

Sounds of Salem

Volume 16 Issue 7

July 2014

July 2014
Revised Common Lectionary
Year A

4th Sunday after Pentecost—July 6

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

5th Sunday after Pentecost—July 13

Genesis 25:19-34a
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

6th Sunday after Pentecost—July 20

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

7th Sunday after Pentecost—July 27

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Independence Day

As we celebrate Independence Day, it does well for us to consider the roots and influences of our nation's beginning.

Benjamin Franklin, as well as all of the Framers of the



Constitution, realized the value of religion in society. And they realized the value of prayer in the weightier matters of politics. In fact, Franklin saved the Continental Convention from

dissolving in disunity when he called each delegate to fall before God in prayer. As part of his urging, a July Fourth Sermon was heard at the Continental Convention's request, and it was followed by morning prayers.

Washington had led most of the delegates to hear the sermon and enjoy the festivities. That day, he reflected upon several weeks of difficult discussions and frequent impasses. The Founders well understood the need to seek God and the important part that God played both in establishing this nation and in the writing of the Constitution.



Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration from Philadelphia who closely monitored the proceedings, concurred, openly testifying:



I do not believe that the Constitution was the offspring of inspiration, but I am as perfectly satisfied that the Union of the States in its form and adoption is as much the work of a Divine Providence as any of the miracles recorded in the Old and New Testament were the effects of a Divine power.

George Washington (President of the Convention) similarly attested:

As to my sentiments with respect to the merits of the new Constitution, I will disclose them without reserve. . . . It appears to me then little short of a miracle that the delegates from so many different states . . . should unite in forming a system of national government.

As we enjoy the parades, speeches and fireworks of the 4th of July, let us remember that our freedom is a gift of the guidance of all-mighty God.

Source: David Barton, *The Founder's Bible*

Too Busy for a Friend

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.



That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual. On Monday, she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling.

"Really?" she heard whispered. "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and, "I didn't know others liked me so much," were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Vietnam, and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded: "yes." Then he said: "Mark talked about you a lot."

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher. "We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it."

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped,

folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

"Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it." All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home." Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album." "I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary" Then, Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. "I carry this with me at all times," Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again. The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be.

So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it's too late.

Remember, you reap what you sow. What you put into the lives of others comes back into your own...

Source: Anonymous

Forgiving Others

Legend has it that when Leonardo da Vinci was painting his masterpiece, "The Last Supper," he had a quarrel



with one of his companions. In revenge for the wrong he had received, he painted his companion's portrait as Judas in his

great picture. After he had done this, his work was complete except for the face of our blessed Lord. It was da Vinci's ambition to paint the noblest and most perfect portrait of Christ that had ever been put on canvas.

But, try as he did, he could not succeed. In the meantime, his conscience was working, and at last he took his brush and painted out his companion's portrait and forgave him his wrong. That night in his dreams da Vinci saw a splendid vision of Christ which thousands have gazed at in wonder ever since.

It is no exaggeration to say that something like this happens each time you, as a Christian, forgive someone who has especially wronged you. For, whenever you blot out the sin and evil others have committed against you, you are making it possible for them to see a living portrait of Christ - namely yourself, in whom he lives.

The Christ that other people ultimately want to see is the living Christ. The one place where he has chosen to be seen before The Last Day, the day of visible reappearing, is through his actions which take place within us as we exercise forgiveness, one toward another, through the power of his Spirit.

Insight into Communion

This self-examination during Communion is not the command to see if we are sin-free and worthy to take the Lord's Supper. It is a command to examine our actions to see if we are conducting ourselves in a way that honors or dishonors Christ's sacrifice. Examine yourself is not a command to see if you have sin that makes you unworthy. You are worthy because Christ has made you worthy! Let's take a moment to look at the meaninglessness of our ideas of worthiness.

You will never be worthy enough to earn the right to partake of the Lord's Supper. You are a partaker of Christ, because of God's grace alone! If you have



any

doubts on this, let's look at what the Bible calls sin.

- To know good and not do it is a sin.
- To disobey God willfully or ignorantly is a sin.
- To lust in our heart is equal to adultery.
- To be angry without a godly cause is sin.
- Even if we have a godly cause, if anger produces an outburst of wrath, it is sin.
- To hate is equivalent to murder.
- To speak against a person in a position of authority, political or otherwise, is rebellion against God and is sin.
- To fail to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength is a sin. That is all, not most. Any failure to love is sin.
- To fail to love your neighbor as yourself is sin. Do you have anyone in your town that has less than you do?
- To fail to pray for someone is a sin.

- Anything not of faith is a sin. Do you act 100% in faith 100% of the time?

Now examine yourself. Can you identify every sin you have committed and confess them and be declared worthy? If you think you can, I need to remind you that self-righteousness and pride are sins.

