



Salem Presbyterian Church
www.salempresbyterian.org

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January 2013 Issue

Faith and Favorite Hymns by Trina Brown

At Andrew Fisher’s memorial service on December 10, 2012, held at Madison Presbyterian Church, Reverend Don Summerfield spoke about one of Andrew’s favorite hymns, “On Eagle’s Wings.” According to Wikipedia, it was written in 1979 by a priest, Michael Joncas, and is loosely based on Psalm 91 and Isaiah 40:31. We sang it at the service and it was moving to listen to the verses sung and to join in on the chorus: “And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His Hand.”

Rev. Sutterfield said that you can find out a lot about a person and their faith by asking them what their favorite hymns are. I’ve not been able to stop thinking about this idea. I had never thought about this before but I wholeheartedly agree that this is true.

A short time before she died, I asked my paternal grandmother what her favorite hymn was. I’m not sure what compelled me to ask. She told me without hesitation that she loved “Higher Ground” and she sang a

little of it for me: “Lord, lift me up and let me stand by faith on heaven’s table land; a higher plane than I have found – Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.” We had a beautiful arrangement of this hymn played at her funeral and it was very meaningful for me to hear it in that setting. I’d never heard of it before she sang it to me, and now I treasure it as I treasure her memory.

What are your favorite hymns and what is it about them that you treasure most? What do these hymns say about your faith? I would love to explore this idea further in a future newsletter. Please consider contributing your thoughts on this subject. I can be reached by email at trinab@blueriver.net, by phone at 883-5689, by mail at 2314 S. Brown Lane, Salem, IN, 47167, or of course in person at church on Sundays. I look forward to hearing from you.

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The Stained Glass Window

January 2013

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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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A Conversation with Bill LaFollette

The first service Bill LaFollette attended at Salem Presbyterian Church was his wedding to Donna in December 1987 when Reverend D. Jo Lowell was the pastor. Bill had been in the building many times before that for teachers' association meetings held in Mariner Hall. Donna had been a member of the church since the mid-1970s, having joined when Reverend J. Pat Kennedy was the pastor.

Bill grew up in the west end of Louisville, Kentucky, in the Parkland neighborhood. He told me that back then, there were clearly defined neighborhoods, such as Parkland, Portland, Crescent Hill, the Highlands, and that's why Louisville has so many small town qualities; it's changing now because it's becoming so spread out. He attended Parkland Elementary and Parkland Junior High (now Johnson Middle School) before graduating from duPont Manual High School when he was 17. He then earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Louisville in History and Education Administration, respectively.

Bill married at 19 years old and in 1956 went to work for the L&N Railroad, where he worked until 1966. During that same period he served in the US Army both in active

service and in the reserve, from 1957 to 1963. Bill said when he was in the Army was the only time he had been out of Louisville up to that point in his life.

In 1966 Bill became a teacher at the old Valley Elementary School in the Valley Station area of Louisville. He left teaching in 1970 to become a union representative for teachers because he could not support a family of five solely on a teacher's salary. He was a Kentucky Education Association/Jefferson County Teacher's Association Field Representative until 1973, when he became an Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA) Uniserv Director. He was responsible for all association activities in Floyd, Harrison, Jackson and Washington counties. It was during the time he worked for the ISTA that he first met Donna, in 1976.

When Bill came to Indiana, Donna was teaching at Orleans and was raising her two children as a single mother. In 1976 Donna returned to teaching in Salem and became bargaining spokesperson and president of the local teachers' association. Bill said he and Donna were in many meetings together over several years. Bill got to meet Donna's children

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A Conversation with Bill LaFollette *(continued)*

Mike and Marla during that time. He told me “I always admired Donna for her tenacity, her being a single parent for 12 years, raising two kids on a teacher’s salary.” Bill and Donna celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in December 2012.

After Bill and Donna married in 1987, Donna continued to attend Salem Presbyterian but Bill did not attend frequently because he was a TV camera person for Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville where he remained a member. He did camera work there for about 12 years in the live television ministry.

In 1990, Bill retired from ISTA and, in 1992 returned to work for Jefferson County Schools. He and Donna moved down to New Albany to be closer to his job and other activities. After Bill and Donna moved to New Albany, Donna did not attend Salem Presbyterian Church because it was such a drive, and she was driving to Salem during the week every day to teach at Salem Middle School.

In 1992, Bill became an adult education teacher for Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, and then in 1993 he took a job as the Coordinator of the newly established Family



Photo by Vickie Saewert

Resource Center at Portland Elementary School. He continued to work there until his retirement in 2004.

