



Salem Presbyterian Church  
www.salempresbyterian.org

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January / February 2012 Issue

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

I'd like to wish you a happy and blessed 2012. The Fisher Family would also like to thank congregation members for their cards and generous gifts to our family. I am being very honest when I say we were blown away by your generosity during the Advent/Christmas season as we have not experienced anything quite like this before. We had a wonderful trip to Texas but are so glad to be home.

- I am looking forward to the months to come as we organize our Christian Education Task Force which will involve adults, youth and children. We are planning an adult Sunday School class (see new adult Sunday School announcement), participating in VBS, quarterly youth cluster events, raising funds for scholarships to Camp PYOCA, a new year of Brown Bag, and future confirmation classes. Please pray and encourage our Sunday School teachers: Vickie Saewert and Richard Clark.

- I am also looking forward to increasing our financial and hands-on participation in community ministries as we meet the needs of 'the least of these' during the current global economic crisis. I am inspired by your level of individual involvement and concern for the people of Washington County.

- As always, my favorite thing to do is get to know YOU and I will continue to schedule visits each week with members and friends of the congregation. I am very thankful for your welcoming spirit and it is a blessing and privilege to be a part of the life of the missional community at Salem Presbyterian.

Peace,

Beth

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# **The Stained Glass Window**

**January / February 2012**

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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](http://www.salempresbyterian.org).

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

**Pastor**

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# A Conversation with David Beck

**D**avid Beck grew up “in the suburbs” of Otisco, a little town in Clark County, Indiana. His family attended the small, community Otisco Presbyterian Church, which he told me was very similar in worship service structure and in number of attendees to Salem Presbyterian today. The part-time pastors who served at Otisco were students from the Louisville Presbyterian seminary. David said, “it was a fascinating way in which to grow up and attend church because every two or three years we would change pastors and a new one would come along.” David developed friendships with several pastors while growing up, and said the student pastors probably had the opportunity to experience just about everything to being a pastor in that little rural church.

At Otisco Presbyterian, David participated in a youth group of about 6 to 8 young people. At 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, everyone met just before Sunday School and had a little service, followed by Sunday School class at 9:40 a.m. and then the worship service at 10:30 a.m. One of the young people would lead the short service before Sunday School each Sunday, choosing Bible passages to be read and a topic to briefly talk about. David led these youth services often and found them fun and interesting.

David met his future wife Carolyn at Charlestown High School, where they both

attended. At the end of David’s junior year they met at a friend’s party and started dating. After high school, they attended Indiana University in Bloomington and married just before their last semester there. David graduated in 1969 and Carolyn graduated in 1970.

By the time they were planning their wedding, it was becoming harder for the rural churches to get part-time student pastors. Membership was declining and the churches in the Charlestown area had combined. Otisco Presbyterian had become part of Miller’s Chapel, and then Miller’s Chapel combined with First Presbyterian Church of Charlestown, where David and Carolyn’s wedding was held. Charlestown Presbyterian Church is no longer in that building, having since sold it to another denomination and built a new church. David remembers Charlestown Presbyterian’s big sanctuary with beautiful windows, very similar to Salem Presbyterian Church’s building.

After graduating from college David and Carolyn landed jobs as teachers in the Salem school system. David told me “that was really something for the two of them to be able to teach in the same school district, right out of college.” They attended Salem Presbyterian Church for the first time in August 1970 at the invitation of Joe Gili, Salem High School’s principal and Joanna Gili’s husband.

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## A Conversation with David Beck (continued)

Salem Presbyterian felt very familiar to David. It was a small community church, and the worship service and even the sanctuary were very similar to the churches he had attended in the past.

At Indiana University David had studied radio and television, and Joe Gili hired him as a part-time audio-visual director and part-time history teacher at the high school. Mr. Gili had seen the educational television station that had begun in New Albany and wanted David to start one in Salem. David was really excited about the opportunity to start a high school television station and to work with Mr. Gili. He was a very good educator and David and Carolyn were both impressed with him.