Do you see the problem with the false doctrine of having to become worthy in order to partake of communion? 99% of your sins will never be acknowledged. 98% of those are because you don't even recognize the areas in your life where sin exists. The Bible says that the person viewing life through the natural mind will always be in sin. Only when we are in the Spirit do we have life and peace. It's all about faith. And that is exactly what the Lord's Supper is all about.

It isn't about your ability to confess your way into perfection. It is about Christ's work that has set you free from the law of sin and death. You are celebrating His victory over sin, and you are declared worthy because of your faith in Him. Nothing else can make you worthy. If you are putting your trust in your ability to confess your sins, you are hopeless indeed. The best you can do is deceive yourself into thinking you have made things right. However, the life in the Spirit by faith in Christ is always right with God.

Examine yourself. Are you focused on anything other than Christ? Are you trusting in your righteousness, or His righteousness given to you? It is not a man-centered philosophy. It is a faith-centered trust in Christ.

Source: Eddie Snipes, *The Celebration of Communion*

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School concluded on June 15 with a children's ministry program. The children were excited to share what they had learned about following



Christ through a week of Bible stories: ("Esther", "Rebuilding the Temple at Jerusalem", "The Parable of the Mustard Seed", "Jesus Feeding the 5,000", and "Walking to Emmaus"), scripture, music, crafts, games, and snacks.

The children were also able to share our mission to raise money to send to Nickels for Nets, which provides netting to protect children from deadly mosquitoes as they sleep. With the help of the congregation, we were able to collect \$88.00 which is enough to protect eleven of God's children. We were fortunate to have many little ones with us each day at VBS. Thank you to all the parents who shared their wonderful children with us.

Also, a huge thanks to all the volunteers that helped make it possible for VBS to be so successful this year. I was very blessed to work with our youth helpers who showed up every day and followed every direction given to them as well as many adults who lent a hand on a daily basis with crafts, music, games, and snacks. And

finally, I want to acknowledge those that prefer to work a little more behind the scenes getting crafts ready and decorations that gave our young ones a wonderful space to learn about the love and forgiveness that only God can provide.

I leave you now with a Bible verse that sums up the big idea this year for VBS: "Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord; dwell on all his wondrous works!" (Psalm 105:2). In other words, go out and stop for a moment to see and give thanks to God for those things that make you say "WOW"!

Stacia Profit, Chairperson

More photos can be found on our website: www.salemchurch.cc



The Salem Church Family

Birthdays

Gloria Leiter	7/1
Owen Pugh	7/1
Lynette Lloyd	7/2
Charles Boroff	7/6
Herman Wienken	7/6
Vern Hobbs Jr.	7/10
Mark Zielke	7/10
Paul Martz	7/12
Cory McCollow	7/13
Barb Good	7/15
Ron Owens	7/16
Marjorie Eutsler	7/18
David Hugh Evans	7/20
Don Leckrone	7/23
Evan Pugh	7/24
Kent McClure	7/25
Brent Price	7/26
Heather McClure	7/29
Doug Strickler	7/29
Kristyn Jones	7/31
Zach Wise	7/31

Anniversaries

Jack & Gwenda Blackmore	7/1/83
Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	7/4/98
Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	7/15
Bill & Ruth Evans	7/24/76
David & Nancy Jo Breese	7/25/09
Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	7/27/85

Birth Announcement

Haiven Isabel, born to Ross & Alyssa Evans, 7 lb. 11 oz.; 20 1/4"; on June 13, 2014

What is your favorite memory of Salem Church?

"When I was twelve years old we had a young girls Sunday School class. We met in the balcony at church at the west end in the front row! Gladys Rees was our teacher. She was Mrs. Lloyd Rees' and David's mother. Gladys was well liked and a good teacher that knew her Bible. She kept us under control pretty well, of course; as young girls we talked and giggled a lot!

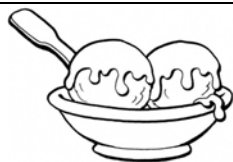
The class members were Ruth Williams, Natalie Morgan, Martha Morris, Mary Rachel Roberts, Margery Nelle Jones, Bertha Evans, Gwen George, and I. Gladys had a dinner for us. I think she thought it was time for us farm girls to learn proper dinner manners (etiquette she called it). We were to dress up in our "Sunday" clothes and silk hose for the older ones, and go to Gladys' home to eat.

The dining room table was set with a white table cloth and napkins, candles, china plates with salad on a separate china plate, and crystal water glasses with a stem! She also had a silver salt and pepper set and a silver bread plate with fancy hot biscuits. It was exquisite and we felt rich and so special! I can't remember the main dish or vegetable. (I do know it wasn't Colonel Sanders!) The dessert had whipped cream and whole strawberries on top.

It was so nice of Gladys to have this special evening for her class of girls. I never forgot it and we learned a lot for a group of shy young girls growing up with "class" seventy-five years ago!!!"

