



Salem Presbyterian Church
www.salempresbyterian.org

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May / June 2011 Issue

Getting Together with Beth by Kerry Lewis

At the June 12 service, our Clerk of Session David Beck announced to our congregation and guests that the Reverend Beth Walden-Fisher, a ten-year experienced Presbyterian pastor, most recently an interim pastor at Hanover Presbyterian Church, would soon be the new pastor of Salem Presbyterian Church. The process of filling mutual wants and needs had drawn to a successful conclusion.

The process began during the March Session meeting when interim moderator Joe Kimmel guided the members to begin thinking about how we wanted to move toward finding a new pastor. At the April Session meeting, we were ready. After discussing options, Session decided upon the Pastor Search Committee method in which Session and non-Session congregation members served together, interviewed pastoral candidates, reached a consensus, and recommended from such to Session. Session would then consider the recommendation and vote on whether to offer a contract. From the Session, Kerry Lewis, Vickie Saewert, and John Stanley volunteered to serve, and Kerry Lewis was chosen to be the moderator. The full Session, after agreeing that anyone in the congregation would bring thoughtful consideration

to the committee, chose Debbie Catlin, Maurice Godfrey, and Carolyn Haag to be the committee's non-Session participants. Shortly thereafter, Joe Kimmel revealed that a candidate, Beth Walden-Fisher, had already emerged. After Kerry, Vickie, and John decided to consider Beth, Joe distributed Personnel Information Forms (PIF) to those three committee members. Later, Kerry made copies for Debbie, Maurice, and, Carolyn.

The Pastor Search Committee met three times in April. In the first meeting, we decided to consider Beth before waiting for other candidates to arise. In the second meeting, per John's recommendation, we decided to call Beth's PIF references for feedback. In the third meeting, we reviewed the references' comments. All were

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The Stained Glass Window

May / June 2011

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The Stained Glass Window newsletter is published monthly by the Communications Ministry of the Salem Presbyterian Church. The colors in the banner on the front of the newsletter are colors found in the church's own stained glass windows. The newsletter is distributed via email, postal service and personal delivery and is available in PDF format to read and/or download. It may also be found at the church Web site at www.salempresbyterian.org.

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

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Dr. John R. Bare *by Carolyn Haag*

My great-great grandfather Dr. John R. Bare was born February 16, 1821, in Clark County, Indiana. He moved to New Philadelphia in 1844 where he practiced medicine. He was also a member of the Salem Presbyterian Church. His daughter Margaret Bare McClellan, my great grandmother, owned the General Store in New Philadelphia, the store that is now on display on the grounds of the Stevens Memorial Museum on East Market Street in Salem. At the time of her death in 1929, there were four generations of us living in her house at New Philadelphia. I was 10 years old at the time of her death.

Dr. Bare continued his practice of medicine in New Philadelphia until 1852 when he completed his medical education at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. At that time he was appointed Assistant Surgeon of the 66th Indiana Regiment during the Civil War. He continued his military service until he was discharged in 1865 and returned to New Philadelphia where he resumed practicing medicine. In 1869 he moved to Salem and established his practice and his home on the southwest corner of the square until his death on July 8, 1907, at the age of 86. My great-great grandfather Bare was a member of the Presbyterian Church for 38 years. The history of the church would be incomplete with-

out mentioning the valuable service he rendered that body during the time he was a member.

While practicing medicine at Salem he was associated for a few years with Dr. C. L. Paynter. In the medical history of Washington County in 1931, Dr. Paynter wrote the following about Dr. Bare:

Dr. Bare, as I recall, was well over six feet in height, with silvered hair, heavy white moustache and beard, still and erect in bearing, dignified, austere. He carried himself as a man believing strongly in his ability and with profound belief in the dignity of his profession. Kindly and courteous, he was the type of surgeon who commanded the profound respect of his colleagues and the almost reverence of his patients. Having served in the United States Army during the Civil War, he preserved a precise military bearing.

His reputation as a surgeon of great ability was not confined to the environs of his home county. His service as a consultant was in great demand over the southern half of the State of Indiana. His opinion, either as to diagnosis or prognosis in any case which he studied was accepted as final and positive. Dr. Bare's influence for good in the community was great and lasting.

Getting Together with Beth *(continued from page one)*

favorable, so we voted to ask Beth to interview with the committee on May 3. Not long after the third meeting, Kerry called Beth. She agreed to interview on the date the committee wanted.