Sadly, just days before David was to start work, Mr. Gili had a heart attack and died, sending the school system into a turmoil. Max Bedwell stepped in and assumed the interim role of principal, assistant principal and athletic director for the year, and the next year became principal. In this difficult transition time, starting an educational television station was, of course, not a top priority, and then a short time later, there were no longer education grants available to fund such an undertaking.

While disappointed he did not have the opportunity to start an educational television station, David quickly found that he really



**Photo by Vickie Saewert**

enjoyed teaching history and overseeing audio/visual, which he described as being anything that “plugged into the wall.” Teachers used a great deal of audio/visual resources in their classrooms at that time, including films that had to be threaded through a film projector, filmstrips, and other equipment. As part of his job, David filmed most of the school’s sporting events, including all basketball and football games, home and away and some baseball games and track meets.

The first few years David and Carolyn spent as teachers and as members of Salem

Presbyterian Church, they were focusing on just finding their way as teachers. They were not very active in the church at first, being so busy preparing for school and with David traveling to film sports events, and with an unexpected move only two months after their arrival in Salem.

In October 1970 they were forced to move out of the home they had rented in August because of a rule that FHA homes could not be rented. They were not aware of this rule and neither was their landlord, but when he became aware he had to ask them to move out. They moved to a little place on Florence Street. They both preferred to live in a more rural area so after a few years they moved out to Beck's Mill and lived in that area for about 10 years.

David remembers coming out of college thinking he was going to change the world and that with students he would have a captive audience who would be enthralled with learning history. He discovered that it took considerable effort to be prepared to teach each day, that not all students wanted to learn or were as motivated as he thought they'd be, and that the first place to start in changing the world was changing himself. He said, "It didn't take me too long to understand that my students didn't see me as a stand-up comedian. My humor was not going to get me a gig. I did hopefully do a few things that helped them learn something about history."

When David and Carolyn first moved to Salem, their plan was to stay for just a couple of years and then move on to another community. They liked Salem but were interesting in seeing other places. At first, it was the fluctuating job market

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## **Ministries**

### **Administrative and Personnel Ministry**

Chairperson: Donna LaFollette  
lafollette@insightbb.com  
812-949-5085

### **Building and Grounds Ministry**

Chairperson: Tom Fihe  
tfihe@blueriver.net  
883-7576

### **Communications Ministry**

Chairperson: Trina Brown  
trinab@blueriver.net  
883-5689

### **Connectional Church Ministry**

Chairperson: Max Bedwell  
mbedwell@blueriver.net  
883-4850

### **Stewardship Ministry**

Chairperson: Wendell Brown  
wendellbrown1@earthlink.net  
883-5689

### **Worship and Music Ministry**

Chairperson: Richard Clark  
anarchyvalley1@yahoo.com  
812-586-0400

## A Conversation with David Beck (continued)

for teachers that kept them in Salem. Then, they became increasingly involved in the community and at Salem Presbyterian Church, and Salem became for them a great place to be and to have a family. It became their home and they were in Salem to stay.

David was the youth director for a time for the combined youth group at the Salem Presbyterian and Methodist churches. That was a special time. David said, “You could just feel that you were so much a part of the life of the church and the life of the kids growing up in the church. For me it was a special opportunity to work with young people.” Then David and Carolyn’s son Christopher was born. Christopher’s baptism at the church was also a meaningful highlight for David. He loved seeing Christopher grow up in the church and join the church. He told me, “it just made me feel a stronger connection – thinking this is the way you ought to experience faith, you ought to experience in your life and as a Christian.” In 2002, Carolyn was diagnosed with cancer and though it was a terrible ordeal “the people of the church were just wonderful.” He said that the support of the church helped them keep their strength through those difficult times.

The next year David took early retirement from Salem High School, or rather “got retreaded” by choosing to start his own business as a consultant. He was interested in helping other schools go through a

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similar systemic reform process as the Salem school system had done. There were a lot of changes in the Salem school system at that time so David thought it was a good time for a transition in his career. He has traveled across the country in his work and over time has moved away from working with schools to working with community foundations. While he found short-term workshop trips to be interesting, he prefers working with organizations over an extended period and getting to know them in the process.

