

The Stained Glass Window

Salem Presbyterian Church
www.salempresbyterian.org

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April 2011 Issue

Where From Here?

Then was then – but now is now,
Changes a plenty have come – somehow.
Survival for Salem Pres came in the 50's or so.
Back then big families helped it to grow.
But now most o' the children have moved away.
And most o' the members are turning gray.

Church language has changed to gender neutral.
Even sessions have changed 'n have women plural.
Females can be more than Christian Teachers.
Wonder of wonders – they can even be preachers.
But beware if your orientation is skewed at birth.
Some religions may reject your dignity 'n worth.

Salem Pres has done well through the last generations.
Though there have been snags and a few frustrations,
It's been – for the community – a great congregation.
In fact one might say – 'n example for the nation.
So now Salem Pres find itself facing a new day,
But it has plenty 'a know how to find a safe way.

First thing for a church is to honor diversity.
It saps every member's beliefs to demand unanimity.
Respect for the dignity and worth of others is a must.
The only way to arrive there is through honest trust.
Not thinking alike doesn't deny either's ability.
When we discover that – we're on the way to stability.

Some say Christianity must change to stay alive.
Others say if the church but morphs – it'll survive.
Some claim their religion alone has all th' capabilities.
Others find their God is an Atmosphere of Possibilities.
What if we say 'bout all 'o this – in the simplest o' fashion?
Let's treat the total o' life with our utmost compassion.

- Edgar K. DeJean, 2011

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April 2011

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We welcome your ideas and submissions for the newsletter! Please contact Trina Brown about what you would like to see.

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A Conversation with Vickie Saewert

The first time Vickie came to Salem Presbyterian Church was about 5 years ago. She had found the church via an Internet search and the phone book. She didn't know anyone at the church and visited alone, and Barb Hesel asked her to sit right next to her. Barb patted her hand and was very nice to her, taking Vickie under her wing. Vickie enjoyed Reverend Sara Shields' sermon and the service very much that day. Very soon after that visit, within only a week or so, State Road 135 closed for construction and so Vickie could no longer get to Salem Presbyterian.

Vickie then attended Corydon Presbyterian Church. She loved the people at Corydon Presbyterian and loved the pastor, but never felt comfortable. At that time she'd just moved away from everything she had known in Missouri, and didn't know anyone in the area. She'd moved from her job, her friends, her church family, and her children, and said she felt a little lost. Vickie feels the main reason she never felt comfortable at the church in Corydon is because God really wanted her at Salem Presbyterian Church. She wanted to go somewhere she felt comfortable and where she could get involved, and that was closer to home because Corydon was such a long drive for her. And then State Road 135 opened back up and she came a second time to Salem Presbyterian Church. That day when she walked in, she felt a sense of comfort come over her. She instantaneously felt this was the church in which she was supposed to serve. She told me, "I knew I wanted to serve someplace. I knew I was needed someplace, but I just hadn't found it. And



when I came in I immediately knew. It's like I just relaxed and knew I was home." She hated that she'd had to miss out on a couple years because of the highway being closed, that she had missed out on a couple years of getting to know people and on the intimacy of a church family.

I asked Vickie how she knew this was her church home. She said Sara was very welcoming, and that Susie Lopp and Alice McGinnis invited her to come sit with them. Vickie said, "When you're sitting by yourself, you always feel kind of funny, and they're just like, 'Come over here and sit by me.' I am married but because Jeff's out of town much of the time, a lot of times I'm by myself, which can feel kind of lonely and awkward." But Vickie looked around and noticed there were a lot of people whose spouses had died or whose spouses don't come with them to church. For this reason Vickie feels that even when she's at Salem Presbyterian Church without Jeff, she isn't alone; she fits right in. And she said it's impossible to resist the outpouring of love from Susie and Alice.

While Vickie felt instantly at home at Salem Presbyterian Church, before becoming a member

A Conversation with Vickie Saewert (continued)

it was important to her to make sure Jeff would be comfortable too. Jeff travels so often, she had to wait for him to be able to come with her. Seeing how Jeff responded to the love of Alice and Susie on his first visit was one of the most fulfilling moments of Vickie's time at Salem Presbyterian Church so far. Vickie explained that the first Sunday Jeff was able to visit, Alice and Susie were waiting at the door in the narthex for him, and when he came in they grabbed him and told him he'd be sitting with them. Vickie was singing in the choir that day so couldn't sit with him. Vickie said, "I knew where I was with God, but to have my husband enjoy and relax and be teased and be made comfortable was very important to me."

Before Jeff was able to come visit Salem Presbyterian, Vickie was asked if she would like to join the choir. She had mistakenly thought she needed to be a member of the church to be in the choir and was assured that was not the case and so she joined. One of the things she absolutely loved before joining the choir was sitting out and watching Jean Robbins smile when she sings. Vickie said, "She was inspiring to me and it's something I wanted to be a part of." Vickie has a lot of joy and it just comes out in song. She enjoys being a part of the choir because she can sing loudly just how she's feeling.

It was a bit of a shock to Vickie when she was asked by the nominating committee to be on the Session, but she felt she had a purpose coming here, was meant to be here, and had a job to do. She was honored to be asked and she accepted because she believes in this church, and wants to see this church go forward. She's also serving on the newly formed Pastor Nominating Committee. She feels she was chosen to serve on this committee because she's a newer member who is "on fire" about wanting the

church to grow.

Vickie told me of a very spiritual moment for her at Salem Presbyterian. It was the Sunday worship service after Barb Helsel died. Memories were shared about Barb that Sunday and Vickie said she could feel Barb's presence in the sanctuary when the last song was being sung. Vickie started crying and couldn't stop because she missed Barb: "Even though I barely knew her, I missed her."

