

SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 18 Issue 1

www.SalemChurch.cc

January 2016

January 2016 Revised Common Lectionary Year C

2nd Sunday of after Christmas – January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9)10-18

Baptism of the Lord – January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

2nd Sunday after Epiphany – January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11

3rd Sunday after Epiphany – January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21

3rd Sunday after Epiphany – January 24

Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30



Becoming New in the New Year

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth (Colossians 3:1-2. NLT).

Colossians 3 gives us real insight on how to renew our minds to walk as a new person in Christ. The results can be like a person who is depressed, down in the dumps, in despair, and moping in self-pity. Then something happens -- he falls in love. A long-absent friend comes to see him and exclaims: "I don't believe it. You're a new person." Or, a person has a career change, he

experiences some success -- and we say, "That made him a new man."

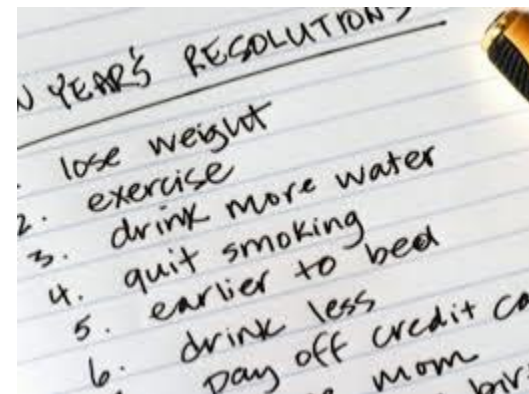
At a much, much deeper level, we become new persons as we put off the old worldly



bitter and angry life and put on the loving new life of Christ. Let me suggest two spiritual disciplines that will assist us in intentionally putting off the old self.

The first disciple is the evening examination of our walk with God. A good time to practice it is at the close of the day -- before you go to bed -- or before you go to sleep -- maybe even while you are in bed.

Look back over the day, comb through that day with a small tooth comb -- moving through every segment of the day -- looking at what you have done, or what you failed to do, how you have related to others -- what you have said, or what you failed to say. Think about the way you failed to respond to the needs of others -- the calls God made on your life through people and circumstances, and how you responded to those calls.



Move back through every segment of the day and see where you failed in being the new person God called you to be -- and, as you come upon those places of failure, take those to the Lord -- cast them off from yourself -- and bury them -- as it were -- in the sea of God's forgiveness and forgetfulness -- put off the old.

It's in the constant practice of that kind of putting off -- that we get our lives into harmony with that which we are meant to be when God created us. But, again, it's not simply a matter of having a new lifestyle; it is being a new person.

This is a discipline for putting off the old. Let me now suggest one for putting on the new. It is a part of an internal prayer discipline.

As the discipline of our walk with God is a good one to practice at night, this one is a good one to practice in the morning. In your morning time of prayer, anticipate what you might need during the day. Look at what's going to be happening to you during the day -- anticipate some of the people you are going to meet.

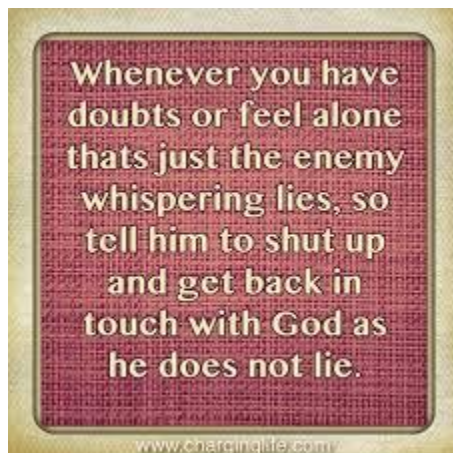
Perhaps, you need patience today to get along with another person. But more -- patience that will enable you to get beyond the surface and touch a soul that may be hurting and has developed an aggressive grating style of relating as a defense for pain.

Think about that person -- and put on patience. What about the person from whom you are estranged. There's tension in the relationship. Will you be seeing or talking to that person today? Paul says as

Christians we are to put on forbearance and forgiveness. **"Forbearing and forgiving each other,"** he said, in verse 13. Is that what you need to put on today.

