

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

Volume 19 Issue 7

July 2017

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

We had a busy month. The Memorial Day Service was moved to the church because of recent rains and soft soil. But, the rain continued through June, so many acres had to be reseeded, sometimes twice by the farmers in our church.

The Salem Annual Ice Cream Social was a real hit with a larger crowd even after moving the event a month earlier; it invited the area community to socialize with us. The Salem parade float was well done for the Spencerville Summerfest, and with our new banners, it made a great impression.

I'm often reminded that even with our busyness, we need to always make sure that we put our relationship with the Lord as a priority. The old folk song, *"How Long Has It Been,"* by Jim Reeves many times echoes through my thoughts as a reminder:

How long has it been since you talked with the Lord  
And told him your heart's hidden secrets?  
How long since you prayed?  
How long since you stayed on your knees till the light  
shone through?

How long has it been since your mind felt at ease?  
How long since your heart knew no burden?  
Can you call him your friend?  
How long has it been since you knew that he cared for  
you?

How long has it been since you knelt by your bed  
And prayed to the Lord up in heaven?  
How long since you knew that he'd answer you  
And would keep you the long night through?

How long has it been since you woke with the dawn  
And felt this day is worth living?  
Can you call him your friend?  
How long has it been since you knew that he cared for  
you? -

Yes, we often get busy, and we forget the reason for living.  
Why not have the chat with God that you meant to do for a  
long time; how about doing it right now?

## Jesus on the 4th of July

We gather 'round to celebrate  
On Independence Day  
Pay homage to our country  
As the children run and play.

With barbecues and picnics  
And fireworks in the air  
The flag we own is proudly flown  
To show how much we care.



The stars and stripes spell freedom  
She waves upon the breeze  
While bursts of colors can be seen  
Above the towering trees.

This is all quite wonderful  
We revel in delight  
But God above in divine love  
Has brought this day to light.

With just a stroke of liberty  
A touch of His great hand  
He gave democracy to us  
And helped this country stand.

The stripes upon our stately flag  
Were touched by His sweet grace  
Each star of white that shines so bright  
Reflects His loving face.

So as you turn to face the flag  
For battles that were fought

Be filled with pride for those who died  
And freedoms that were bought.

But don't forget to thank the One  
That gives the bright display  
The reason why we paint the sky  
On Independence Day

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### Declaration of Freedom in Christ

Like millions of Americans this week, my mind is on the Fourth of July holiday and what it represents: our freedom as a nation.



This freedom is a precious thing, bought with the sweat, toil and blood of countless Americans who initially fought to obtain in the Revolutionary War, as well as those who have fought to secure it in the centuries since that fateful day in 1776.

Gratitude without measure wells up in my heart when I consider the brave men and women of the American military who, this Fourth of July, will be fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan to combat the tyranny of terrorism. These soldiers stand in the train of valiant warriors who fought in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and the first Gulf War. Each of these conflicts—while unique in themselves—shared the common goal of protecting American freedom. Today's battles are no different.

But even as I prize my freedom as an American, I am moved to consider a greater freedom—my freedom in Christ. It is the freedom that comes with being a disciple of Jesus Christ. "If you abide in my word," our Lord declares, "you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

This statement was shocking to Jesus' audience. These proud men thought they already had all the freedom they

needed by virtue of being, "*offspring of Abraham*" (8:33). Jesus proceeds to point them beyond any national, social or religious freedom they might enjoy, to the freedom that comes through His person and work: "*Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*" (8:34,36). Contrary to what Jesus' listeners thought, they were in bondage to sin and subject to the tyranny of it.

Commenting on this passage of Scripture Leon Morris writes, "*People do not always, or even usually, realize that they are in bondage. They tend to rest in some fancied position of privilege, national, social or religious. So, these Jews, proud of their religion, did not even know their need to be free.*"

Even as Christians, we can fall prey to the temptation to trust in other things for our freedom from the tyranny of sin: status, money, good works, associations, etc. But the true disciple finds freedom in Christ and Christ alone. Ask yourself, "*What am I trusting in today?*"

The Fourth of July is a wonderful time to consider our freedom—as Americans and as Christians. Our national freedom is precious, but our freedom in Christ is of infinite worth.

The great hymn writer Charles Wesley was undoubtedly moved by his freedom in Christ when in 1738 he penned this stanza:

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*

The saving truth that Jesus speaks of in John 8:32 brings ultimate freedom—freedom from sin and death and the devil; freedom from a life of futility and an eternity of wrath. It is freedom from the tyranny of hate and bitterness and cruelty. It is the freedom to love God and neighbor. May this "*Declaration of Independence*" be on my lips and in my heart this Fourth of July holiday?

As you celebrate the Fourth of July, think of creative ways to make the "*Declaration*" of freedom in Christ to family and friends. How can this holiday be a bridge to our loved ones to share the gospel?

