

The Stained Glass Window

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Volume 3, Number 2

March 2010

Serving Faithfully 192 Years
www.salempresbyterian.org

Important Dates

March 17, 2010

“Wearing of the Green”
St. Patrick's Day
Family Night Supper
6:00 p.m.
Mariner Hall

March 28, 2010

Palm Sunday

April 4, 2010

Easter

Cantata: *Arise, my Love, A Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*, created and arranged by Craig Adams

The Cross of Spanish moss will stand in the front of the Sanctuary again. Those present will be asked to bring forward and to place into it as symbol of their faith or new life. Silk dogwood flowers will be available again for those who wish to place them on the Cross.

April 20, 2010

Service of Wholeness
7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

April 21, 2010

Library Coffee Time
10:00 a.m.

Subject: "Help Lord I'm Having a Senior Moment"

Salem Presbyterian Church

Peace to All Who Enter



~ linking to one another ~

~ welcoming diversity ~

~ cherishing each story ~

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

Session

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www.salempresbyterian.org.

Liturgists

Mar. 7—Carolyn Beck
Mar. 14—Richard Clark
Mar. 21—Leslie Gilstrap
Mar. 28—Donna LaFollette
Apr. 4—Jeanne Bedwell
Apr. 11—Nancy Godfrey
Apr. 18—Maurice Godfrey
Apr. 25—Wendell Brown



The Library Committee once again is accepting donated books.

We need two people to give a book review on their favorite book in May or November

Contact Jo: 883-4176.

Melinda Pickering's address

Melinda Pickering
3080 Wellington Drive
Florissant, MO 63083

Melinda's mother died recently and her address is provided for those who wish to send Melinda a card.



Salem Presbyterian Church Fund

One of the many Washington County Community Foundation funds of special interest is the Salem Presbyterian Church Fund. This fund was established by Helen Roberson, Dr. Edward DeJean and Elinor DeJean, and added to by Robert E. Boggs. The disbursements from this fund are to be used to support the mission and operations of the Presbyterian Church in Salem.

Memorial contributions and contributions in honor of someone at special times during the year are a good way to help this fund grow.

<http://wccf.biz/funds/funds.html#presbyterian>

Washington County Community Foundation
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1707 North Shelby Street, Suite 100
Salem, IN 47167

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It's a Wonderful Church!

It's a wonderful church – a church full of wonder was the theme developed by the Stewardship ministry during the last months of 2009. One of the highlights of the stewardship drive was the spontaneous reaction from the congregation when Clarence Oddbody, Angel 1st Class, posed this question: What do you value most about this fine old church and its friends and what does it mean to you? So many responded from the depth of their hearts that our pastor did not have time to deliver her sermon. The response was a sermon in itself.

One of my favorite verses from the Bible is: For where your treasure is your heart will be also. The Salem Presbyterian Church and its rich heritage is a treasure. Part of our faithfulness is managing what God has entrusted in us – and this includes this fine old church that will be celebrating its 200th birthday in 2017. At the present time, our church is hard-pressed to meet its expenses. However, I have no doubt that we can all pull together to confront and address these financial issues.

Trina Brown

Session News

The Session met March 2 with two major agenda items: Communication and Finances

Session members need to provide more communication to the congregation. Each month the Clerk will email a synopsis of the Session meeting. A member of Session will also deliver a synopsis during Minute for Mission during Worship. "Communications" will be added as a Ministry on the Session Docket. In turn, Session would like members of the Congregation to communicate with them of their needs, suggestions, concerns and desires for our Church.

Due to the state of our economy and decrease in "giving," our finances are not in the shape we would like them to be. Session is looking at ways to cut our 2010 budget. Several areas are being considered, such as increasing the room usage fee for Weight Watchers, removing the phone land line and enlisting an energy audit, as our electricity bills are so high. Pastor Shields has also asked to have her salary cut in half for a period of time. She would still receive her pension and housing allowance. Members of Session are investigating the above proposals.

On a more positive note, you will be pleased to know that Session has tabled Sara's resignation and she concurs.

Wendell Brown has agreed to assist Leslie with the overwhelming duty of managing our finances.

Richard Clark has posted a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for ushering during Worship. One doesn't have to be a Session member to usher, so sign up now! This is YOUR opportunity to let your light shine!

Wendell and Sara are organizing a Green Team. It is our hope that this team will be instrumental in having an energy audit and save us money. Even if you didn't list that as an interest on your Time and Talent sheet, there's still time to get involved!

Session members will meet at the Huey home March 13 for a Flourishing Congregation Retreat. Trina Brown, Donna LaFollette and Sara will lead us in activities, discussion and reflection to energize us to Flourish!