At the Family Resource Center, Bill created a support network for some 250 families. Almost 90% of the children at Portland were on free or reduced lunch . When school families got a cutoff notice from LG&E or other utilities due to lack of payment, he would get them help to keep service on. He also assisted families with clothes, food, medical transportation and mental

health counseling. In 1994 he invited seven Portland area ministers to a meeting at school that resulted in the formation of the Portland Area Ministries.

Bill said he has had so many different jobs and worked in so many different fields, that he has gotten to know a lot about organizations through the connections that he made. He cannot begin to count the number of people he has met and worked with but guesses it is in the thousands. He said, "The way my life has evolved I have been privileged to know a lot of people and a lot of support organizations."

Bill grew up in a Southern Baptist church and told me that there was a period when the baptist church went through an evolution. He said, "To people on the outside, the impression was created that the baptist church, the Southern Baptist Convention in particular, was anti-woman. Many wouldn't ordain women ministers. Very few of them had women deacons. The Southern Baptist Seminary went through a really painful process for 10-12 years."

Bill explained that at one time, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was one of the foremost theological institutions in the country, that there were highly revered, well-respected theologians on the faculty. He said, "Then the board of trustees changed and they brought in a president who was more conservative, Dr. Mohler." Bill told me that it was painful for him because he knew a lot of faculty

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Ministries

Administrative and Personnel Ministry

Chairperson: David Beck
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Building and Grounds Ministry

Chairperson: Tom Fihe
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Communications Ministry

Chairperson: Trina Brown
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Connectional Church Ministry

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

Stewardship Ministry

Chairperson: Wendell Brown
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Worship and Music Ministry

Chairperson: Richard Clark
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A Conversation with Bill LaFollette (*continued*)

members there and a lot of the students, and he loved the place, and it was being changed drastically. The local churches still had autonomy and could call a woman minister, ordain women ministers and deacons, and reach out to the gay community if they wished. But these issues divided congregations.

Bill said conflicts like these hurt the witness of the church. He explained, “It says to the outside world or to people looking for a church home that all that church does is bicker. We don’t want to be a part of that. It’s not spiritual. It’s not Christ-like. It’s all the things you don’t want to be a part of.” Bill believes this is one of the reasons that so many non-denominational churches have sprung up and grown, such as Southeast Christian, Northside Christian, and Southern Hills. They are growing because the turmoil in the mainline churches turns people away and mainline churches are not reaching out to young people, people with children, or non-attenders.

Bill explained that his faith has always been so important to him. He said, “It’s a bedrock. Because anytime whether it’s job-related or personal or family issues or whatever it is, I try to think, sometimes not too successfully,

what’s the Christian thing to do? And then I’m comfortable with that. I think we all have to have roots, and faith can be a big part of that. I like to think of a tree. There’s a tap root. The taproot in your life is faith; it’s an analogy that makes sense to me. Christ’s example and teachings and life I think are important.”

Bill’s middle name is Otis, after his father Otis LaFollette. Bill did not have any brothers or sisters and Otis had a big influence on Bill. He taught school in a one room schoolhouse in Larue County, Kentucky, in his early 20s. He was a man Bill respected and admired and he passed away in 1967. Bill said, “He’s the reason I am who I am. He would reach out and help people he didn’t know and in ways even my mother and I didn’t know. And so I always admired him. The two strongest influences on who I am are my Christian faith and my father’s example.”

Family is the most important thing to Bill and Donna. They do not have any children together but have 6 children combined from previous marriages. Bill feels good that in all the years he and Donna have been married, they’ve always been able to be there for their children whenever they needed them, whether financially

or emotionally. Donna's daughter Marla lives in Columbus, Ohio, now. Bill's oldest daughter Sharon lives in Louisville and is 53. One of Bill's sons, Scott, lives in Richmond, Kentucky, and another, Todd, lives near LaGrange. Bill's youngest daughter, Jennifer, the one who recently had a baby, lives in New Albany. Donna's son Mike, who lives in Oregon, is the only one not in easy driving distance.

Both Bill and Donna retired in 2004, so Donna didn't have to make the drive to Salem every weekday any longer. They both do lots of volunteer work and love to travel. They have been to all 50 states and quite a few foreign countries. But Bill still believes this is the best place in the country to live "from a standpoint of the cost of living, friendliness of people, the ability to interact when you need to, and a pretty strong church community with the two seminaries" nearby in Louisville.