When we put on the new man, all the rules change. Grudges have to go. Revenge is out of the question. We leave judgment to God. We are forbearing and forgiving. We trust God that things will work to the good if we live how God wants us to live.

Will you need humility today? The world doesn't really know what true humility is. Humility has nothing to do with self-depreciation or becoming a door mat.



It is in persons who know their true source of power. God's presence and power in their lives gives them certainty and confidence. It is certainty and confidence not in the personal power they hold, but in the Power that holds them. Do you need to put on humility today? We could go on -- I hope you have gotten a picture of the two disciplines. Review your day at bed time for things that you need to ask forgiveness from God. Also, anticipate your day in the morning. Think of who you will meet. What you are going to do, what you are going to need.

Paul's image of putting off and putting on is very clear. It takes us back to the basics of the Christian life.

Adapted from: Maxie Dunnam "Put to Death the Old; Put On the New"

Christian Gun Ownership

The question often comes up, "Should Christians own guns?" The Bible was written before guns. Therefore, any Bible discussion about guns is based on principles, not direct commands, and is subject to debate among those studying this issue whether the church can link guns to the gospel message.

The Bible includes detailed descriptions of various wars, including predictions of battles in the (coming) end times (such as in Ezekiel 38).

From a personal standpoint, one could ask, "If an armed robber came at (me, my child, spouse, parent, or friend) with a weapon, would I intervene with a gun if I could?" Would God permit or even encourage such an action?

Again, the Bible does not command a person to own or use a gun, yet it also allows for self-defense and defending others. Let's look at three concepts can be found related to guns for Christians to consider.

First, gun ownership is a legal right. The Second Amendment clearly includes the right for all citizens, Christian or otherwise, to "bear arms." Interestingly, the focus in the Second Amendment was not hunting or sport shooting, but civil defense and defense from tyranny of government. The text reads, "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Second, gun ownership is at least an option according to biblical teachings. For example, when soldiers

repented at the preaching of John the Baptist, they asked, “What should we do?” John answered, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay” (Luke 3:14). They were not commanded to leave the military or become pacifists. The disciples also carried small swords at the command of Jesus (Luke 22:38), though Peter was told to put away his weapon at Jesus’ arrest (Luke 22:51).

Third, the Bible includes ample evidence to support self-defense. Ecclesiastes 3:3 mentions there is “a time to kill and a time to heal.” Verse 8 adds “a time for war and a time for peace.” Scripture includes accounts of those who have died for their faith; it also includes accounts of those who have entered armed conflict to defend themselves, their family, and their nation.

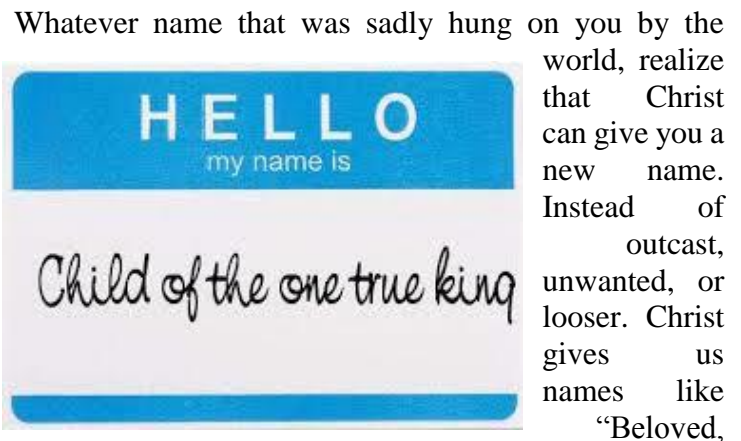
Those who argue Christians should not own guns have noble intentions of peace and love. However, in life in this fallen world, there are those who wish to cause harm to others. We must both recognize this reality and prepare how to best defend ourselves, our loved ones, and our nation in such situations.