It's a Wonderful Church

Get your Calendars out and make a note of all the upcoming events at Salem Presbyterian Church:

March 17 Family Night Supper at 6:00

March 28 Palm Sunday

April 4 Easter Cantata

April 20 Service of Wholeness at 7:00

April 21 Coffee Time in the Library at 10:00 AM

Cathy Huey, Clerk of Session

We welcome all.

Our willingness to listen to each other in our struggles of faith and belief.

Noticing what needs to be done.

Diverse in our membership.

Enthusiastic response to needs [prayer, library, volunteering.]

Rooted in a firm belief in God's grace.

Feeling of being in a family.

Using our talents, whatever they are, generously and freely.

Loving concern for each other and for the community.

**ACTS OF FAITH: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN MUSLIM, THE STRUGGLE FOR
THE SOUL OF A GENERATION**

EBOO PATEL

Eboo Patel is a 34 year-old American Muslim, a Rhodes Scholar, with a doctorate in sociology and a passion for mobilizing young people. Patel is the founder and driving force behind the Interfaith Youth Core. Begun in 1998, the organization is active on 75 campuses across the U.S. Named by US News & World Report as one of America's Best Leaders of 2009, he is a member of President Obama's Advisory Council of the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. He is also the winner of the 2010 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion. Patel's organization, based in Chicago, encourages young people of different religions to perform community service, explore common values and build bridges among diverse faiths.

Patel was born in India to a Muslim family and immigrated to Chicago as a child. Patel grew up outside Chicago, where he was subjected to racist bullying, and was unsure of what it meant to be Muslim. He felt rejected by mainstream society. In high school he turned against everything about his Indian and Muslim heritage. However, he excelled in academics in an attempt to be like the white Americans around him. When he went to college he came to rage at the inequities and hypocrisies of America. He soon learned that anger is not an identity. He felt his different identities as Indian, Muslim and American clashed with one another, but later realized that appreciating the common value of pluralism among all three was the key to finding peace.

As the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Atlanta Olympics bombing, and 9/11 occurred, Patel saw how religious extremists recruited young people with similar raw emotions and manipulated them into becoming hate-filled murderers. There are 780 million Muslims in the world under the age of 25 – over 11 percent of the world's

population. The median age in Afghanistan is under 18; the median age in Iraq under 20. Too many of these young people grow up in poverty. And while poverty doesn't cause extremism, it does create conditions that extremist groups like the Taliban exploit. Patel tries to understand why it is that doing God's work can be interpreted by some (such as suicide bombers and the 9/11 perpetrators) to include terrorist activities. When Patel examined the pictures of the nineteen hijackers and looked at signs of dementia or evil, he saw they looked more like the pictures in a high school yearbook than on a wanted poster. Maybe some did not have full beards because they could not grow them. Osama bin Laden is looked upon as public enemy number one in the West and as an anti-imperialist hero to some in the Muslim world. Patel says that there is an overlooked dimension to bin Laden's personality, a talent behind his success to the jihadists. He is a brilliant youth organizer. And Muslims are not the only ones lured into religious extremism by charismatic youth organizers. Holy wars take off when there is a large supply of young men who feel humiliated and deprived and when leaders emerge who know how to capitalize on those feelings and when a segment of society for whatever reason are willing to fund them.

Patel says that religious violence ... is more about sociology than scripture. He contends that religious violence is the product of careful design, manipulated by human hands. Young people, Patel charges, need a role in life; an opportunity to matter; a feeling like they are an important part of their world. But all too often, there are no options for young people to exercise their need for efficacy outside of joining up with manipulative extremists who co-opt religious language for a violent message. Patel argues (after Desmond Tutu) that religion is only a tool, much as a knife is. You can use it to cut bread, or you can use it to kill. He stresses, "a religious text comes to life through its interpreters. Violence committed in the name of a religion is really violence emanating from the heart of a particular interpreter."

He contends that whereas extremists invest the time and money into harnessing the energy and discontent of youth, "too many members of the established older generation don't even try to connect." When Patel and a Jewish friend met with the Dalai Lama in India, the Dalai Lama told them that Religions must dialogue, but even more, they must

come together to serve others. Service is the most important along with finding common values between different religions. According to the Dalai Lama, as you study the other religions, you must learn more about your own and believe more in your own.

Patel talks about the musicians he and his dad enjoyed. One such musician was Cat Stevens. He thought he might be dead but his dad angrily stated that he was indeed alive, he had changed his name to Yusuf Islam but had converted as a rigid Muslim who thought music is against the religion. Later on, Yusuf Islam watched as the Bosnians were murdered in masse while the US, Britain, France and others did very little to stop the genocide. Yyusuf was visited by the Bosnian foreign minister, a doctor and a Muslim who had saved the lives of many Bosnians in the basement of his home with very crude medical instruments. The minister had been inspired as a young man by Cat Stevens music and had started playing it himself. Later, the minister's helicopter was shot down and he died. Yusuf played a cassette that the doctor had given to him that contained Bosnian hymns. Yusuf (Cat Stevens) started studying with other teachers and found that the Prophet allowed and even encouraged music when it served a positive end. Yusuf (Cat Stevens) started to make music again.