I asked David what drew him to the Presbyterian Church. He said he feels most comfortable within the Presbyterian Church as a denomination because there is autonomy in what individual members believe, that it is “not so indoctrinated – that ‘this is the only way’ type of thinking.” Also, David believes Presbyterian churches are made up of people who are actively involved in their church and in their community. Growing up, by being a member of a Presbyterian church he felt that sense of belonging to something greater and bigger than he is.

What drew David and Carolyn to Salem Presbyterian Church was initially the invitation from Mr. Gili to attend. That invitation made them feel that someone was interested in them and wanting them to become a part of the church. David thinks the warm feeling of welcome is still there today in our church and is part of what has kept

him here. He said what has kept him at Salem Presbyterian is “the people who are there and how special they are and how much they mean to me and our family. People in our church care about one another. It’s a genuine caring. I feel like I have a lot of people I’m close to and friends with as well as share church with.” He said this has been the case for the entire 40 some years he and Carolyn have been members at Salem Presbyterian.

David’s faith journey has been one not of “peaks and valleys but as a constant stream of positive feeling about experiences that I’ve had. It’s helped smooth out the peaks and valleys of my life.” He made a commitment early in life and his faith has been a steadying force, keeping him mindful that he is one of God’s children and that his faith always supports him and enriches his life.

David’s parents had a very strong faith and one of the things they taught David was to pay attention, in church and in everyday life. He feels he has learned something from every pastor who has served at Salem Presbyterian, and that they each have “brought the good news” in different ways. He finds that with our current pastor Beth Walden-Fisher “we have someone who emphasizes a more direct Biblical connection, discussing the Bible from a more historical perspective and connecting that perspective to what it means to be a Presbyterian.” He thinks very highly

of the music ministry at Salem Presbyterian, saying it is so meaningful to the worship experience, and that when combined with the rest of worship on Sunday mornings, “there are really good reasons to go to church and be renewed.”

The frenetic pace of life gets in the way of practicing our faith, David told me, and Salem Presbyterian fulfills a need to become close to others, which is part of our journey together as a church congregation. We talked about how the Salem Presbyterian Church faith community is so much like

***“If our church is one of the best-kept secrets in Washington County, what does that say? That says that we have some room to grow.”***

a family for its members. We see each other more often than we see our own family members in many cases. There are many opportunities

to get together and get to know one another better outside the worship service, such as singing in the choir and the Brown Bag Supper discussion group. David would like our church to celebrate these opportunities and reach out to the community to let people know they can also be a part of the life of our church.

David pointed out that Presbyterians do a lot in and for our community but just don’t do it in the name of Salem Presbyterian Church, not that they should. When the church’s mission statement was written a few years ago, David said there was a lot of

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# A Conversation with David Beck (continued)

discussion within the Salem Presbyterian faith community about how one's religious beliefs and one's faith journey are unique to that person and private. While he believes that to an extent this is true and probably important to preserve, he feels that "some of our emphasis on the privacy of our faith journey may stand in the way of our witnessing in the way we should to our community."

One of the reasons that the church's mission statement project was begun, David explained, was to express and help people understand what our church family cares about. In this age when it seems everyone is concerned about small issues and seem to miss the biggest issue of "what it means to be a Christian," members of our church family wanted to talk about and focus on what unites us as Presbyterians and Christians. David believes we need to be talking about those things that unite us because they are critical to our individual and collective faith journeys.

Although he believes he is one of the "most forgettable people you will ever meet," David has, recently come to realize that if more of us don't step forward and become involved, we may be at risk of losing our church. "If we believe in our church's mission, we should do our best to move that mission forward, to build positive energy in our programs and act upon our faith." David feels that part of who he is, and part of who we all are who attend Salem Presbyterian, is formed from our attending there.