After Bill and Donna moved to New Albany, they visited churches near their home but they did not find them appealing. They visited the Presbyterian church out on Mt. Tabor road, "walked in and sat down and had the service and not a person said we're glad you're here or anything." They went to a Methodist church on Charlestown Road, in which

people were more welcoming, and they liked St. Marks which was a United Church of Christ.

More than any other churches they visited though, they found that Salem Presbyterian met their needs and still does. They both have a really strong faith and needed a church home so started attending Salem Presbyterian Church again during the time Reverend Sara Shields was the pastor. Donna had known Sara for a long time and Bill views the people at Salem Presbyterian as some of the most caring, compassionate people he's ever known in any church. They'd known so many people at Salem Presbyterian for years, including Carolyn Haag, Barb Helsel, Paul Scifres, Anne and Butch Terrell, Ginger and John Morris, and Max and Jeanne Bedwell. Bill said, "That meant even more because these were people I'd known in a different context and now here we were worshipping together."

Bill became an associate member of Salem Presbyterian three or four years ago. Bill said he joined because of Donna's affinity for Salem Presbyterian and because Sara had found a way he could join Salem Presbyterian without giving up his membership, which he still retains, at Walnut Street Baptist Church.

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A Conversation with Bill LaFollette (continued)

Bill shared with me that he finds it quite special how overwhelmingly supportive the people at Salem Presbyterian Church are when he or family members have health issues or are dealing with traumas. Rev. Beth Walden-Fisher and members ask almost every Sunday how a family member is doing and are so caring and sensitive when support is needed. It's touching for Bill when someone who has more health problems than he does comes up to him and asks him how he's doing. Bill told me that one of the strengths of our congregation is that we draw on so many different experiences and traditions. And he loves the choir, the music, and likes Doug and Connie very much. Bill noted that Doug has to come a long way to be with us on Sundays.

Bill feels that at Salem Presbyterian, we try to demonstrate a community awareness. He noted that so many of our members are involved in other organizations in our community. He would love to see our congregation have ecumenical services once or twice a year where all the different churches come together. He would also like to see pulpit sharing, where pastors would go to another church for a Sunday, and he would love for the church to

expand its youth program. In the future Bill would like to see the spirit of fellowship and compassion remain at Salem Presbyterian.

Bill told me that he loves singing hymns and that he wants to have "How Great Thou Art," "In the Garden," "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," and "The Holy City" sung at his funeral. Bill first heard "How Great Thou Art" at a Billy Graham crusade in 1956, sung by George Beverly Shea, and found it such a moving song. And "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" Bill enjoyed singing every day at a noon time brief service at the Baptist Student Union when he was a student at the University of Kentucky, before he attended the University of Louisville. Bill quoted the lyrics to me: "Have thine own way, Lord. Have thine own way. Thou art the potter. I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will" Those are definitely words to live by.

- Bill LaFollette 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.

Announcements

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

A New Tree for SPC

We have a 9 foot Christmas Tree and two wreaths thanks to Carolyn Lyles & Betty Stanley who went on a shopping spree; the tree & wreaths are stored at the Church. We are very appreciative of the time Carolyn & Betty took from their busy holidays to catch the sales. "Thanks" to you both.

This new tree was a project of the Salem Presbyterian Women to provide a large artificial Christmas Tree (for less clean up) and to decrease the Church's decorating expenses each year.

If you wish to contribute to this Tree & Wreaths project, please contact Carolyn Lyles. If you have questions call Jo Barnett.

Total purchase price for both: \$128.38 (artificial greenery may be purchased later)

Food Bank

The Salem Presbyterian Women selected the below "theme" drives for 2013 to help the Washington County Food Bank. Items for the WCFB can be placed in the boxes in the Parlor and will be delivered the first of each month. Paul Scifres and Jo Barnett faithfully deliver the items in the boxes to the WCFB.

* January: Dry Food Items

* February: Cans of Vegetables

* March: Cans of Fruit

* April: Types of Juices

* May: Cans of Meats

* June: Cake & Cookie Mixes

* July: Toilet Paper

* Aug. Toothpaste and Tooth brushes

* September : Bath Soap & Shampoo

* October: Laundry Soap and Dish soap

* November: Paper Towels and Cleaning Items

* December: Sanitary Napkins & Diapers

Lenten Events

There will be a joint Ash Wednesday service with First Christian Church held at Salem Presbyterian Church on February 13th. A soup and sandwich meal will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Mariner Hall, followed by a worship service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

A Lenten Lectionary Study series will begin at Salem Presbyterian Church on Tuesday morning, February 19th, at 10:00 a.m.