Adapted from Dillon Burroughs “Should Christians Own Guns” and IRB “PCUSA Proposes Stricter Gun Control as a Gospel Imperative”

Pastor’s Thoughts

Some names are unfortunate. Mark Trotter tells about a man who joined the Navy. His name was Tonsillitis Jackson. The Navy couldn’t believe it, so they did a check on him, and discovered that indeed his name really was Tonsillitis Jackson. What’s more, he had brothers and sisters who were named: Meningitis, Appendicitis, Peritonitis, and Laryngitis (but you can call him Larry).

Sometimes names are changed in order to signify a transformation in the life of the person. That is a biblical precedent. We all know about the famous incident of Saul on the Damascus Road, met by Christ in a vision, and changed his life around. Christ changed his name to Paul. And Simon, the first disciple, who at Caesarea Philippi confessed, “Jesus, you are the Christ.” Jesus said, “Your name is now Peter, the rock on which I will build my church.”



Whatever name that was sadly hung on you by the world, realize that Christ can give you a new name. Instead of outcast, unwanted, or loser. Christ gives us names like “Beloved, Desired, and Capable.” When we realize how much God loves us, and we internalize that love, we are new people of the light, not of the darkness. Why not talk to God now and tell Him you want a new name to be given to you. He is the same God who sent His very own Son to die for you, because you were “Desired.”

- Pastor Tom

Prayer Rock

I’m a special PRAYER ROCK.
This is what I do.
You put me on your pillow,
until the day is through.

Turn back the covers.
Climb into the bed. WHOMP!
Your special Prayer Rock
will hit you on the head.

Then you will remember,
Get up and say your prayers.
Just dump me on the floor,
till morning I’ll be there.

You’ll get up the next morning.
CLUNK! I’ll stub your toe.
So you will recall, my friend,
your morning prayers, you know.

Back upon your pillow,
when your bed is made,
your clever little Prayer Rock
will continue as your aid.

If we forget our prayers,
our days are not the same.
We need our Heavenly Father’s help
to reach our highest aim.

Anonymous source

"For Cooks Only"

Sherrodsville Cole Slaw

1 small onion (dried)
1 head cabbage shredded
1 C chopped celery
1 1/2 peppers (red are best) chopped
2 C sugar
1/2 C vinegar (apple cider)
1 tsp mustard seed
1/2 tsp celery seed
1 tsp salt

Boil sugar and vinegar together to a rapid boil (don't use aluminum pan)
Add white pepper, mustard and celery seed,
Pour over cabbage plus other ingredients and let set over night.
Stir and drain.

By Martha Coffman Wood

Texas Bars

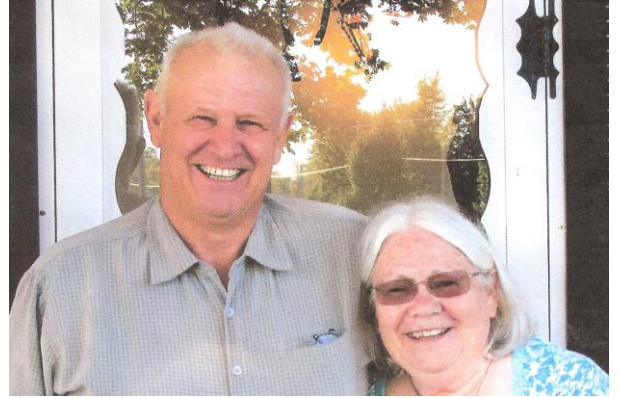
2 T butter or margarine
2 eggs
1 C brown sugar, packed
5 T flour
1/8 tsp soda
1 tsp vanilla
1C chopped nuts
Powdered sugar

In 8" square baking pan, melt butter tilting pan to cover bottom.
Beat eggs then slowly beat in brown sugar, flour, soda and vanilla.
Fold in nuts, spread batter evenly over melted butter. Do not stir.
Bake at 350 degrees x 20 min.
Cool slightly and dust with powdered sugar.
Cut into 18 bars.