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David will be serving on the Salem Presbyterian Church Session this year, and for the fourth time since he became a church member. He served for the first time after living in Salem for 3 or 4 years. He also continues to serve as Clerk of Session but, because he is not a "detail person," would have been glad to turn this position over to another person this year, had someone been interested in becoming Clerk. He had been Clerk in the past so when Cathy Huey chose to step down as Clerk at the end of 2010 he felt called to help out.

This is a time of transition for Salem Presbyterian Church, and David is looking forward to serving on the Session and helping to guide the church as it moves forward. He said, "If our church is one of the best-kept secrets in Washington County, what does that say? That says that we have some room to grow." Looking forward he wonders how the church can best "focus on getting a little better all the time in what we do, in the experiences we have, so that people come away more involved with the things that they want to be involved with and getting more out of their own faith experience."

*- David Beck 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](mailto:trinab@blueriver.net), or by phone at 883-5689.*

# Announcements

## THREE GUYS COAT DRIVE!

At Salem Presbyterian Church on High and Walnut

- Accepting coats on Wednesday from noon-6pm and Saturday 9am-noon starting October 22nd
- Will be giving away coats at the Presbyterian Church starting Saturday, November 5th from 9-noon and on Wednesday from noon to 6pm until all coats find a home.
- Will pick up AND DELIVER coats ANYTIME!-- just call 883-1719 or 620-0882 and leave a message w/ address.

## New Dryer Donated by Salem Presbyterian Church to the Good Samaritan Inn

The Session of the Salem Presbyterian Church, through the direction of Pastor Beth with help from Max Bedwell, was able to acquire a good used dryer for \$75 to be donated to the Good Samaritan Inn.

## Drivers Needed:

*This message is from Pastor Beth, [through the Salem Ministerial Alliance]*

Drivers are needed at The Good Samaritan Inn. The Inn currently only has one van and would like to put together a list of folks to contact if a driver is needed when the van was being used. If you are interested in assisting and would like to be put on this list, or for more information, please contact Andy Dowling at the Inn 896-5044.

## Adult Sunday School Class:

A twelve-week adult Sunday School class began January 22, 2012, at Salem Presbyterian Church. The class meets from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the church library, and is being taught by Richard Clark. The class is based on "Living the Heart of Christianity: A Guidebook for Putting Your Faith into Action" by Marcus J. Borg. For more information on this study guide, please see: <http://www.marcusjborg.com/resources/study-guide-3/>.

## January Birthdays:

A belated Happy Birthday to Salem Presbyterian Church members and friends born in January.

January 3 - Ygrayne Clark, Joan Stingel, and Esther Weir

January 7 - Erin McQuiddy Howard

January 8 - Paul Scifres

January 13 - Susannah Caum

January 14 - Doris Jean Woodward

January 15 - Donna LaFollette

January 23 - Ed DeJean

January 25 - Elias Ratliff

January 26 - Sandra Terrell

January 27 - Max Bedwell and Christopher Catlin

## Salem Presbyterian Church Directory

As most of you know, we are currently working on an updated church directory. Vickie Saewert has been taking new photos and Trina Brown will be putting the directory together. Please contact Trina Brown at 812-883-5689 or [trinab@blueriver.net](mailto:trinab@blueriver.net) for more information.

# Calendar

| February 2012 |     |      |     |       |     |     |
|---------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Sun           | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|               |     |      | 1   | 2     | 3   | 4   |
| 5             | 6   | 7    | 8   | 9     | 10  | 11  |
| 12            | 13  | 14   | 15  | 16    | 17  | 18  |
| 19            | 20  | 21   | 22  | 23    | 24  | 25  |
| 26            | 27  | 28   | 29  |       |     |     |

## February 1, 2012

Brown Bag Supper - 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

## February 2, 2012

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Waylon Gilstrap's Birthday

Monika Spaulding's Birthday

## February 5, 2012

Adult and Youth Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the church library and youth room, respectively.

Youth Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the youth room.

Worship Service - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Communion served. Liturgist: Paul Scifres.