Adapted from "*Another Declaration of Independence: Freedom in Christ*" by Mike Pohlman

## We Are Never Alone

*"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. <sup>30</sup> And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows (Matthew 10:28-31).*

Is there any passage in the Scriptures that is more reassuring than this one from this scripture?



Some unknown author has put it into a little poem: *"Said the robin to the sparrow: 'I'd really like to know; Why these anxious human creatures rush about and worry so.'"*

*Said the sparrow to the robin, "I guess that it must be, that they have no Father such as cares for you and me."*

Another unknown poet put it like this: *"If God sees the sparrow's fall, Paints the lilies short and tall, Gives the skies their azure hue, Will He not then care for you?"*

**Such an awareness of the unconditional love of God should give us an enormous sense of freedom about living our lives. We should be able to live like a sparrow, joyfully and peacefully, as if we had not a care in the world.**

Joni Eareckson Tada, that wonderful writer who praises God even though years ago a diving accident left her a quadriplegic, writes: *"I glanced at the bird feeder and smiled. I could understand Jesus noticing if an eagle or falcon or hawk fell to the ground. Those are the important birds He created, the kind worth attending to. But a scrappy sparrow? They're a dime a dozen Jesus said so Himself.*

*Yet from thousands of bird species, the Lord chose the most insignificant, least-noticed, scruffiest bird of all. A pint-sized thing that even dedicated bird-watchers ignore. That thought alone calmed my fears. I felt significant and noticed. Because if God takes note of each humble sparrow who they are, where they are, and what they are doing I know He keeps tabs on me."*

Jesus was making a point that God cares for the most unvalued bird. Naturalists tell us that there are approximately 35,000 bald eagles in the U.S. and Canada. But who cares enough to count the sparrows? Only God."

**What an amazing teaching. God sees a sparrow when it falls. Jesus is saying to us that, whatever trial we may be going through, God is aware and God cares.**

Don't we spend an inordinate time being afraid. Oh, we may not be conscious that it's fear that is driving us. We may simply call it worry . . . or anxiety or concern, but at heart it is fear.

Christ wants to set us free from all of our fears, whatever they may be. He does it in this passage that reminds us that we have a loving Father who is always with us, always mindful of our needs, always willing to grant us His peace, His joy. His eye is on the sparrow.

God has such an intimate knowledge of us that He knows every hair on our heads. God is with us as we face our problems each day. He knows our needs. And He cares about us. We are God's children, and just as we would never abandon our children, so God will never abandon us!

**The ultimate freedom in life comes from trusting your life to God.** The message of the Gospel is that we need fear neither life nor death. We need fear neither tomorrow nor today.

We can live faith-filled lives, lives bolstered by our knowledge of God's love for us and God's presence with us. Our Creator watches over us and will never forsake us.

Adapted from "Good News about Sparrows" by King Duncan



## June Events



*Special Music, Ryan Rager*



*Miah Katalenas and Michaela Johnson beautiful harmonic Special Music on June 25<sup>th</sup> accompanied by Connie O'Neill*



*Some of the Ice Cream Social food*



*Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 4, Christina Emery*



*Spencerville Summerfest Salem Float building*



*Father's Day June 18*





One of the beautiful banners designed and printed by Jodi Fuller (Dave and Ann Rees' daughter) and donated to Salem. Many thanks to her.



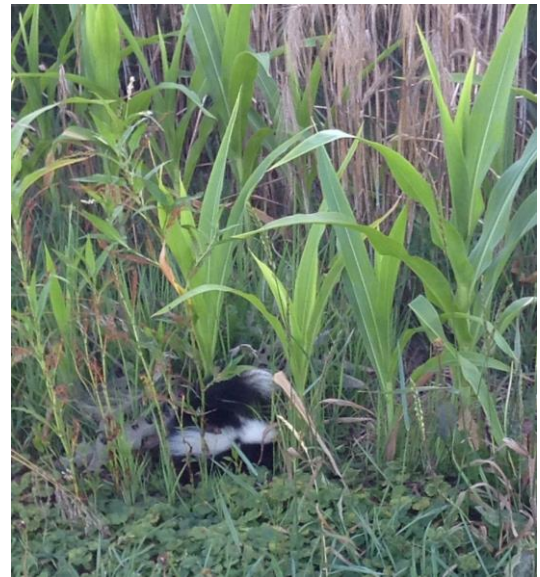
Trustees replacing the old sanctuary ceiling fans



Salem from the back field

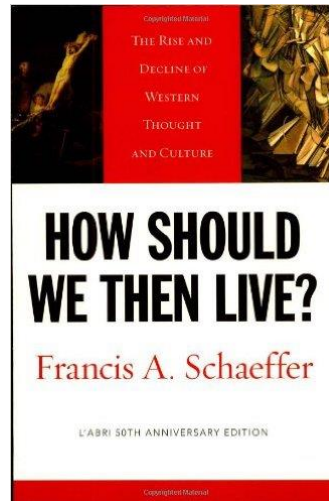
## Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$50,284.00  
Received to Date: \$51,819.74



Skunks are back in Venedocia, so please watch out... Pastor Tom's dog didn't!