Marian Richards Morris

Activities and Events



Salem Church Ice Cream Social

On Friday, **July 25th**, 4:30 to 7:30 pm, Salem will hold an Ice Cream Social. It will feature Sycamore ice cream and homemade cakes, pies, cookies and dinner menu items. It will be located at the Venedocia Lions Club Building, which is air conditioned and is next to the recreation park and ball field. We still need volunteers and people to make desserts. We look forward to seeing you there!

Blessing of the Tractors / Drive Your Tractor to Church Day

This second annual event will take place September 14th after church in the church parking lot with a meal afterwards. Bring your tractor to the line-up to be blessed and to thank God for the harvest!

Session News

The Pentecost offering was directed to the Northwest Ohio Food Bank in Lima which services our area. On August 3rd, the Richards family will be in town for their reunion and will help with leading the service and will be performing the special music. The church will once again have its own float in the Spencerville 4th of July parade held June 28th, and the Youth Group will assist it. Sunday School will continue through the summer.

Reminders

Both the Women's association and the Senior Luncheon will not meet until September.

Thank You's

The Bette & Donald Richards Family wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks for your kindness and sympathy at this difficult time. As Bette's "Docia" family, you welcomed her when she arrived on the farm thirty-plus years ago. Alpha Kappa and Lions' Club both accepted her with open arms. She happily expanded her circle of friends while enriching her life in her new community. A particular high note for Bette, the "Little Lady" from Delphos, was the joy she derived from the music of Salem Church. Her life of everlasting peace will be a reflection of your support and we thank you.

Mary Jo, Sandra & Larry,
Randy & Peggy, Ron

The Dwight Rhoades family would like to thank everyone for your prayers, sympathy, and food during this difficult time. From us all,

Sincerely,
Marjorie Rhoades

**Violet Ashton**

c/o Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th Street Apt. 109
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Audrey Burnett

PO Box 671
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Warren Summersett

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10357 Van Wert—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Becky Zirkle

Vancrest Health Care, Room A8
10357 Van Wert—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Serving our Country**Cory McCollow** (U.S. Coast Guard)

311 Oak Street #109
Oakland, CA 94607

2nd Lt Pete McCollow (USMC, OCS)

Bravo Co. 5th Plt
24164 Belleau Avenue
Quantico, VA 22134

Away at College**Cassy Emery** Box 564

c/o Cincinnati Christian University
2700 Glenway Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45204

Sammi Jones**Those with Health Concerns**

Gretchen Baut (friend of Silers – cancer, kidney problems)
Jim Beougher (advanced cancer – uncle of Tony Lawrence)
Leona Browning (mother of Denise Pugh)
Audrey Burnett
Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)
Bob Drewyore (son of Bette Richards)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Cassy Emery (juvenile rheumatoid arthritis)
Jeannie Etzler (daughter of Warren Summersett)
Vernon Hobbs, Sr.
Margaret Keltner (mother of Jan Jones)
Amanda Owens Lamb (granddaughter of Dave & Jean Owens)
Betty Lloyd
James Marshall (mysterious ailment)
Audrey McCollow (cancer)
Tim Morris (son of Hilda Morris)
Kyle Mullenhour (kidney transplant)
Ione Owens
Nicolas Poling (grandson of Charlie & Barb Good)
Evelyn Pugh
Aimee Schulte (friend of Sarah Kimmet)
Linda Howell (Jeff Coil's sister – congestive heart failure)

In Mourning

The family of Hugh Pugh

Very Ill Asking for Contact

Tim Morris
10411 Hayes Avenue
Silver Springs, MD 20902-3817

Please remember our elderly members with cards & visits.

July Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 3:00 Celebrate Rec.	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 3:00 Celebrate Rec. 6:30 Youth Group	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Communion 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 3:00 Celebrate Rec.	21	22	23	24	25 7:00 pm Ice Cream Social	26
27 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 3:00 Celebrate Rec. 6:30 Youth Group	28	29	30	31		

Servants for July

Week of	Greeters*	Ushers	Acolyte	Nursery**
July 6	Gwenda Blackmore	Kent & Heather McClure Family	Katie McClure	Ashley & Katie McClure
July 13	Gwenda Blackmore	Kent & Heather McClure Family	Katie McClure	Bob & Denise Pugh
July 20	Gwenda Blackmore	Kent & Heather McClure Family	Katie McClure	TBA
July 27	Gwenda Blackmore	Kent & Heather McClure Family	Katie McClure	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd

*Besides greeting with a smile, greeters should be at the outside landing to watch the steps and parking lot as well as assist with the elevator to help those in need.

** Nursery workers do not need to supply snacks during the summer.



Salem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 678
Venedocia, Oh. 45894-0678

Music for July

Church Phone: 419-667-4142
Church Web Page: www.SalemChurch.cc
Church E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Rev. Thomas Emery cell: 419-863-9131
Email: PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc

Sunday, July 6, 2014
Special Music: Elizabeth Griffin

Sunday, July 13, 2014
Special Music: John Sipe Group

Sunday, July 20, 2014
Special Music: Amberlyn Miller

Sunday, July 27, 2014
Special Music: Tamara Mullenhour