One of the things Vickie hopes for the future is that at Salem Presbyterian Church we still have the families we have here now because it's "a fantastic foundation." In 5 years' time, Vickie is hoping we have a children's ministry and that she'll be a part of it. She hopes we have some more teenagers in the church as well. She wants to see a children's choir and emphasized that she would really like to see Addison be a founding member. Vickie would like Salem Presbyterian to have in place by then some community programs for the elderly, some health programs, health screenings, visits to the elderly in nursing homes, not just for members of the church but for people in the community. She feels this is needed in our community and would be a great way to help our church grow. By bringing in programs like that, she believes it would be a natural way to grow and to serve the community, which is "what Jesus wants us to do."

I asked Vickie about when she became a Presbyterian. She feels she has always been a Presbyterian, even when she was a little kid. Growing up and into her adult life she never knew of the Presbyterian Church but the beliefs and doctrine of the Presbyterian Church are what she has always believed. She first attended a Presbyterian church when she lived in Missouri, shortly after her divorce from her first husband. She had joined the church her ex-husband

had grown up in which was a Fundamental Baptist church and Vickie wanted to find a different type of church. When she first walked into the Presbyterian church in Missouri of which she would soon become a member, she recalls thinking of the Presbyterian Church as a denomination: "Halleluia! Really? We're not going to judge each other, call each other sinners, and press down people who are different from us? We're going to work in our community, try and make it a better place, try to make the Earth a better place? Even people we're fighting against in a war, we're going to love them too? Thank you!" This matched what she believed. Vickie then sought to learn more from the pastor of that church about the doctrine of the Presbyterian Church.

Vickie's mother told her she's never closer to God than when she's in the woods and for Vickie it's the same way. She worships every day in her daily walk, not just at church. Her walk to the horse barn every day is a spiritual journey for her. She said, "Church is a very big part of my spirituality, but it's not the only part. I want to be spiritual at home, in the woods." She's very comfortable in the woods talking to God.

In high school, Vickie decided she wanted to follow God, but the time that really changed her life was an experience she had after her first son died. Nicholas was born a healthy 8 lb. 4 oz. boy. Vickie and her husband were about to take him home from the hospital on his third day of life when he suddenly turned blue. He quickly died that day from a very rare heart defect. After Nicholas' death, Vickie sank into depression. She recalls walking down a country road near her home in utter despair when she fell face down on the road, just not able to carry on any longer. She didn't remember having seen the sun or hearing a bird sing for months until that point. After falling on the road she felt the arms of God pick her up, literally pick her up, and it changed her life. She said, "I realized just how low we can get, and just how huge God is, and how He cares for us. That changed my life because I don't fear things as much anymore because I felt God with me, so I'm not afraid. I know He's there and I know He's with me." Vickie continued, "It's not just something I've learned about, it's not just something I believe; I've felt it and I know it."

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Worship and Music Ministry

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May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>1</p> <p>Second Sunday of Easter. Reverend Ann Haw will be leading the worship service. Communion will be served.</p> <p>Communion elements: De Davis</p> <p>Jo Barnett (883-4176) is the contact person for Coffee Hour for May.</p> <p>Norma Eisert's Birthday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Third Sunday of Easter. Guest speaker to be announced.</p> <p>Mother's Day</p> <p>Chris Beck's Birthday</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Maggie Caum's Birthday</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Easter. Guest speaker to be announced.</p> <p>Relay for Life Brunch after the worship service.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Jean Wilson's Birthday</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Easter. Guest speaker to be announced. Graduation reception following the worship service.</p> <p>Jean Robbins' Birthday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Sixth Sunday of Easter. Guest speaker to be announced.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Elinor DeJean's Birthday	5 National Day of Prayer	6	7 Susie Lopp's Birthday Emmons Ratliff's Birthday
11	12	13	14
18 2:00 PM - Church Library Tea. Guest speaker: Sherri Mitchell. Cathy Huey's Birthday Carla Peugh's Birthday	19	20	21 Ruby Davis' Birthday
25	26	27	28 Scott Grosvenor's Birthday

Our Mission Statement

Understanding that grace is a gift from God to the world, to us.....

The Mission of the Salem Presbyterian Church is to support our church family in fostering growth in the Christian faith, in leading meaningful lives, and in doing good works to the glory of God.

To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Micah Chapter 6, Verse 8

A Conversation with Vickie Saewert (continued)

Vickie has since dreamed about meeting Nicholas in heaven, but said that in the dream, he was a teenager and she recognized him. She said she's dreamed it and she knows that's how it's going to be.

Jeff has also changed Vickie's life in a huge way. "Having a man who loves me for who I am, believes in me for who I am, and encourages me is a huge blessing in my life, and it allows me the freedom to work in the church. I know that God put Jeff in my life." Her mother tells her to get down on her knees and thank God everyday for Jeff. Jeff has not only blessed her life but blessed her family's life, including being a Dad to her two children. The only complaint comes from Vickie's Dad who has said Jeff is so extraordinary it makes him look so average.

Vickie feels that God leads her in her job. Being a photographer, she is fond of and tries at all times to practice 1 Corinthians 10:31: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." She believes God called her to photography. Vickie said, "Finally I have an avenue that I can see God's beauty and actually put it on paper. Because if you look for the beauty of a person and can capture that on film, you can put it on paper and you've saved it. There it is.

- Vickie Saewert was interviewed by Trina Brown. If you would like to interview a church member for the newsletter, would like to be interviewed, or have a suggestion for an interview, please contact Trina Brown at trinab@blueriver.net, or by phone at 883-5689.

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