

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

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## Pastor's Thoughts

by Pastor Tom Emery

A picture frame in our house had the Biblical quote next to our family pictures for that year: "**Decide today who you will obey... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord**" (Joshua 24:15).

Joshua and the tribes met in a national assembly after the conquest of Canaan. They were now given the land of milk and honey without any military threats. Joshua knew that the upcoming prosperity would tempt the tribes to live only for themselves, and he knew he would soon die from aging at 110 years.

This would be his last speech to them. He wanted the tribes to make a deliberate choice about their commitment to God in their lives. In your prosperity, what choice of a God or gods have you made in your home? Have you consciously made that choice?

Do you worship the god of materialism whose worship is the highest income, the latest electronics, the nicest house, or even the best car, tractor or prestige item? How

about do you worship the god of sports and the winning team that takes up your free time and thoughts? How about the god of hedonism where vacations, parties, a social life fill your agenda? How about the god of workaholism where you detach from the world in pursuit of some personal goal while ignoring all others? Everyone serves some god. It can even be your kids, greed, or even yourself. Be careful what you choose as you are choosing the outcome of your life and your eternal destiny. What do you put first in your life?

The bottom line is that there are only three things that matter in life — your commitment to your faith in Christ, your family, and your friends. Where does your faith fit in? Have you made a deliberate choice to have God honored in your home? If so, does it show in the use of your time, talents and treasures God has entrusted to you?

After affirming their choice of serving the Lord, Joshua challenged them. "All right," he said, "you must destroy all the idols you own, and you must obey the Lord God of Israel." Let us break down the idols in our lives, and let us also fully obey the commands of Christ.

*Pastor Tom*

# Good News for Good Parents

*Anonymous, abridged*

Bad parents get a lot of press. We hear so much about mothers and fathers who made poor choices. We hear about absentee fathers and abusive mothers, and about mothers and fathers who fight and drink too much. I, along with you, grow weary of the time-honored cop out: "well, I ain't ever been a parent before," as if that should somehow exonerate them from the criticism they so richly deserve.

But I take courage in what I see in the church. I see families that don't just send their children to church, they bring them to church. And, sometimes when the parents fail in that respect, the grandparents fill in the void, and they bring their grandchildren to church. I see many single parents who are good parents, and I take heart. Good parents may not have a help-mate, but they have an abiding commitment to God.

**1. Good parents teach their children about Christ.** Both parents have that responsibility. But I do believe that as a practical matter it is the mother who, more often than not, does the religious instruction in the home. It is interesting to note that in Judaism, the heritage of a family is traced through the mother. Even today in Jewish circles, there is strong pressure on Jewish boys to marry Jewish girls, much more so than vice versa. Why? Because the religious heritage is traced through the mother.

Parents can do lots of good and worthwhile things. But there is nothing quite so important than raising their child in the faith. It is where our children learn strength, and where our

children learn righteousness. Its fruit is everlasting joy and peace.



Every time parents bring their child before the altar of God, **four promises** are made. **First**, you communicate to your children that you will live before your child a life that becomes the Gospel. **Second**, that you will bring your child up in the Christian faith. **Third**, you will teach your child the Scriptures. And **fourth**, you will raise your child in the church. I have never quite understood some parents who are quite adamant with their children when it comes to school work, or music lessons, or sports, yet, when it comes to the church, they suddenly become quite liberated and say: "Oh, we want our children to make up their own minds." You can believe this: If you do not influence your child in religion, someone else will.

**2. Good parents help shape the character of their children.** If you think that the school and the church is the place where your children should learn morality, then you are wrong. The basic values are always taught first in the home. It is in the home where children learn about the importance of the church, honesty and integrity, right from wrong, healthy sexuality, how men and women should properly relate, prayer, how to handle problems. Children learn by example. Don't blame a child for that which they cannot see.

**3. Good parents share in the crisis of their children.** In the adult world, the small problems of our children may not appear to be traumatic. But in their world, these small crises are life-shaping events. Dr. James Dobson cautions us that, "A child can learn to doubt his worth at home even when he is

deeply loved by his parents! Destructive ideas find their way into his thinking process, leading him to conclude that he or she is ugly, incredibly stupid, or a hopeless failure in life.”

I wish every one of us had inscribed on the refrigerator of our home the words of Dorothy Law Nolte’s work, “Children Learn What They Live,” and then kept this constantly before us in our daily activities.