Part of the problem, as Patel found in his own efforts to build an interfaith youth movement, is that the older leadership of mainstream religious communities resists youth involvement. It is as if, Patel muses, they worry that too much exposure to other faiths will hijack the loyalty of these young, unformed persons. Moreover, many parents don't press for youth religious activities because they view their kids as "too self-absorbed, materialistic, and anti-authoritarian to be interested in religion." Maybe, Patel points out, they just need more opportunities.

The idea Patel has worked to materialize is an interfaith movement for youth that emphasizes pluralism and service; that aims to build strength in one's own faith through exposure to and interaction with people of other faiths; and that promotes working together to express the values that different religious communities hold in common – "hospitality, cooperation, compassion, and mercy."

At the end of the book, Patel has come to accept his identity as an American with Indian Muslim roots, and to live out his dream of combining service to others with his faith and with his career. He even gets the girl. And yet you know this is no “ending” at all. It is only the beginning for Patel and for the Interfaith Youth Core.

Eboo Patel will be coming to Louisville on Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. April 14 to lecture in the Chapel at the Presbyterian Seminary. Tickets are free, no reservations are required.



<http://www.pcusa.org/>



March Birthdays

- 1 Anne Terrell
- 1 Stella Poynter
- 3 Jane Davis Skillen
- 4 Keith Hattabaugh
- 7 Robert Kenninger
- 16 Ed Caum
- 19 Sue Johnson
- 21 Ben Morris
- 23 Brent Davis
- 24 Lana Humphrey
- 25 Sharon Gratz
- 29 Joanna Gili
- 29 Virginia Nelson

April Birthdays

- 4 Neva Tatlock
- 8 Lindsay Robbins
- 11 Dick Rose
- 13 Richard Clark
- 13 Chris Morris
- 14 Jerry Barnett
- 15 John Stingel
- 17 Fred Fultz

May Birthdays

- 1 Norma Eisert
- 3 Lisa Temple
- 4 Elinor DeJean
- 7 Emmons Ratliff
- 7 Susie Lopp
- 8 Chris Beck
- 9 Maggie Caum
- 9 Barb Helsel
- 16 Jean Wilson
- 18 Carla Peugh
- 18 Cathy Huey
- 21 Ruby Davis
- 22 Jean Robbins
- 28 Ray Hanes
- 28 Scott Grosvenor



Keep the Faith: Things Will Work Out

By Donna LaFollette

“Michael, I can’t possibly come to your induction. We’ll be flying out for Christmas less that two weeks later. I can’t afford both,” I explained to Michael, my son, after he had asked me to come to his induction as Master of his Masonic lodge in Oregon. “I just can’t do it; maybe another time.”

After I had hung up, I looked over to Bill and declared, “Why can’t I go? There’s no reason. I’m going to do it. I can use our United points.” Bill agreed but told me I had better get the ticket right away if I had any hope of getting a seat with the points. “But if you can’t,” he smiled, “go any way.”

I grabbed up the phone to call Michael back but slowly placed it back down. “Let’s do this as a surprise for Michael. I’ll fly out on Friday, stay that night at our usual motel, and go to the induction on Saturday, spend Sunday with Michael, and fly home Monday morning.” I picked up the phone again but this time to call United. They had available seats for my points, and I got the round-trip ticket.

Next, I called the motel--vacancies! I made my reservation and asked the clerk not to mix up this reservation with our reservations for Christmas. Job done; I was almost on my way.

“Bill, I can’t carry this surprise off by myself. I’m going to call Penny. I think she’ll help me.” I called Michael’s wife, and she was more than glad to help me. She even offered to pick me up at the airport and chauffeur me around while in the Portland area. I really didn’t want to rent a car and drive in Portland traffic on a Friday during rush hour. My plane was due in at 6:49 PM so I leaped at the offer. She said she wouldn’t tell the grandboys, Emmons and Elias, until the day of the induction so my secret was safe. However, she also told me that nine men from Michael’s former lodge in Indiana, Prospect Masonic Lodge, were flying out for the induction (What an honor!) and staying at the same motel as I was. Oh, this really had to be a covert operation! Penny gave me a number of a fellow lodge member of Michael’s who would help me with all the arrangements.

I needed help from a lodge member because I wanted to present Michael with my grandfather’s, Harry Emmons, gavel that he had used when he was Master of the Prospect Lodge in 1939. Unfortunately, I had given the gavel to Michael several months before. Now I had to get it back without his knowing.