Shortly before the interview, we learned that Beth would be preaching at Henryville Community Presbyterian Church on May 8. Each member of the committee was present at the interview, and the decision from the interview was that Beth remain under consideration. Three members were able to go to Henryville. Not long after the service, the committee voted to recommend to Session during the regular May meeting that Beth be offered a contract to become our new pastor.

Session unanimously accepted the Pastor Search Committee's recommendation. A special Session meeting was scheduled for May 31 with Beth to offer and discuss the contract. Beth accepted Session's offer that night.

PCUSA bylaws stipulate that before a member church can hire a new pastor, the church's Presbytery must approve the choice and contract.

Did You Know?

A novel industry in Salem was that of John Brightman started in about 1828. He conceived he idea that there was a fortune in producing silk. The old Presbyterian Church on North High Street was procured, and 1000's of silkworms were hatched out and started making cocoons.

Thanks to Carolyn Haag for sharing this fact.

On June 4, three members of our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM), Oakley Westfall, Jack Cormack, and Joe Kimmel met with Kerry and Beth to gather information. On June 11, Joe notified David Beck that the Presbytery had voted to approve Beth as Salem Presbyterian Church's new pastor. David quickly relayed that news to Session.

So far, my report has focused on what happened to bring Beth and Salem Presbyterian Church together. Now I'll tell you why.

First, Beth wanted to become a Presbyterian. In Austin and Uvalde, Texas, where she grew up, her family belonged to a different Protestant denomination, one that didn't ordain women. As a young adult searching for the right place to worship, Beth tried a Presbyterian church in Austin. She loved the experience. Not long after, she reacted to a latent desire to study for the ministry by enrolling at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In 1998, she earned her Master of Divinity degree at that Seminary, becoming an ordained PCUSA Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament. Soon after, she embarked upon her career as both a pastor and a director of Christian education.

Second, Beth wanted to live in Southern Indiana. Beth met her future husband Andrew while both were attending graduate school near Austin before Beth studied for the ministry. Andrew and she could've remained in Texas or lived elsewhere,

but she chose to move back to Nabb, Indiana, to live on the Fisher family farm, one that had been in operation since 1815.

Third, Beth wanted to become our pastor before we knew she was available. In addition to being a pastor, Beth is a member of our Presbytery's COM. Within the Presbytery, she was privy to discussions about member congregations. Our congregation, while having diverse theological and political beliefs, is viewed positively within the Presbytery as one that deals respectfully with disagreement and stays out of lasting conflict. Beth likes everything about that.

Fourth, Beth is right for us. After the interview with the Pastor Search Committee, Vickie remarked that the meeting seemed like a gathering of good friends, not a job interview. The other committee members agreed. Later, Beth made the same statement. Beth also has a good history with Salem Presbyterian Church in two ways: 1. While filling the pulpit for our church when Sara was on vacation, Beth, along with the congregation, listened to special music that featured the rapture. After the song ended, Beth politely told the artist that Presbyterians don't believe in the rapture. 2. Beth officiated at Pete Hesel's funeral. Afterward, Leslie Gilstrap was moved to hug Beth. Finally, at the end of the May 31 meeting, Joe Kimmel asked Beth to give a closing prayer. As the prayer progressed, it felt to me that Beth was already our pastor. I'm sure others felt the same way.

Like Sara, Beth will be a part-time pastor, working about 20 hours a week. To be proactive in preventing burnout, Beth will not be performing tasks such as preparing bulletins.

Beth will begin as our pastor on August 1, and her first service will be August 7. I know all of you join me in extending a warm welcome to her.

Ministries

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883-5689

Connectional Church Ministry

Chairperson: Max Bedwell
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Chairperson: Wendell Brown
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Worship and Music Ministry

Chairperson: Richard Clark
anarchyvalley1@yahoo.com
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A Conversation with Susie Lopp

I had the pleasure of interviewing Susie Lopp in her home. She is the longest serving member of Salem Presbyterian Church, and is now 94 years of age. Susie did most of the interview all by herself before I had even arrived. Prior to my visit she had written down what she remembered most about the history of the church and I'm sure you will find it as interesting as I did.

Susie wrote, "Doc and I came to Salem the day we were married, November 22, 1941, to make our home for the rest of our days and so far we have." Susie told me that she was 24 years old at the time and Doc was 28. They had to wait until he was out of veterinary school to marry. Back then Susie and Doc had a four-room house, and one of those rooms was Doc's veterinary office.

