

SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 17 Issue 9

www.SalemChurch.cc

September 2015

September 2015 Revised Common Lectionary Year B

15th Sunday after Pentecost – September 6

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalms 125

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 13

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalms 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

17th Sunday after Pentecost – September 20

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalms 1

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

18th Sunday after Pentecost – September 27

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalms 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50



The present church building was dedicated in the year 1898. The total cost of the building was almost \$20,000.00 at the time. The photo included here is found in the report as a photo from the dedication day, however it does differ from other sources.

Submitted by Charles Good.

Salem Church History

Annual reports of our church started in 1896 (shown) and have long been available on the web at www.venedocia.org. You can learn a lot of history from these reports, including membership lists and finances. The early ones are entirely in Welsh and are joint reports with the former Zion Church near Jonestown.



In the years 1896 – 1898, Pastor Edward Roberts served Salem Church as well as Zion Church in Jonestown. His annual salary from Salem was \$900.00 and the total regular collection averaged around \$1,740.00, with nearly 300 congregational members listed in the books.

Pastor's Thoughts



Venedocia Sunset

Dr. Henry Norris Russell, famed Princeton University astronomer, once gave a lecture in which he talked of the Milky Way and its millions of stars. He told how

many of them are far larger than our sun and how the still more distant heavens swarm with uncountable stars. When he finished his address a troubled woman came to him and asked a question. *"Dr. Russell, if our world is so little, and the universe is so great, can we believe that God pays any attention to us human beings?"*

The noted astronomer answered, *"That all depends, Madam, on how big a God you believe in."* Dr. Norris knew about the kind of faith that gives confidence.

We often think of God as at a distance. That frame of mind allows us not to be very committed to God as if God is too busy elsewhere.

On the other hand, if we realize that we have a big all-powerful God who knows everything, we will know that He is intimately involved in our lives. We would often pray to Him and ask His opinion on choices we make during the day, because He is really in charge.

I ask you, to please consider that our God is so big that he knows about every detail of your own life. As Jesus says in Matthew 10:29-31 *"not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it."*³⁰ *And the very hairs on your head are all numbered."*³¹ *So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows."*

Know now and have full confidence that our big God is not far away, and He is seeking you for a close relationship!

- Pastor Tom

Understanding Forgiveness

When we begin our Sunday morning service, we focus on forgiving others as we have been forgiven by reciting a prayer of confession and taking time to silently reflect on our hearts before God.

Jesus said this, *"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* (Matthew 5:23-24, ESV) He also said, *"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."* (Matthew 18:15, ESV)

Forgiveness must always be the rule between two followers of Jesus Christ. Both the offended party and the offending party have a biblical responsibility to heal the relationship and to restore what has been ruptured. It is one thing to know that you want to forgive, but it is an entirely different thing to get to the point where you do forgive.

The secret in how to do just that is found in Ephesians 5. Here we learn why (the motivation) we ought to forgive and how (the method) we ought to forgive. I will warn you that these steps may seem simple, but the steps are difficult to follow through. Just remember: "I choose to forgive others just as God has forgiven me."

1. Get Rid of All Bitterness: *"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice."* (Ephesians 4:31, ESV) You cannot bear the fruit of forgiveness until you cut out the root of bitterness. "Put away" literally means to "remove" or "to separate yourself from something."

Have you ever walked into a spider web? If you have, you know what the term "arachnophobia" means. What is the first thing you immediately do? With urgency, you immediately begin to pull at anything and everything that feels like a spider web, and you won't stop until it is all gone. That is the idea in this verse!



The word bitterness originally meant something that was sharp or pointed. Bitterness is like a sword that you carry in a sheaf beside you that you would like to use to thrust through someone's heart. You never leave home unarmed, because you just might meet up with that person that you are bitter toward. Paul's advice is simple: If you have any bitter feelings toward somebody – get rid of them. Are you still mad at someone because of what they did to you? Put it away!

You may be thinking to yourself, *"Well, that is easy for Paul to say."* But it really wasn't for him, because when Paul wrote these words he was sitting in a crude underground Roman cell unjustly incarcerated, unfairly treated, and eventually he would lose his life for telling the truth. Yet, you could find no bitterness or unresolved anger in his heart.

Continued on next page.

Well, you say, “*Paul is just a lot more spiritual than I am.*” It is not just a matter of being spiritual; it is a matter of being smart. What do I mean by that? Bitterness is like an acid that eats its own container. It is a cancer that destroys its own body. Somebody once said, bitterness is like drinking poison and then waiting for the other person to die.

Your bitterness has absolutely no effect on the person you are bitter toward. When you are bitter towards someone, you are thinking about that someone, but that someone is not thinking about you. Does your bitterness ever keep you up at night? They are probably sleeping like a baby. Does your bitterness ever give you indigestion? They are eating like a pig. The problem with bitterness is it grows, it controls and it consumes.

The secret to letting go of our bitterness is found in two words in the next verse. “*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*” (Ephesians 4:32, NIV) The two most important words in this passage we read are those words, “*just as.*” That is the *motivation* for forgiveness. Jesus is our model for forgiveness and that is the method for forgiveness. I *choose* to forgive others just as God has forgiven me.