I called his Masonic friend Mike. He, also, was more than willing to help me, but said, “Michael would rather give up his right arm than part with that gavel. Yet, I think I can do it. I’ll be in touch.”

Now all that was left was planning what to wear. Ah, my favorite blue dress. I'd have it dry cleaned and folded instead of hung so I could pack it.

On the day of my flight from Louisville, I had plenty of time to prepare because my flight didn't leave until 1:46 PM. However, I got to the airport early enough to get a seat and read for a while. Then the first of many delays began. The plane would be at least one hour late. "Here we go," I thought.

When the plane finally got to Louisville and the passengers were boarded, I knew I was going to have to make a mad dash to make my connection to Seattle. So in Chicago I did just that. I hustled to another concourse and raced to the gate. Gasping for breath I got to the waiting area just in time to hear, "The United flight 929 to Seattle has been cancelled." I rushed to the agent and asked what was available. There was a flight going out several hours later with available seats, but there would be no more flights going out of Seattle to Portland until morning. Another choice I had was to wait at O'Hare until 9:00 PM, almost six hours later, for a direct flight to Portland. I took it and called Penny to tell her I'd rent a car.

"I'll be there to pick you up. My sister will watch the boys. You'll be too beat to drive from Portland to Beaverton," she graciously insisted, and I began my long wait with a glass of shiraz at the nearest bar and grill.

Too many hours later, I stumbled half asleep from the plane in Portland and walked toward baggage claim. Penny was there. We stood at the luggage carousel and caught each other up on the news of the family. After all the luggage was out, I still did not have my suitcase. We asked the waiting agent who checked on my bag and replied, "Your luggage was sent back to Chicago from Seattle. It will be delivered again to Seattle then to Portland tomorrow. You can pick it up here. "Oh, great," I moaned. "My luggage is doing more traveling than I am."

Penny went to her sister's and got a T shirt for me to sleep in, and I had a travel toothbrush in my carry on--I'd survive. I was tired and wanted to sleep and forget about luggage.

At the motel when I checked in, I had two rooms. "That's the reservation for Christmas. I reserved one room for this trip. I knew this would happen," I wailed to the surprised night desk clerk.

After a short night's sleep, I heard a knock at my door and opened it to see my two grandboys. All was right with the world! We piled into Penny's car and headed to the airport for the luggage. Imagine my surprise when at the airport I heard from the agent, "Your luggage is in Chicago or Seattle or Louisville. We're not sure." (So much for the favorite blue dress.) I looked at Penny, and she looked at me.

“Let’s head to the mall; I need clothes.” We again piled into the car and started out of the airport. Then my cell phone rang.

“We have your bag. It was over at Alaska Airlines. I’ll be at the curb with it; just drive by.” I knew right then that the surprise would go off perfectly. I had already had my share of bad luck.

And go off perfectly it did. No one saw me at the motel, and I rode to the lodge with Penny’s sister while she and the boys went into the lodge to distract Michael. The boys had been promised TWO pieces of cake if they didn’t tell Daddy that Nonie was there. Mike, the fellow lodge member, had the gavel ready for me, a room to hide in, and his mom to keep me company until the right time for me to walk into the lodge room.

Michael was at the podium ready to receive his gavel when I walked in with his great-grandfather’s onyx gavel and took his arm. He looked down at me like “What’s going on?” Then he realized I was there. I thought I was going to have to hold him up he was so taken aback. I hugged him and whispered, “I love you.” Tears were in our eyes.

All the hassles with late planes, cancelled flights, and lost luggage were worth it. A mother had made it there to support her son and show her love. And the icing on the cake--time with the grandboys.

Donna LaFollette
presenting her
great-grandfather’s
gavel to her son
Mike Ratliff.

Portland, Oregon



Easter Origin – Passover Lamb

Easter origin, as a Christian holiday, can be found in the pages of scripture itself. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, all followers of Jesus, offer their own unique eyewitness accounts of the **crucifixion** and **resurrection of Jesus Christ**. It is this culminating event of Christianity that is celebrated on Easter Sunday every year. This year, 2010, Easter is celebrated on Sunday, April 4th.

Easter origin actually began as part of the Jewish Passover, as Christ was crucified and resurrected during Passover week. Christ is believed by Christians to actually be the Passover Lamb spoken of in Exodus, for He Himself became the perfect, sinless sacrifice for the sins of all people. Jews who chose to follow Christ then honored this day in succeeding years during the Passover season, but as Christianity was spread throughout non-christian nations, the celebration of Easter was gradually combined with pagan “rites of spring” traditions. Modern celebrations are the result of this compromise.



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