First Christian Church will host a joint Maundy Thursday service. More details TBA.

Calendar

February 2013						
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		

February 3, 2013

Worship Service - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time / 4th Sunday after Epiphany. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Communion will be served. Liturgist: De Davis.

February 6, 2013

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

February 9, 2013

Barbara Fisher's Birthday

February 10, 2013

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

February 12, 2013

Salem Presbyterian Women - Noon in the Parlor. Bring your own sandwich or salad. Fellowship and prayer.

February 13, 2013

Ash Wednesday - Joint Service with First Christian Church - Soup and Sandwiches from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Worship service in Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

10 January 2013

February 14, 2013

Carolyn Fultz's Birthday

February 17, 2013

Worship Service - 1st Sunday in Lent. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Paul Scifres.

February 19, 2013

Prayer Vigil - 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A prayer list is available, along with other prayer materials. Come any time during the day that fits your schedule.

Tuesday Morning Coffee: Lenten Lectionary Study - 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

February 20, 2013

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

February 23, 2013

Joe Zink's Birthday

February 24, 2013

Worship Service - 2nd Sunday in Lent. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Rachel Fisher.

February 26, 2013

Tuesday Morning Coffee: Lenten Lectionary Study - 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

February 27, 2013

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

February 28, 2013

Anastasia Grosvenor's Birthday

Linda Grosvenor's Birthday

March 2013						
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
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

March 1, 2013

World Day of Prayer

March 3, 2013

Worship Service - 3rd Sunday in Lent. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Communion will be served. Liturgist: Tom McQuiddy.

March 4, 2013

Keith Hattabaugh's Birthday

March 5, 2013

Tuesday Morning Coffee: Lenten Lectionary Study - 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

March 6, 2013

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

March 7, 2013

Robert Kenninger's Birthday

March 10, 2013

Worship Service - 4th Sunday in Lent. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Carolyn Beck.

March 12, 2013

Tuesday Morning Coffee: Lenten Lectionary Study - 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

March 13, 2013

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

March 16, 2013

Ed Caum's Birthday

March 17, 2013

Worship Service - 5th Sunday in Lent. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Donna La-Follette.

March 19, 2013

Tuesday Morning Coffee: Lenten Lectionary Study - 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

March 20, 2013

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

March 21, 2013

Ben Morris' Birthday

March 23, 2013

Brent Davis' Birthday

March 24, 2013

Worship Service - Passion/Palm Sunday. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Jeff Saewert.

Lana Humphrey's Birthday

March 26, 2013

Tuesday Morning Coffee: Lenten Lectionary Study - 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

March 27, 2013

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

March 28, 2013

Maundy Thursday - Joint service hosted by First Christian Church. More details TBA.

March 29, 2013

Virginia Nelson's Birthday

Good Friday

March 31, 2013

Worship Service - Easter Sunday. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Norma Eisert.

Our Mission Statement

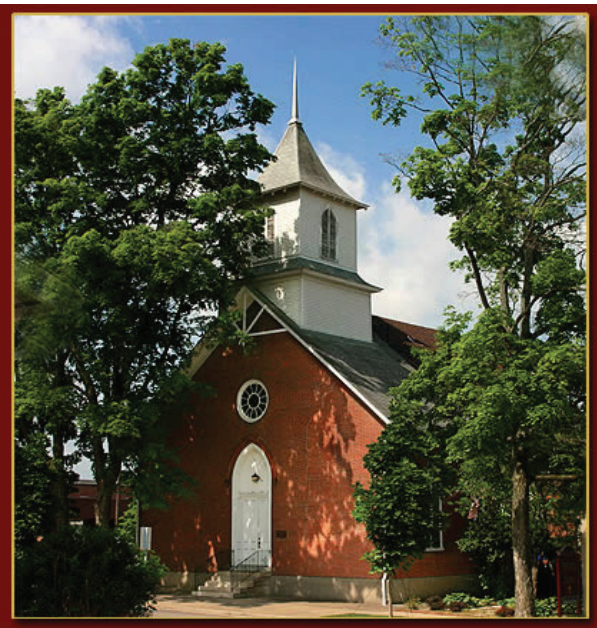
Understanding that grace is a gift from God to the world, to us.....

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 2013