2. We Are to Live Forgiveness:

Notice the first thing Paul says. “*Be kind to one another*” (Ephesians 4:32, ESV). For every negative, there is a positive. For every action, there is a reaction. It is amazing that when you eliminate bitterness, you activate kindness. Have you ever met a kind *and* bitter person? Probably not.

The next thing Paul says is, “*Be...tenderhearted*” (Ephesians 4:32, ESV). Bitterness hardens the heart. Kindness and forgiveness softens the heart. Forgiveness can only flow from a kinder, gentler heart. Then Paul hits us with the punch line. “*Forgiving each another, just as in Christ God forgave you*” (Ephesians 4:32, NIV). It is a simply profound statement and a profoundly simple statement. The basic reason why you ought to be a forgiving person is because you are a forgiven person.

Only forgiven people are truly motivated to forgive. You forgive, because you are forgiven. You are forgiven, because Jesus Christ died and was raised from

the dead so you could be forgiven. **You will never be able to forgive someone else until you remember how God has forgiven you for what you have done to Him. You will never forgive anyone if you always focus on the one who has hurt you. You will only forgive the one who has hurt you if you choose to focus on the one who died for you, because you hurt him.** And that is the motivation of forgiveness. But what is the method?

God forgives us freely. Jesus Christ didn’t charge us anything when He died for us. He didn’t extract a pound of flesh. He didn’t take His revenge first. He didn’t say, “*Pay me what you owe me.*” He didn’t say, “*Clean up your life and get it together and then I’ll die for you.*” He died for us so that we could be forgiven freely.

The way He forgives us is the way we are to forgive others – freely with no strings attached, no fine print at the bottom of the contract and no conditions. God forgives us fully because forgiveness is not partial. Do you understand that if God refused to forgive one part



of one fraction, of one decimal point, of one sin, none of us could ever be forgiven and have eternal life? God not only forgives all of our sins (plural), but he forgives all of our sin (singular).

Someone reading this article may be diagnosed with a medical condition. If your doctor looks at you and tells

you that you have say, a cancerous tumor in your body, you won’t ask him what put it there, you won’t ask him if you can live with it, or even ask who is to blame that you have it. The question you are going to ask is, “*Can you get it out?*” Suppose you find out, for that cancer to be removed, the entire tumor to be taken out, it is going to cost you everything you have. Do you think you would go back to that doctor and say, “What would you charge for just half a tumor?” No, because it doesn’t matter what it will cost you. You’ll want it all out!

God expects the same thing of us. When we forgive, He wants *all* of that sin forgiven, and He wants *all* of that bitterness removed. When we forgive, forgive fully. God forgives us completely. God keeps no records of past wrongs. When God cancels the debt He burns the note, and that is exactly what God expects of us. When we forgive, let it be final.

Source: Adapted from “Shockproof” by James Merritt.

This Past Month at Salem

Ice Cream Social

The Ice Cream Social, held on July 31, was a huge success! Many people from the area and county came out to enjoy the delicious Lion's Club Sausage, Sycamore Ice Cream, and pies, desserts, and other meal items provided by the church family. Pictured above, Kim & Jeff Coil hand dipped the ice cream. New banners were on display announcing our upcoming 100th Gymanfa Ganu while the Lion's Club building filled to the brim.



Youth Group Service Day

The youth worked served our community by cleaning the streets of Venedocia. They also enjoyed some well-deserved pizza and fun!



Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday

On Sunday, August 23, tractors were the popular mode of transport to church that morning. As a new annual tradition, a special "Blessing of the Tractors" service was held on the front steps of the church to ask God's blessing and protection in our harvest. A potluck meal was enjoyed afterwards in the church basement.



Bob McCollow, Greg Beougher, Eric Pugh



Special Music

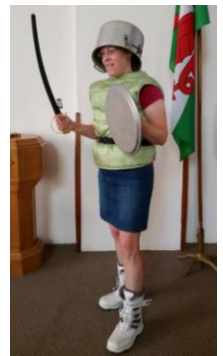


August brought Maddie Dunn, Paula Schumm (left), Chris Bindel (below), and Madison Pugh.



Time with the Children

"Sandy" humorously demonstrated the Full Armor of God during one of the children's sermons this month. Pastor Tom talked with "Sandy" and the children about what the Full Armor of God really meant spiritually.



100th Gymanfa Ganu 2015

Schedule – Sunday, September 6

- 9:30 AM Worship Service with Alumni Choir
4:00-6:00 PM Light Supper & Fellowship
7:00 PM Festival of Song

Ornaments



To commemorate our 100th Gymanfa Ganu, beautiful **brass ornaments** will be available to purchase for \$12.00. In case they sell out, a second order will be placed for local residents in time for Christmas.

Looking Ahead

The **Women's Association** will resume their monthly meetings on **Thursday, September 17**, at 9:30 am in the church basement.

Senior Luncheons are back! Meet at the Lion's Club on **Wednesday, September 23**, at 12:00 pm for a delicious meal and fellowship.