## Adult Sunday School



The Adult Sunday school class is studying the DVD series and the book, *How Should We Then Live: The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture*.

As one of the foremost evangelical thinkers of the twentieth century, Francis Schaeffer long pondered the fate of the declining Western culture. In this brilliant book, he analyzed the reasons for modern society's state of current affairs and presented the only viable alternative: living by the Christian ethic, acceptance of God's revelation, and total affirmation of the Bible's morals, values, and meaning. Here is an on-line [link](#) to learn more.

## Wise's Bajan Macaroni Pie

Cook macaroni and drain. Place back in saucepan. Then, add all the ingredients to the macaroni and stir together. Leave a little grated cheese to sprinkle on the top. Grease the baking dish and place mixture in. Bake 20 minutes at 350.

- 1 lb. Macaroni
- ½ lb. grated cheese
- 2 cups milk
- 4 tbs margarine
- over-

- 1 tsp garlic powder
- ¼ tsp white pepper
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp ketchup

### Prayer Concerns

Norma Adam (liver issues)  
 Elizabeth Adkins (liver issue)  
 Violet Ashton (broken leg)  
 Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
 Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
 Doris Evans (cancer)  
 Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)  
 Larry Howell  
 Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)  
 Jeremy Hughes (recovering from MRSA)  
 Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)  
 Sami Jones (shoulder surgery)  
 Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)  
 Betty Lloyd  
 John Lloyd (recovering at home)  
 Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)  
 Marian Morris (stage two cancer)  
 Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
 Dorthea Plikert (Rehab at Roselawn)  
 Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)  
 Lewis Price (bladder cancer & stones)  
 Joyce Profit (heart issues)  
 George Siler (physical therapy)  
 Bill Stewart (heart issues)  
 Keith Stoller (surgical complications)  
 Thad Summersett (brain tumor)  
 Warren Summersett (cancer)  
 Natalie Wilkens (90 years old and failing in health)  
 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

### 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.  
 Spencerville, OH 45887

**Warren Summersett**  
 Vancrest Healthcare  
 10357 VW—Decatur  
 Van Wert, OH 45891

**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

### 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

**Nick Fuller**  
 (U.S. Air Force)  
*Grandson of Dave & Ann  
 Rees*

**Micah Linger**  
 Grandson of Doris Evans  
 (U.S. Marine Corps)  
 LCTL Linger, Micah  
 9 phesb 3mlg H&S Co.  
 Unit 38430 FPO AP96385

**Phoebe Eutsler**  
 (U.S. Army)

### Away at College

**Evan Pugh** – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids  
**Andrew Emery** – University of Cincinnati

### Birthdays

1 Gloria Leiter	1 Owen Pugh
2 Lynette Lloyd	6 Charles Boroff
6 Herman Wienken	10 Tuzz Hobbs
10 Mark Zielke	13 Cory McCollow
15 Barb Good	16 Ron Owens
18 Marjorie Eutsler	20 David H. Evans
24 Evan Pugh	25 Kent McClure
26 Brent Price	29 Heather McClure
29 Doug Strickler	31 Kristyn Jones
31 Zach Wise	

### Anniversaries

1<sup>st</sup> Jack & Gwenda Blackmore  
 4<sup>th</sup> Toby & Elizabeth Adkins  
 15<sup>th</sup> Tuzz & Liz Hobbs  
 24<sup>th</sup> Bill & Ruth Evans  
 25<sup>th</sup> David & Nancy Jo Breese  
 27<sup>th</sup> Jeff & Kelly Lloyd

### Graduates

Christina Emery – Spencerville High School  
 Cassy Emery – Cincinnati Christian University  
 Katie McClure – Crestview High School

# July 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School	3	<b>4</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> of July	5	6	7	8
<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Worship Guest Speaker John Zerbe No Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Session Meeting	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Worship- 10:45 Sunday School	31					

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Flowers	Nursery
July 2	Dave Rees	July to be announced	Eric, Jenny, Madison, & Isaiah Pugh	Doris Evans	Not staffed
July 9					Bill & Ruth Evans
July 16					Eric & Jenny Pugh
July 23					Rex & Lisa Lloyd
July 30				Jenny Pugh	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs



Salem Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 678  
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)



*Looking upward, the Bell tower access climbed by Trustees for repair work*

July 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A	
<b>4th Sunday after Pentecost – July 2</b>	
Gen. 22:1-14	Psalm 13
Rom. 6:12-23	Matt. 10:40-42
<b>5th Sunday after Pentecost – July 9</b>	
Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Psalm 45:10-17
Rom. 7:15-25a	Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30
<b>6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 16</b>	
Genesis 25:19-34	Psalm 119:105-112
Rom. 8:1-11	Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23
<b>7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 23</b>	
Gen. 28:10-19a	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Rom. 8:12-25	Mat. 13:24-30, 36-43
<b>8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 30</b>	
Gen. 29:15-28	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Rom. 8:26-39	Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52