

SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

*For you have been **born again**, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God (1 Peter 1:23 NLT).*

As I was finishing college, I knew I was entering a new stage in my life. My hair was long like everyone else's on campus. I decided to have a short haircut so I could begin interviewing for a job with my new degree. So, I entered a barbershop in a local neighborhood.

When I did, the older men stopped talking while they looked at me. I could see their disapproval in their looks. When it was my turn for a haircut, I sat in the barber chair, and I could also tell that the barber didn't want me there.

Sarcastically he asked me, "What do you want. Your split-ends cut?"

I answered, "No, take it all off with a short trim." Then, he asked if he heard me right, and I repeated slowly, and clearly, "Take it all off."

His excited loud reply was lightning fast, "**All right! This one's on me!**"

I looked around and saw the newspapers and the magazines dropped into laps like one of those E. F. Hutton commercials. I saw all the nodding heads and new smiles of approval from the other men in the barbershop. One even said, "There is a God in heaven."

Well, I know now that there is indeed a God in heaven. Later, I became a Christian. I began a new life more than just cleaning up my appearance for job interviews. This time, it would be washing myself from the inside out by giving my life and my will over to God. I made Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I became, "Born Again."

The Bible tells us that "God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

We were created to know God in a personal way—to have a relationship with Him, through His Son, Jesus Christ. We cannot become who we are supposed to be as a child of God without Jesus Christ. We must admit

to God and to others that we are sinners, and we must recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for us. The word, repent, means to change our direction in life. Instead of running from God, we can run toward Him.

This is the Good News, that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die in our place when we least deserved it. The Bible tells us, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away."

Why not receive Jesus Christ into your life? It is having Him take residence in your life and heart. Jesus said in Revelation 3:30, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in . . ."

Why not turn to Him in prayer and begin your new life that will go on for eternity in heaven?

Pastor Tom

Though I Am Born Again...

Though I am born again,
I still look the same . . .
the only difference is

I am baptized in His name.

I know I am still a sinner,
but I'm trying hard not to be
and I am sure that my faults
you still can see in me.

I am not yet perfect,
but I am learning every day
how to live like Jesus
and to follow His righteous way.

I know you don't believe,
but I haven't a single doubt
and I trust that my Lord
will work all things out.

I've got a lot of changing,
that I know I need to do
and I believe that my Savior
will help me see them through.

I've made many choices,
that I am not proud of
but I am counting on His mercy
and trusting in His love.



I know when you look at me,
I don't look any different
but I know somethings new
and in Jesus I am confident.

All I am asking you,
is to give me some more time
before you begin to judge me
and condemn me for my crime.

Though I am born again,
I am not without blame
but the day I accepted Jesus
He took with Him my shame!

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, 'all things are become new' (2 Corinthians 5:17 King James Version).

Written by Deborah Ann Belka

The 1904 Welsh Revival

The 1904 Welsh Revival began led by a 26 year old pastor, named of **Evan Roberts**. Previously, he was a coal miner and a blacksmith. At work since age 13, he began praying for a Welsh Revival.

Later, he realized that he was called into ministry even though he had very little education. Often his church meetings had little preaching and had just prayer or the reading of scripture.

Things changed on **November 7, 1904**, when the **Moriah Chapel** was filled to capacity for a prayer meeting that lasted until 3:00 a.m. A young girl, named **Florrie Evans**, who had only been a believer a few days, rose and with a trembling voice said simply, — "**I love Jesus with all my heart.**" The other young people's hearts were melted at this, and thus began the revival where over 100,000 quickly came to Christ and became born again.

Evan Roberts message was simple: 1. Confess all known sin. 2. Deal with and get rid of anything `doubtful` in your life. 3. Be ready to obey the Holy Spirit instantly, and 4. confess Christ publicly.

The Welsh revival was a mighty invasion of the Holy Spirit with God's Kingdom radically manifested on earth with new behavior. People noticed these changes:

"The earnings of workmen, instead of being squandered on drink and vice, were now bringing great joy to their families. Outstanding debts were being paid by thousands of young converts. Restitution was the order of the day. The gambling and alcohol business lost their trade, and the theaters closed down from lack of patronage. Football during this time was forgotten by both players and fans, though nothing was mentioned from the pulpits about it.

The people had new lives and new interests. Political meetings were cancelled or abandoned. They seemed completely out of the question since nobody was interested. The political leaders from parliament in London abandoned themselves to the revival meetings. Judges were presented with white gloves because there were no cases to try the illegitimate birth rate was reduced by 44%. Mules in the mines had to be retrained, because the coal miners no longer used profanity when giving orders. The man-made denominational barriers completely collapsed as believers and pastors worshiped their majestic Lord together."

Roberts wrote: "I felt a living power pervading my bosom. It took my breath away and my legs trembled exceedingly. This living power became stronger and stronger as each one prayed, until I felt it would tear me apart. My whole bosom was a turmoil and if I had not prayed it would have burst ... I fell on my knees with my arms over the seat in front of me. My face was bathed in perspiration, and the tears flowed in streams. I cried out, 'Bend me, bend me!' It was God's commending love which bent me ... what a wave of peace flooded my bosom ... I was filled with compassion for those who must bend at the judgement, and I wept. Following that, the salvation of the human soul was solemnly impressed on me. I felt ablaze with the desire to go through the length and breadth of Wales to tell of the savior."

