, picturesque church that is over 200 years old and is tucked away in a corner of Combs Ferry Road at Pine Grove, Kentucky.

The church and garden seem to embody a simple and gracious "Welcome to God's House" atmosphere. Lots of passersby stop just to walk the grounds and enjoy the beauty, simplicity and country charm. The Prayer Garden is especially popular with young couples as they stop and inquire about getting married in the delightful garden which is surrounded by tall fir trees. As you enter it, there is an inlay walkway; flower beds with colorful moms, begonias, and spider plants are interspersed between areas of the walkway. A large granite cross is the focal point of the garden.

Since Karen McDonald Smith has been minister at Salem, we have held services in the garden from time to time. Chairs are set up as is a PA system and a keyboard. Sunday, September 29, 2013, was our designated time to have the prayer garden service this fall. The weather was cloudy, and when the service began, it looked as if it could rain at any moment. However, a cool breeze made it comfortable and refreshing to be outdoors. The minister preached a sermon titled "Under His Wings" about how God, our parent, and others try to shield us from harm. The garden also gives the same comforting feeling. At one point in the service, when rain seemed imminent, the minister looked upwards toward heaven and said, "Just a few more minutes, Lord." Know what? It didn't rain all during that service, and although the day remained cloudy, it didn't rain the rest of the day.

Another thing that made this Sunday especially nostalgic for me were the visitors that came unexpectedly. Wilma Rule and her daughter and son-in-law, family of the late Rev. David Rule, who occasionally preached at Salem, visited and gifted each one of us with a copy of his book, "Friends Let Me Tell You Some Good News." Dr. Rule always loved the garden and never failed to walk over and comment on it.

I have attended Salem since I was a little girl. I have seen many changes and additions over time. One of the most meaningful and special to me was the addition of the Prayer Garden several years ago when Salem was granted money for improvements and additions to the building and grounds of the church. Among the many ideas presented and acted upon by the members of the congregation was a prayer garden. The minister of the church at the time took the suggestion of Berdine Dent, and with her vision and talent, Reverend Suzanne Martin developed plans for the project. Dedicated people came together to accomplish those plans, and one weekend they laid sod and planted flowers, and a beautiful garden emerged. Since then the Prayer Garden has been maintained by those same church members.

When my younger grandchildren were smaller, we would at times take a picnic with us and enjoy it in the tranquility of the garden while we discussed why we need God and the Ten Commandments. Those were important days in the children's lives and in mine.



This past Sunday, when the service ended, I walked out of the garden thankful that the rain had held off and with a sense of renewal and freedom from worry. The Prayer Garden feels to me like a sanctuary and refuge from the cares of life.



The next stated meeting of the **Session** is Monday, June 8 at 6:00 p.m. We are grateful for the elders who currently serve:

Harold Adams, Carl Dent,
Barbara Falmlen, Sherrrie Morris,
and David Sizemore.

Lunch Bunch at 11:00 a.m.

On **Thursday, June 18** we will begin a new study on PRAYER. We will look at the prayers in scripture, talk about the different ways we pray, and learn about praying with others. Prayer will be the emphasis throughout the summer on **July 16** and **August 20** at 11 a.m.



Everyone is invited to bring a brown bag lunch and join us for study and fellowship!



If you like to write we welcome your contributions to Salem's newsletter. Please submit articles to the pastor.



SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

during worship on
May 31, July 5,
and August 9



Communion



Morning Bible Study
every Sunday at 10 a.m.
ACTS 13-28

BBQ POTLUCK

Sunday, June 7
following worship



Wear casual clothes for the morning and enjoy some summer fun! Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring side dishes and buns.

NOTE: There is no Potluck lunch on July 5.



More SALEM COOKBOOKS have been printed. If you have not received yours, please see Carl Dent.

Any extra cookbooks will be available as a gift for future visitors to Salem.

♥ Please remember to contribute to **OPERATION HAPPINESS** to provide food and clothing at Christmas for families in need. Containers are on the tables in Fellowship Hall at every Potluck.

On the table inside the door to Fellowship Hall is a container to contribute to the **Kentucky River Foothills Development Council** which provides basic and emergency care for those in financial need in our county. Each week simply drop your pocket change into the container. Thank you!



often are quick to turn the attention from yourself to a concern for others. When it comes to expressing joy, you're quite an expert there too. You step into the aisle and are ready with a smile and a hug for others heading for their seats on Sunday morning. And you beam with a happiness that can be felt when your daughter, Barbara, is planning a visit from Florida, or at those times when you share a story about other family members or your neighbors.

Several years ago, each child in the congregation was matched with an adult at Salem, who was to be the youngster's Godparent. The connections were not long lasting, except in the case of you and the little boy you were assigned. That boy sat beside you for years during service every Sunday he was in church until he left for college. Now when he returns for a visit, he still goes immediately to your pew and takes a seat. When asked why it was that he continued to sit by you each week, he said, "I like her a lot. She's so kind, and I love her soft voice."

That pretty much says it for all of us, Kate. We "like you a lot," for all the things you do (chocolate and otherwise), for being the kind, caring person you are, and for the strong, gentle voice that conveys love and offers comfort.

And so, for those reasons and more, we thank you, Kate, for being such an important part of our church.

Sincerely,
The Congregation of Salem Presbyterian Church

Thank you for your gifts to
THE WOUNDED WARRIOR
PROJECT on
Memorial Day weekend.



and Hymn Sing
August 9 at 6 p.m.

Written by Berdine Dent

Dear Kate,
On the Sunday mornings when we are blessed with having a Holy Communion Service, we sit in our pews and watch Karen lift the loaf of bread that symbolizes the Body of Christ. She breaks the loaf in two and holds both pieces high, and we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the important Sacrament that includes receiving the Body of Jesus. And we are also touched, Kate, knowing that that bread was baked lovingly by you.

Your baking is very much appreciated by all of us, but not only for the Communion bread. We know that there is a rush to the dessert counter every Brunch Sunday to see if Kate's famous chocolate pie is sitting there waiting for the taking. Some even scoop up a piece and put it at their places before going through the food line. And who doesn't look forward to your luscious chocolate syrup on the evenings of our ice cream socials!

It's true that we admire your culinary abilities, but there are also other reasons that we love and admire you. For one thing, you are a model for how to handle adversity. You have experienced the pain of loss and the excruciating pain of physical discomfort. But whatever the challenge, you handle it with a quiet dignity, supported by courage and faith. If you are asked how you are doing, you most