One thing you may not know about Susie is that Susie is not her given name. Susie was born Clella Ann but has never much liked that name. She doesn't think Doc liked it either. Before she and Doc married, Doc's mother would ask him, "Are you going to go see your Susie tonight?" And the name stuck. Susie, in turn, called her husband Doc like the rest of the community did, rather than by his given name, Howard.

They lived across the street from Salem Presbyterian Church, next to the post office, but it wasn't just proximity that brought them to attend. They had previously gone to a Presbyterian church in Laconia, about 15 miles south of Corydon where Susie had lived with her family and attended church. Susie said she has never wanted



Photo by Vickie Saewert

to go to a church of another denomination. She and Doc did not discuss where they would go to church; Salem Presbyterian was a natural choice.

A few days after arriving in Salem, Reed Boggs and Roger Voyles called on Susie and Doc to invite them to attend Salem Presbyterian Church. Susie said she was sure that they had mentioned that they were trying to keep the doors open. Susie said, "I did go and surprised about eight people, counting preacher William Stephenson and his wife. There was no singing at the worship and music consisted of records placed on a phonograph by the minister's wife."

Susie said the Stephensons were from Leavenworth, Indiana, and were involved in the church a long time. Susie participated in the Presbyterian Women's Association and she credits this group as doing a lot to keep the church open. All the efforts were not in vain, as we well know today. In fact, less than 10 years after Susie and Doc arrived, attendance at the church had already picked up substantially. According to the history of the church on our church's Web site, by March 30, 1947, the church had 42 members.

When Susie and Doc's daughter Sharon was 2 years old, Susie took her to Sunday School. There were a lot of children there, and that's when she met Ed and Elinor DeJean and their children. Reverend Stroffel was the minister then and had 3 children. Susie said of the time, "Everyone dressed up with hats, gloves and furs if they had one. Men wore suits and ties."

In the late 1940's and early 1950's, a young minister, Paul Romantum, led services at Salem Presbyterian. He was a Navy man and he and his family lived in the church's manse. Susie remembered that he and his family were good for the young people but he had to leave to serve in the military, and was stationed on a submarine.

After Reverend Romantum left, Jim Hogue became the pastor of the church and began a program for young couples at the church called The Mariners. Susie said they engaged in a number of activities, including wiener roasts at Jim and Alene Smith's, picnics, and swimming and rides on Lee Smith's sailboat at Beanblossom Lake north of Bedford.

By that time there were 100 children at Salem Presbyterian, an active Sunday School program, a children's choir, and a choir of mostly young couples. Due to the need to expand, the manse was torn down and the educational building was built adjoining the church. The young members had spaghetti supper in the basement on Valentine's Day by candlelight and there was music. The church members went to Pyoca camp and stayed overnight. Susie said, "it was October and we had fire in fireplace, played cards, music and just a good time." The church service was held there the next morning and people who weren't at Pyoca on Saturday came out on Sunday for dinner. There was a large crowd.

In the 1960's and 1970's, the Presbyterian country churches decided to come to Salem from Delaney, Beech Grove, Walnut Ridge and Walnut Grove. Some of the furniture from those churches is still in use at Salem Presbyterian Church today. Susie said people came to attend Salem Presbyterian after moving to Salem to work at the plant that is now called GKN Sinter Metals. They came from surrounding states such as Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Susie said that at the time the church was just flourishing, with 50 members attending every Sunday, and she pointed out the contrast between that and attendance in 1941, when they'd be lucky to have 10 people attend the service.

Susie loves our beautiful church and is proud of the library and that we have lots of room for meetings and fellowship. Susie attended weddings for both her daughters, Sharon and Nancy, and after

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A Conversation with Susie Lopp (continued)

Doc passed away on March 5, 1996, his funeral was held there. Susie summed up her thoughts on paper by saying, "We have the greatest and nicest members and I know you think so. Most of you remember Pastor Shaffer and we are glad he has left Jeanne with us. We had many good ministers and you remember them as well as I. You can see what has happened since the church was about to close but we are not going to let it close now." Our conversation was summed up in

much the same way. When I asked Susie why she has stayed at the church, and what she loves most about it, she said, "I love it. I love it all. I love all the people. I just think they're wonderful. I love that church. I just love that church."

- Susie Lopp 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.