It spread to the US. On Jan. 20, 1905, the Denver Post headline read, "Entire City Pauses for Prayer Even at the High Tide of Business" In Portland Oregon, 240 department stores

signed a covenant agreement to close their doors from 11:00 am - 2:00pm each day while their customers and employees attended prayer meetings. In Atlantic City, ministers reported that out of a population of 50,000, only 50 adults were left unconverted.

What was his secret? Roberts was willing to bow to God's Sovereign purpose for his life with Prayer (for months praying for 4 hours each day). His famous prayer was "**Bend me, O Lord.**"

Adapted from writing of "The Welsh Revival - 1904" by Ralph Andrus

**“Jesus' Miracles, Death and Resurrection”
Matthew Chapters 8-25**

Matthew shows us in Chapters 8-25 that Jesus has absolute authority in the world and deserves absolute allegiance from the world. This is good news, for this sin-stricken world is filled with sickness, struggles, disease, disasters and suffering; through Jesus' miracles, we see that He has authority over it all. So, once we understand this, it's only logical to conclude Jesus has authority over our lives as well. For those who know that they are weak and sinful, this is *really* good news.

In His miracles, Jesus places His healing touch on *all* people groups by cleansing the physically unclean, healing the ethnically outcast and restoring the culturally marginalized. We are all called to trust wholeheartedly in Jesus' authority, rest peacefully in His authority, submit completely, and rejoice gladly in His authority.

Jesus meets our greatest need by providing for the forgiveness of our sins and by defeating death on our behalf. Just as Jesus is shown to have authority over sickness and suffering, Matthew shows us Jesus has authority over the root of all suffering, which is sin (Adam being the first to experience this). Jesus has absolute authority over *all* the world. Our ultimate need is not physical but spiritual. Forgiveness is God's greatest gift as it meets our greatest need.

Jesus says, *"Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest... For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* In our suffering, His burden doesn't seem "light". But just as the larger ox carries the yoke for the smaller weaker ox, when we are "yoked" to Jesus, He carries our burdens. It is only through dependence on Him and resting in His care that our burden is lifted, and we can find rest.

For three years here on earth, Jesus preached, taught, and healed. These last chapters of Matthew show us His glory as King. We see Jesus as a King who is divine, righteous, gentle, peaceful, and compassionate. He is the One who was prophesied to be the Messiah and the Savior. As the centerpiece of all history and the determinant of our eternity, the cross reveals God's

holiness, our wickedness and the humility of Jesus Christ.

The humility of Christ is evident in His substitution. Jesus dies our death. Jesus had absolutely no sin. Not even once did He disobey the Father. Yet, due to our sinfulness and our disobedience, we see Him die in our place. The cross was not just physical suffering, it was predominantly spiritual suffering. Our Father turned His back on His Son due to the sin He took on for us. Jesus was not a coward about to face Roman soldiers; He was a Savior about to experience the wrath of God. Jesus suffered our separation. Jesus' cry on the cross was that of physical agony, spiritual anguish, and relational alienation. Before the cross, we were afraid of God; because of the cross, we are now friends of God. Before the cross, we were cast out of God's presence; because of the cross, we are now invited into God's presence.

The cross is not the end! Jesus was placed in a borrowed tomb; another sign of His humility. Three

days later, He actually rose from the grave! When Matthew records for us the events in his Book, he is, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, making claims that change the world. If Jesus rose from the dead, we must accept everything He said for His authority is absolute. He has authority over life and death and over sin and

Satan. He has authority over you and me. He reigns supremely, but He also loves us deeply. Remember, the purpose of the resurrection is grounded in Christ's love for us. Our Father sent His Son to pay the price for our sin, and the resurrection lets us know that our hope of salvation is not some made-up story or myth. Believers should rejoice in Jesus' love demonstrated in both His cross and His resurrection.

Do you believe in the historical resurrection of Jesus? Romans 10:9 says that **you must "confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead in order to be saved."** Scripture doesn't give us a list of things to do, boxes to check off, or rituals to follow. There is only truth to be believed. The other part of this verse says there is confession to be made, for even Satan believes in the resurrection.

To confess with your mouth is not about saying some magic words; rather, it's about a heart condition that says. **"Yes, I believe Jesus died on the cross for my**



Gymanfa Ganu September 1st Evening

sins and rose from the grave as my Savior, and my life belongs to Him as Lord." Where you spend eternity depends on this heart confession.

The last four verses of the book of Matthew are known as "**The Great Commission**". Here Jesus tells His disciples to, "**Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**" Christ calls His followers to a costly mission that will involve suffering and opposition, but the sovereign care and protection of our Father are sufficient to sustain our faith. Jesus commissioned us as His disciples to go to go to great need and great danger. He warns we will be betrayed, hated, and persecuted, but the Father will take care of us. We are to confess Him publicly and love Him supremely. Jesus promises "**surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**" He promises if we take that risk of truly following Jesus, we will find the ultimate reward of eternal life in heaven.