*If a child lives with criticism,  
HE learns to condemn.*

*If a child lives with hostility,  
HE learns to fight.*

*If a child lives with ridicule,  
HE learns to be shy.*

*If a child lives with shame,  
HE learns to feel guilty.*

*If a child lives with tolerance,  
HE learns to be patient.*

*If a child lives with encouragement,  
HE learns confidence.*

*If a child lives with praise,  
HE learns to appreciate.*

*If a child lives with fairness,  
HE learns justice.*

*If a child lives with security, HE learns to have faith.*

*If a child lives with approval,  
HE learns to like himself.*

*If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
HE learns to find love in the world.*

Good parents teach their children about Christ. Good parents shape the character of their children. Good parents share in the crises of their children. God has placed us into family units so that we might learn from elders. He knew there would be times in life for all of us when we would need support, guidance, encouragement. And moms and dads, you are first line of defense.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

By Vienna Cobb Anderson

*God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:*

*We thank you for the gift of life: for the breath that sustains life, for the food of this earth that nurtures life, for the love of family and friends without which there would be no life.*

*We thank you for the mystery of creation: for the beauty that the eye can see, for the joy that the ear may hear, for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder, for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.*

*We thank you for setting us in communities: for families who nurture our becoming, for friends who love us by choice, for companions at work, who share our burdens and daily tasks, for strangers who welcome us into their midst, for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding, for children who lighten our moments with delight, for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.*

*We thank you for this day: for life and one more day to love, for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace, for neighbors and one more person to love and by whom be loved, for your grace and one more experience of your presence, for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.*

*For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks, eternal, loving God, through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*



Salem Church will again participate with the ministry, Operation Christmas Child. Send a Christmas Shoe Box this year and change a child's life! Each box is given in Jesus' name, and it opens doors for boys and girls and their families to hear the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, churches are growing and communities are being transformed. Last year, more than 11 million boxes were sent out throughout the world. Since 1993, over 135 million shoe boxes have made their way to over 150 countries.

One 12-year-old boy named, Shukuran, was becoming violent and radical. But after receiving a shoe box last year, his heart and life have completely changed. His mother and siblings also received Christ but his father left the family. Shukuran is now very passionate about evangelizing his community. This is just one story of how Operation Christmas Child is changing lives.

Please consider being a part of this very effective and heartwarming project! There are instructions for packing a box at the church as well as online, [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org). Salem Church will collect boxes until Sunday, November 20 when they will be delivered to WTLW Channel 44 to be shipped out all over the world. For many of the children, it will be their first gift they have ever received, and it means more to them than you can imagine.



Remember to **vote** on Tuesday, November 8 and then come to the Lions Club building and celebrate your right to vote at the community Election Night Supper hosted by Salem Church. Meal items will be served *a la carte* featuring Lions Club Sausage, chicken sandwiches, homemade soup and desserts from 4:30 – 7:00 pm.

## Veterans Day Service



During the Sunday worship service on Sunday, November 13, we will be honoring our veterans.



## Thanksgiving Eve Service

Please come to our Thanksgiving Eve Service to be held on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 pm.

## Senior Luncheon



The next Senior Luncheon will be a special Christmas party on Wednesday, December 7 at 12:00 pm.

# A Look Back – October



Three babies were baptized on October 9. Vincent Michael Richards, Piper Leigh Finn, and Anastasia Christine Garza.



SPECIAL MUSIC was provided by Sheila Collins and David Van Tilburg (above), Griffen Waltmire (left), and the Junior Bell Choir (below).



September's Senior Luncheon.



Kim Coil and Marilyn Foust in costumes for the October Senior Luncheon.



Marjorie Rhoades (in mask) enjoyed a little Halloween fun at Hearth & Home.



The Venedocia Lions Club hosted their annual village costume contest on trick-or-treat night.

Over 70 people came out and enjoyed donuts and cider. Prizes were given to all participants including the winners of each category, a few pictured above.



# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.