Other SPC News

Happy belated birthday to the following Salem Presbyterian Church members and friends!:

June 7 - Avery Robbins

June 9 - Andy Terrell

June 11 - Bill Spencer-Pierce

June 19 - Tom McQuiddy

June 20 - Frank McQuiddy

June 21 - David Beck

June 21 - Carolyn Haag

June 28 - Jim Apple

- Trina Brown

Relay For Life Brunch

De Davis reported that the Relay for Life Brunch, held at Salem Presbyterian Church in Mariner Hall on May 15, 2011, collected \$443.

Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates!

Congratulations to John and Ginger Morris, proud grandparents of Cameron Morris, who graduated in late May from Salem High School, and of Zach Morris, who graduated this May from Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana. Cameron and Zack are the sons of Gena Morris of Salem and Chris Morris of Pennsylvania. Congratulations to the Morris boys [men] and their parents!

- Jeanne Bedwell

Editor's Note

As you no doubt noticed, this newsletter issue is a double one, and is arriving in your email Inbox or your mailbox in early July rather than late June. It is my intention to publish a newsletter each month but recent circumstances kept me from doing so. I sincerely apologize for the delay.

The most notable of these circumstances were the burglary of our home in late April and Wendell's hospitalization in early May. Wendell and I came home from work on April 29th to find that our home had been ransacked, several items taken, and pets traumatized. As anyone who has experienced a burglary knows, there's a tremendous feeling of violation. For me there was also a strong sense of powerlessness because we had not been able to protect our animals.

On a practical note, my computer on which I had designed the layout of the newsletter was taken, and it has taken some time to reconstruct that. I'm hopeful that you can tell no difference in the general layout, except that this issue is a little longer than recent issues. I had a lot to fit in, after all.

I find the strangest aftereffect of the burglary is my irrational anxiety when looking for an item that has been misplaced. I find myself worrying that the thieves took something if it's not found right away, even if it's not something a thief would be remotely interested in, such as an old suitcase. I expect these mini-panic attacks will fade away over time, but in the meantime it can be rather comical and I've been laughing at myself.

A short time after the burglary, I took Wendell to the emergency room at Jewish Hospital one weekday morning because he had lost his memory. He had experienced what's called "transient global amnesia." We were told it's something that occurs just once in a person's life and the cause is unknown. There's no brain damage as a result and Wendell has since regained all his memory except for about a half hour that morning.

As a result of the tests run on him at the hospital, an unrelated but potential serious medical issue was found - 3 small aneurisms in Wendell's brain. They're too small to remove surgically now but Wendell will go back annually for check-ups to make sure they're not growing. If so, Wendell would need to have surgery to remove them, because they could be dangerous if not fatal if they were to grow and one burst. If it hadn't been for the memory loss episode we'd never have known the aneurisms were there, possibly until it was too late. I am a firm believer that everything happens for a good reason, and this is the most recent proof in my life.

Through all the challenges of the recent months, Wendell and I have been very touched by all the calls and notes we've received from Salem Presbyterian Church members offering help and support. We are so thankful for everyone's thoughts and prayers. It's so comforting to know we are part of such a wonderful, supportive church community.

- Trina Brown
May / June 9

July

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|--|--|---|
| | | |
| <p>3</p> <p>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Ginger Morris will be speaking.</p> <p>Liturgist: Paul Scifres</p> <p>Carolyn and David Beck (883-5452) are the contact people for Coffee Hour for July.</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Larry Humphrey's Birthday</p> | <p>5</p> |
| <p>10</p> <p>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Reverend Deborah Fortel will be leading the worship service. Communion will be served.</p> <p>Liturgist: Wendell Brown</p> <p>Communion elements: Leah Fihe</p> <p>Roger Lyles' Birthday</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> |
| <p>17</p> <p>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Reverend Byron Bangert will be leading the worship service.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lana Humphrey</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Jason Zink's Birthday</p> | <p>19</p> |
| <p>24</p> <p>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Richard Clark will be leading the worship service.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kerry Lewis</p> <p>Alice McGinnis' Birthday</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Jeff Saewert's Birthday</p> |
| <p>31</p> <p>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Reverend Ann Haw will be leading the worship service.</p> <p>Liturgist: Stephanie Scifres</p> | | |

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | 1 De Davis' Birthday | 2 Elsie Rose's Birthday |
| 6 | 7 | 8 Lee Henry Peugh's Birthday | 9 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Jeanne Bedwell's Birthday |
| 20 | 21 Judy Davis' Birthday | 22 | 23 Alene Smith's Birthday |
| 27 Jordan Humphrey's Birthday | 28 Sue Humphrey's Birthday Vickie Saewert's Birthday | 29 | 30 Wilma Winslow'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

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