Adapted from "Christ-Centered Exposition" by David Platt (used in the Salem Women's Bible study)



Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday September 15st



Salem Church parking lot on Sunday morning

Upcoming Church Events

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected more than 168 million shoeboxes packed with toys and other fun and useful items and delivered them to boys and girls in need around the world. Each box is an opportunity for the Gospel to transform the life of a child, a family, and a community. Many boys and girls also participate in The "Greatest Journey," a 12 lesson follow-up discipleship course where they learn to follow Christ and share Him with others. Please consider filling a box this year. For many children it will be the only gift they ever receive, and it will mean so much to them. **Collection day is Sunday, November 24st.**

Election Day Supper

Mark your calendar for **Election Day Tuesday, November 5th**, and join us as we serve **Election Day Supper** from **4:30 PM to 7:00 PM** at the Venedocia Lion's Club. Come for sausage sandwiches cooked by Lion's Club, Dave Rees's famous shredded chicken, and a variety of homemade soups from our ladies. We need apple, pumpkin, and pecan pies. Give your donation to Kathy McCollow even if you can't bake a pie or offer to help serve or set up. Thanks!

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$71,974.62
Received to Date: \$72,492.09



Solar tractor light gifts given to the tractor drivers

Senior Luncheon on September 25st



Tractors came that were big and small



Costumed Senior Luncheon servers' theme of "young kids going back to school."



Socializing after the Blessing of the Harvest and the Blessing of the Tractors



A good and tasty menu



The meal together began after the blessing event



Seniors beginning to settle down to mingle before the meal

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Natalie Morgan Wilkins

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Rhoades

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

Bob Louth

15113 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marian Morris

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

Dorothea Plikerd

Roselawn Manor
418 East 4th Street
Spencerville, OH 45887

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

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

Micah Linger

Grandson of Doris Evans
(U.S. Marine Corps)

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Birthdays

2 Kory Mullenhour	8 Bob McCollow
13 David Breese	13 Carter Dunlap
13 Kayla Owens/Mumford	14 Jason Kimmet
25 Josh Hobbs	28 Keaton Adkins
29 Nancy Swygart	30 Jeff Coil

Anniversaries

2 Kevin & Heather Matthews
7 Jason & Sarah Kimmet
21 Bob & Kathy McCollow

Condolences

Condolences to the families of **Jane Lloyd Arnold, Peggy Burnett, and Jeff Kill.**

Prayer Concerns

Kylee Ball (surgery)
Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Kyle Baxter (brain cancer)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)
Jim Davis (cancer)
John Davis (eye surgery)
Cathy Donnal (health issues)
Kent DuCheney (surgery)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)
Tim Huster (cancer)
Connie Johnson (cancer)
Jan Jones (health issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)

Linda Lissey (cancer)
Bob Louth (heart problems)
Bob Louth, Jr (prostate health)
LuAnn (family issues)
Becky Martz (tests)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Sarah Miller (health issues)
Gwen Montez (surgery)
Marian Morris
Dorothea Plikerd
Terry Profit (chemotherapy)
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Deb & Steve Shepard (health issues)
Norman Shnipke (stroke)
Bruce Taylor (need liver transplant)
Martha Jean Evans Vasquez
Doug Wierwille (cancer)
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

October 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 pm Women's Bible Study	2	3	4	5 Homelessness Awareness on October 5 th at 6 PM at VW Fountain Park
6 9:30 Worship & World Communion Sunday / 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation Class	7	8 7 pm Women's Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation Class 5:00 Trustee Meeting	14	15 7 pm Women's Bible Study	16 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	17	18	19
20 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School Noon - Nominating, Budget, & Session meeting	21	22 7 pm Women's Bible Study	23 Noon-Senior Luncheon 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	24	25	26
27 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School Budget/Nomination Information is due 11:30 Confirmation Class	28	29 7 pm Women's Bible Study	30 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	31		

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Special Music
October 6	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Jean Owens	Penpark during hymns and the Double Quartet singing
October 13	Jeff & Kim Coil	Jean Owens	Evan Pugh
October 20	Todd & Jayne Morris	Jean Owens	Dave Lusk
October 27	Gwenda Blackmore	Lisa Lloyd	TBA
Ushers	Dave & Carla Breese family	Greeter:	Gwenda Blackmore

Salem Presbyterian Church
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Sounds of Salem Newsletter

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www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Secretary E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131
Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

September 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
17th Sunday after Pentecost – October 6	
Lam. 1:1-6	Psalm 137
2 Tim. 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
18th Sunday after Pentecost – October 13	
Jer. 29:1, 4-7	Psalm 66:1-12
2 Tim. 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
19th Sunday after Pentecost – October 20	
Jer. 31:27-34	Psalm 119:97-104
2 Tim. 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
20th Sunday after Pentecost – October 27	
Joel 2:23-32	Psalm 65
2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14