By Mary Staas

Welsh Flag

Some good friends whom Hayden and Loretta Williams met touring Portcawl in Mid Wales, came to Venedocia for a tour. They noticed that our flag was wrong. Wayne and Glynis Orchard also happened to be flag makers who designed flags all over the world. They presented Salem with a new flag as a gift from them to Salem Church. Many thanks to them.



The Welsh couple, Wayne and Glynis Orchard

Youth and College

Sami Jones graduated from Wright State University with honors this December. Andrew Emery is in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati as a Freshman. Cassy Emery is in Cincinnati Christian University as a junior for a middle school teaching degree.



The Salem youth cleaned the Venedocia streets and gave \$300 for families that needed extra help.

Financial Update

Needed Weekly:	\$2,067.00	Needed to Date:	\$107,484.00
Rec'd 12-27-13:	\$5,438.30	Rec'd to Date:	\$106,104.65

Looking at Salem



The extended Owens family celebrating Dave Owens 90th birthday.



Grant Zielke as the acolyte.



Junior Bells



Lion, Doug Jones and Makenna Kimmitt



Grant and Avery Zielke



Evan Pugh and Madison Pugh during the youth Christmas Program



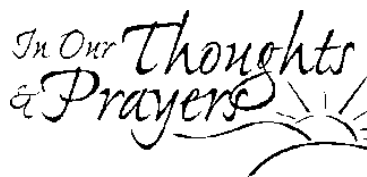
The Advent Breakfast



Christmas caroling Warren Summerset before the Manse Party



Double Quartet singing at the Christmas Eve service



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

Betty Lloyd

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

Gordon Morgan

Vancrest of Convoy
510 Tully Drive
Convoy, OH 45832

Warren Summersett

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

Marian Morris

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Evelyn Pugh

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

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)
Hope Eutsler (leukemia)
Eric Fancher (chemotherapy – son of Rev. Jon & Mary Fancher)
Bev Hefner (aunt of Jenny Pugh)
Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)
Jesse (seeking help from heroin addiction)
Betty Lloyd (broken hip)
Eileen Lucier (cancer treatment)
James Marshall (mysterious ailment)
Evelyn Pugh
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
Mike Rowland (diagnosed with brain tumor)
Dave Slygh (organ transplant problems)
John Stutz
Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor – grandson of Warren Summersett)
Kevin Thatcher (ALS)
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)
Noah Wyatt (recovering from surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)
Lee Lare (broken hip)

Condolences

For the friends and family of Evelyn Hoverman
For the friends and family of Larry Profit

Birthdays This Month

2 Chris Beck	3 Emily Blackmore
6 Jim Lloyd	7 Nell Jean Wienken
7 Loretta Williams	8 Dean Swygart
9 Megan Smith	10 Dominic Adkins
11 Chelsey Lloyd	11 Ashlyn Price
12 Christina Emery	12 George Siler
16 Rob Breese	16 Liz Hobbs
16 Ashley Smith	28 Scott Fair
30 Doris Price	30 John Smith
31 Carrie Jones	

Anniversaries

None

January 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 9:30 AM Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Officer installation 10:45 AM Sunday school 11:30 AM Session retreat 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting Annual reports due	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday school 4:00 PM Music Committee	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Congregational Meeting 10:45 AM Sunday school 12:30 PM Youth Mtg. - bowling & pizza	25	26	27 6:00 PM Potato Supper 7:00 PM Prayer meeting	28	29	30 31 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday school

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Acolyte	Nursery
January 3	TBA	LaDonna Allenbaugh	Bob & Denise Pugh family	TBA	Bob & Denise Pugh
January 10		Julie Miller			Jeff & Kelly Lloyd
January 17		David Van Tilburg			Bill & Ruth Evans
January 24		Madison Pugh			Eric & Jenny Pugh
January 31		TBA			Rex & Lisa Lloyd



Salem Presbyterian Church
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Sounds of Salem Newsletter

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

So now I am giving you a new
commandment: **Love** each other. Just as I
have **loved** you, you should **love** each other.
Your **love** for **one another** will prove to the
world that you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35 NLT



*Salem Christmas carolers at the Van Wert Manor
with Betty Lloyd*