



*Salem Presbyterian Church*  
*www.salempresbyterian.org*

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## A Conversation with Alice McGinnis

Alice's husband Hobart McGinnis wanted to be a farmer. As a boy he had worked for his uncles who were farmers and were very prosperous. Alice said, "He thought it was a great life." So in 1946, after they'd been married for about 10 years, Hobart and Alice bought a farm in northern Washington County and moved there with their two small children – Bill, 6 years old, and Mary, one year old. Wilma Humphrey's parents were their closest neighbors. Alice said, "The neighbors were the best people in the whole, wide world."

Delaney Presbyterian Church was about 2 miles away from where they lived and about to close. Alice told me there were less than a dozen members and that she could not think about living in a neighborhood without a church to go to, so they did all they could to keep it going. Seminary students came out and preached and Alice said she met a lot of nice young men who were studying to become pastors. The congregation

grew and some of the new members were baptized down at the creek, being fully immersed.

Alice told me that on Wednesday nights there would be youth meetings of about 20-25 people who would come from all over the neighborhood. In the summer they had Bible school. Delaney Presbyterian was always closely connected to Salem Presbyterian Church. Every 5th Sunday night, there would be a hymn sing and the different Presbyterian churches – Salem, Beech Grove, Walnut Ridge and Delaney – would take turns hosting the event. Alice remembers church fund raisers including quilting, chili suppers, and even an auction that was like a big yard sale when members brought items to sell to raise funds for the church.

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# **The Stained Glass Window**

**August 2011**

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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 Alice McGinnis (continued)

Delaney Presbyterian found out that a church in Brownstown had gotten new pews and furniture for their sanctuary and Delaney decided to buy the old furniture. The ornate red chairs in Salem Presbyterian Church's sanctuary were among the furniture pieces Delaney Presbyterian bought from Brownstown. Alice said

Wilma Humphrey's mother had upholstered those chairs. The men of the church worked together on various projects, including installing a new floor at Delaney Presbyterian. Everyone really pitched in.

Before Alice and family moved to the farm and started attending Delaney Presbyterian, she had attended an independent Christian Church in Little York. Alice likes the Presbyterian Church because she likes the way it's organized, its order of worship and its form of government. Those are the aspects that drew her to attend. She said she realized, "This is where I want to go."

The first pastor at Delaney Presbyterian Church Alice remembers was Tom Myers. Alice told me everybody loved him and he eventually went out West and preached in the Indian ter-



Photo by Vickie Saewert

ritory in Arizona. She recalls that he came back for a visit one time wearing a leather jacket with fringe and a Western hat. Quite a bit after that came Jim Hogue, and then Hank Wapstra, who was from Holland. Hank Wapstra's family had fled Holland and were refugees. When he arrived, he was in the 8th grade and couldn't speak a word of English. He soon caught up with his fellow students though. Alice said, "He was a lot of fun and would tell us a lot of stories."

During the time when Jim Hogue was the pastor at Salem Presbyterian Church and would come to Delaney Presbyterian to preach, Alice recalled a time when he couldn't come and John Morris came out and preached a sermon instead. Alice said, "John has a silver tongue. He has a way with words. And Ginger played the piano

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## A Conversation with Alice McGinnis (continued)

and I thought that was so neat that they came out and did that. I imagine Ginger remembers that too.” Alice also told me about a great song leader they had at Delaney Presbyterian, Merle Hattabaugh, Keith Hattabaugh’s father. Alice said he was wonderful and loved to sing.

Other pastors Alice remembers from Delaney Presbyterian were Hugh Simon, Dick Huey, Paul Romantum, and Mike Mayer. Mike Mayer was from California and he and his wife had just graduated from college. The couple rented a house and lived across the field from Alice’s family. There was also a Japanese pastor from California and then Bruce Macbeth, who Alice said still comes to visit. He came to visit Alice this summer, in fact. When he visited, Alice reminded him of a revival they had once when they sang “I Love to Tell the Story” every night. She said he still likes that song.