Session Notes

Session met on August 16, 2015. The office is operating well with the new color copier with color copies at 7.5 cents and black and white at 2.5 cents per copy, a lower cost than the last copier. The ice cream social was

successful; it was decided not to newspaper advertise next year but to use word of mouth and signage. The event will be scheduled a month earlier next year in order to not conflict with other socials in the area. The Presbytery meeting is scheduled for September 15.

Thank You's

Thank you to all Salem Presbyterian family for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and food during the time of Haydn's illness and thank you to Pastor for your prayers and visits. Everyone was so kind to remember him with memorial gifts. Thank you all who prepared and served the delicious food to many of our family and friends. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. We miss Haydn but we have the hope, comfort, and peace, knowing he is with the Lord. Again, thank you all. - Loretta Williams and family



Becky Zirkle welcomed many guests at her 95th birthday open house.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you who remembered my 95th birthday with cards, notes, and visits during the open house held at Vancrest. It means so much to be remembered by so many friends and relatives. May God bless each of you.

- Becky Zirkle



Please remember our elderly members, soldiers and college students with cards & visits.

Violet Ashton

c/o Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th Street, Apt. 109
Spencerville, OH 45887

Evelyn Hoverman

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Betty Lloyd

Van Wert Manor
160 Fox Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marian Morris

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Gordon Morgan

Vancrest of Convoy
510 Tully Drive
Convoy, OH 45832

Evelyn Pugh

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Warren Summersett

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Becky Zirkle

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

Lee Lare

P.O. Box 654
Venedocia, OH 45894

Away at College



Andrew Emery

Siddall Hall, 102
2540 Corbett Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45219

Cassy Emery

Box 564
c/o Cincinnati Christian U.
2700 Glenway Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45204

Sammi Jones

Serving our Country



Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

311 Oak Street #109
Oakland, CA 94607

Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)

116 HAC Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Will Morrison (U.S. Army Reserves)

Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)

Grandson of Doris Evans

Prayer Concerns



Norma Adams (diabetic issues)
Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)
Ralph Du Cheney (father of Stacia Profit)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Jeannie Etzler (daughter of Warren Summersett)
Hope Eutsler (leukemia)
Judy Foust (knee surgery)
Bev Hefner (aunt of Jenny Pugh)
Jesse (seeking help from heroin addiction)
Betty Lloyd (broken hip)
Eileen Lucier (cancer treatment)
James Marshall (mysterious ailment and M.S.)
Evelyn Pugh
Aaron Ries (received heart transplant –Bruce Ries' son)
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
Mike Rowland (diagnosed with brain tumor)
David Slygh (organ transplant problems)
John Stutz
Tim (cancer – friend of Barb Good)
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)
Noah Wyatt (post-surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)
Eric Fancher (chemotherapy – son of Rev. Jon Fancher)
Nicholas Poling (brain injury –grandson of Charlie Good)
Thad Summersett (brian tumor – grandson of Warren S.)
Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)

In Mourning



The Family & Friends of Ned Detrick
The Family & Friends of Haydn Williams
The Family & Friends of Margaret Keltner *(Mother of Jan Jones)*

Anniversaries




9/8 Paul & Doris Price
9/9 Randy & Sue Ann Skanes
9/11 Doug & Jan Jones
9/15 Bob & Denise Pugh
9/28 Eric & Jenny Pugh

Birthdays



9/1 Elizabeth Adkins	9/23 April Ellerbrock
9/1 Kim Ebel	9/25 Darlene Jones
9/3 Pete McCollow	9/26 Cindy Davis
9/4 Claudia LeValley	9/26 Marian Morris
9/4 Katie McClure	9/27 Brian Ellerbrock
9/8 Cassie Thompson	9/27 Lisa Lloyd
9/11 Landon Price	9/28 Jon Friesner
9/18 Jayne Morris	9/29 Stephanie Beck
9/18 Morgan Pugh	9/30 Jack Blackmore
9/20 Megan Jones	

SEPTEMBER 2015 EVENTS

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2  Van Wert County Fair Sept. 2 - 7	3	4	5
6 100th Gymanfa Ganu  9:30am Worship Service 4-6:00pm Light Supper 7:00pm Gymanfa Ganu	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13  Gideon's Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	14	15	16	17 Women's Assoc. 9:30 am 	18	19
20 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School 4:00pm Session Meeting	21	22	23 Senior Luncheon 12:00 pm 	24	25	26
27 Lincolnview Bible Board 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School 	28	29	30			

Week of	Greeter*	Ushers	Acolyte	Nursery	*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.
September 6	Dave Rees	Price Family	Price Children	Bob & Denise Pugh	
September 13				Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	
September 20				Bill & Ruth Evans	
September 27				Eric & Jenny Pugh	



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

Music for September

Church Phone: 419-667-4142
Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Rev. Thomas Emery cell: 419-863-9131
Email: PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc
Church E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Sunday, September 6

Special Music: Alumni Choir

Sunday, September 13

Special Music: Gideon Sunday

Sunday, September 20

Special Music: Hymn Sing

Sunday, September 27

Special Music: Susan Leffel &
Connie O'Neill



Blessing of the Tractors - August 23, 2015