## February 8, 2012

Brown Bag Supper - 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

## February 9, 2012

Barbara Fisher's Birthday

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

## February 12, 2012

Adult and Youth Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the church library and youth room, respectively.

Worship Service - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Wendell Brown.

Indian Creek Gospel Choir Concert - 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is cordially invited to a presentation by the Gospel Choir from Indian Creek High School/Middle School, directed by Doug McKinley. Refreshments afterward in Mariner Hall. Invite your friends to this joyful event.

## February 14, 2012

Session Meeting - 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.

## February 15, 2012

Brown Bag Supper - 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

Carolyn Fultz's Birthday

## February 16, 2012

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

## February 17, 2012

Jonathan Spaulding's Birthday

## February 19, 2012

Adult and Youth Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the church library and youth room, respectively.

Worship Service - Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: David Beck.

## February 22, 2012

Ash Wednesday Service - Salem Presbyterian Church and First Christian Church will participate together in an Ash Wednesday meal and worship service. The meal of soup and sandwiches will be at 6:00 p.m. in Salem Presbyterian's Mariner Hall and the worship service will be at 7:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, at 305 East Walnut.

## February 23, 2012

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Joe Zink's Birthday

## February 25, 2012

Ben Huey's Birthday

## February 26, 2012

Adult and Youth Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the church library and youth room, respectively.

Worship Service - First Sunday in Lent. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Stephanie Scifres.

## February 28, 2012

Anastasia Grosvenor's Birthday

Linda Grosvenor's Birthday

## February 29, 2012

Brown Bag Supper - 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

| March 2012 |     |      |     |       |     |     |
|------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Sun        | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|            |     |      |     | 1     | 2   | 3   |
| 4          | 5   | 6    | 7   | 8     | 9   | 10  |
| 11         | 12  | 13   | 14  | 15    | 16  | 17  |
| 18         | 19  | 20   | 21  | 22    | 23  | 24  |
| 25         | 26  | 27   | 28  | 29    | 30  | 31  |

## March 1, 2012

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Anne Terrell's Birthday

## March 4, 2012

Adult and Youth Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the church library and youth room, respectively.

Worship Service - Second Sunday in Lent. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Monika Spaulding.

Keith Hattabaugh's Birthday

## March 7, 2012

Brown Bag Supper - 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

Robert Kenninger's Birthday

## March 8, 2012

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

## March 11, 2012

Adult and Youth Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the church library and youth room, respectively.

Worship Service - Third Sunday in Lent. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Lana Humphrey.

# Our Mission Statement

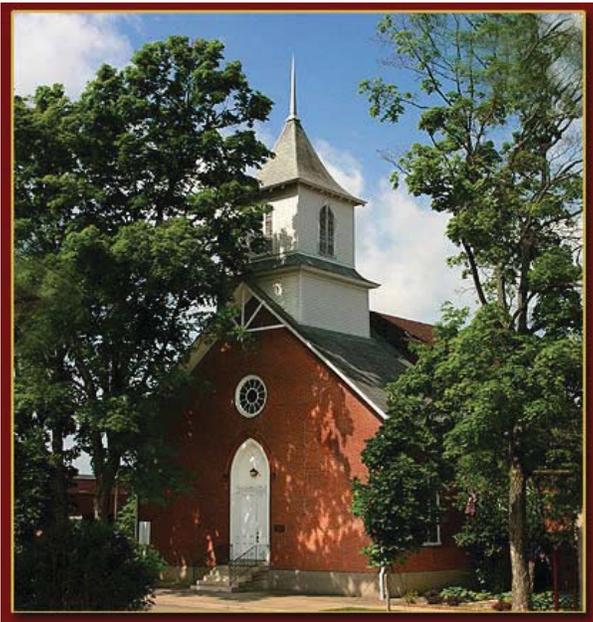
*Understanding that grace is a gift from God to the world, to us....*

**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**

**Salem Presbyterian Church  
110 North High Street  
Salem, Indiana 47167**



*12 January / February 2012*