In the 1960s, Pastor Shafer from Salem Presbyterian Church would go to Delaney Presbyterian Church to lead services, either on Sunday evenings or on Sunday mornings before leading the worship services at Salem Presbyterian. Alice said, “When we had communion Pastor Shafer would come out. I was always so happy somebody came that had a wife to play the piano because I was the pianist and a very, very poor one. I could not play anything right and I would always miss a note on the Amen at the end of the song. It was bad, but I was going to do what I could.”

In the mid-1970s, three Presbyterian churches in the area – Delaney, Beech Grove,

and Walnut Ridge – closed. Alice said the older members at Delaney had said that the Presbyterian General Assembly had supported Delaney Presbyterian financially and she doesn’t know if the church closed because that financial support ended or if the congregation dwindled in membership too much. At first, Walnut Ridge was to merge with Delaney Presbyterian at Delaney, but only one couple from Walnut Ridge came to Delaney to attend services. Delaney Presbyterian then had to change its name because it was no longer able to get seminary students from Louisville to come preach, and the name changed to Church of Our Savior. Alice believes it was a very short time later that the church closed. When it closed, Alice and her family began to come to Salem to attend Salem Presbyterian Church. Others who began attending Salem Presbyterian after Delaney Presbyterian closed were Wilma Humphrey and her parents and brother.

Hobart and Alice raised pigs on their 80-acre farm for a while but the Muscatatuck River would flood periodically and wash the fences out so after a while they stopped raising animals. Twice Alice remembers having to move out due to the flood waters. One year the water didn’t get into the house but flooded a crop they had planted of soybeans and they were only able to cut one wagon-load that fall, just enough for seed for the next year. Luckily, Hobart took a job with the state highway department so they had enough to live on. Eventually they began

renting out their crop land, and had been renting the land for several years when they sold the farm and moved to Salem in 1980. The house they bought in Salem is the home Alice still lives in.

I asked Alice about the special memories she has at Salem Presbyterian Church and why she loves it. She said, "I love all those people at our church. I don't have any family close so they're my family. I call them all my family." Alice told me one special memory she has is of the time Fred and Carolyn Fultz came. Alice said, "It was Old Settlers' Day. And Fred and Carolyn just put a lot of life in things. We bought several big bags of beans and sold beans and a recipe for bean soup. We had a big yard sale there at our church and I thought that was kind of fun."

Another special moment was Alice's daughter Mary's wedding, which was held in 1965 at Salem Presbyterian Church. Delaney Presbyterian Church was still open but the church was too small to hold the wedding so they came into town to Salem. Alice's husband's funeral was also held at the church, in 1986. She remembers that the choir sang for her husband's funeral and that the church hosted a dinner for the family. Alice thinks it's wonderful that Salem Presbyterian still has dinners for families who have funerals at the church.

The most recent special moment for Alice at Salem Presbyterian Church was her 95th birthday celebration held last month on her birthday, July 24th, in Mariner Hall. Alice said when her daughter Mary told her what she was planning, Alice begged her not to do it. She said, "I said oh, Mary, please don't do this. Please don't do this. You don't know what you're getting into. But I think I enjoyed every minute."

*- Alice McGinnis 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.*

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# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b> Reverend Beth Walden-Fisher will be leading the worship service. Communion will be served.</p> <p>Communion elements: Linda Grosvenor</p> <p>Tom &amp; Leah Fihe (883-7576) are the contact people for Coffee Hour for September.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Trina Brown's Birthday</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Eric Zink's Birthday</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b> Reverend Beth Walden-Fisher will be leading the worship service.</p> <p>Jennifer Humphrey's Birthday</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b> Reverend Beth Walden-Fisher will be leading the worship service.</p> <p>Crystal Todovich's Birthday</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b> Reverend Beth Walden-Fisher will be leading the worship service.</p> <p>Carolyn Beck's Birthday</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Patricia Parkey's Birthday	2	3
7	8	9	10  Stephanie Scifres' Birthday
14  Mark Humphrey's Birthday	15	16	17
21	22	23	24
28	29	30	

# 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**