## **Violet Ashton**

Roselawn Manor  
420 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. - Apt. 109  
Spencerville, OH 45887

## **Betty Lloyd**

Van Wert Manor  
160 Fox Road  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## **Marjorie Rhoades**

Hearth & Home  
1118 Westwood Dr.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## **Marian Morris**

Hearth & Home  
1118 Westwood Dr.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## **Warren Summersett**

Vancrest Healthcare  
10357 VW—Decatur  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## **Away at College**

**Evan Pugh** – Lourdes University

**Andrew Emery** – University of Cincinnati

2540 Corbett Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45219

**Cassy Emery** – Cincinnati Christian University

Box 564, 2700 Glenway Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45204

## **Church Financial Update**

Needed to Date: \$90,948.00

Received to Date: \$81,857.97

## **Prayer Concerns**

Norma Adam (diabetic issues)  
Bob Allenbaugh (lung cancer)  
Arlene Barrientos (Alzheimer's & foot surgery)  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)  
Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)  
Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)  
Betty Lloyd  
Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)  
Marian Morris (stage two cancer)

Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
Joyce Profit (heart issues)  
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)  
George Siler (physical therapy)  
Thad Summersett (brain tumor, grandson of Warren)  
Bob Thompson (heart attack, dad of Lori Williams)  
Martha Walker (recovering from heart attack)  
Natali Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)  
Ian (brain cancer)

## **Serving our Country**

### **Cory McCollow**

(U.S. Coast Guard)  
311 Oak Street #109  
Oakland, CA 94607

### **Nick Fuller**

(Air Force)

### **Phoebe Eutsler**

(U.S. Army)

### **Pete McCollow**

(U.S. Marine Corps)  
116 HAC Street  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

### **Micah Linger**

(U.S. Marine Corps)

## **Birthdays**

1 Avery Zielke	5 Carla Breese
5 Marjorie Rhoades	5 Missy Zielke
10 Lucas Mullenhour	11 Sarah Kimmet
12 Catie Emery	13 Terry Profit
16 Doug Jones	29 Kathy McCollow
30 Mike Breese	

## **Anniversaries**

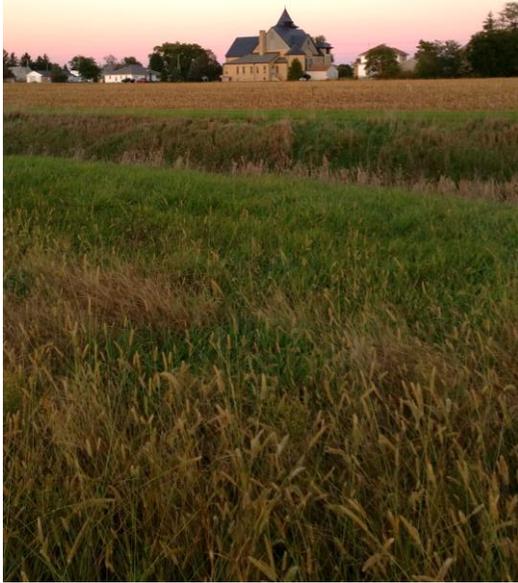
7 Dave & Sandy Clayborn  
13 Terry & Vicki Profit  
28 Charles & Norma Boroff  
28 David & Jean Owens  
30 Herman & Nell Jean Wienken

# NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 All Saints Day	2	3	4	5
6 Mission Update 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	7	8 Election Day Election Night Supper 4:30 – 7:00 pm	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13 Veterans Day Celebrated 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Joint Session & Trustee Meeting	14	15	16 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM	17	18	19
20 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Session Meeting	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 pm	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	28	29	30 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM			

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Ushers
November 6	LaDonna Allenbaugh	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Evelyn Martz, Marilyn Foust Carolyn Girod, Joyce Profit
November 13	Double Quartet	Mark & Missy Zielke	<b>Acolytes</b>
November 20	Bells	Ross & Alyssa Evans	Elijah Martz & McKenna Kimmet
November 27	Hymn Sing	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	<b>Greeter:</b> Marilyn Foust

Salem Presbyterian Church  
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Venedocia, Ohio 45894



# Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)

[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](https://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

Church E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

## November 2016 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR C

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### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – November 6

Haggai 1:15b-2:9    Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17    Luke 20:27-38

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### 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – November 13

Isaiah 65:17-25    Isaiah 12  
2 Thess. 3:6-13    Luke 21:5-19

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### Reign of Christ – November 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6    Luke 1:68-79  
Colossians 1:11-20    Luke 23:33-43

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – November 27

Isaiah 2:1-5    Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14    Matthew 24:36-44