



Salem Presbyterian Church  
www.salempresbyterian.org

Organized August 14, 1817  
November 2011 Issue

## To Be Called as an Elder

*“It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God, equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world, visit and comfort and care for the people, with special attention to the poor, the sick, the lonely, and those who are oppressed.”* Presbyterian Book of Order G-6.0304

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**D**ear Friends,

In a nutshell, Elders are individuals called to be engaged in life of the congregation. They should be people who deeply love the church - not the building, but the people - and want to be in relationship with its members. In addition, Elders are people called to a spiritual journey in which they walk alongside others encouraging growth and transformation.

Elders are called by God. Deciding to be an elder because “one more slot needs to be filled” or because “it’s my turn” does not constitute a calling. Being an Elder in the Presbyterian Church is in no way similar to being asked to be on the board of directors of some sort of organization. In fact, the “board-of-trustees” mentality often blocks the movement of the Holy Spirit and puts God in a box.\*

Being present for Session meetings is very important. However, the primary ministry of an Elder involves his/her ministry of presence in the ongoing mission and life of the congregation as well as a deep affection and concern for the people. Shepherd is the primary metaphor referred to in the New Testament when referring to the office of Elder. (1 Peter 5:1-5)

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# **The Stained Glass Window**

**November 2011**

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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**

**Rev. Beth Walden-Fisher**

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## **Clerk of Session**

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### **Class of 2011**

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## To Be Called as an Elder (continued)

In the month of November, the Nominating Committee will be asking for names of individuals to serve as Elders for a three-year term. This is an especially exciting time to serve on the Session, as the Elders will have the privilege of addressing our focus on reaching out to the community, spiritual formation for children and adults and new ways of looking at stewardship. Please prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do and be in the life of Salem Presbyterian Church in 2012.

Peace be with you!

Beth

\*Ott, Stanley E. *Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

## Announcements

### Advent Study Wednesdays

Our special Advent Study on Ancient/Modern Prayer Practices will be held on the following Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.: November 30, December 7, December 14, and December 21. We will meet in the parlor. If you would like to come early for a bowl of soup--the pastor will be whipping something up! - *Rev. Beth Walden-Fisher*

### A Kitchen Addition

A new 18-cubic-foot refrigerator was delivered to the Church Kitchen on Friday morning, October 14, 2011. The refrigerator was a gift of love from Jess Helsel and Leslie Gilstrap. We pray that their thoughtfulness finds its way back to them. - *Jo Barnett*

### The Event - November 19th at 3:00 p.m.

A special afternoon/evening for our youth will be held at Corydon Presbyterian Church! More information in the Calendar on page 11. E-mail Beth if you have more questions or need to coordinate transportation to this overnight event.

### Three Guys Coat and Glove Drive!

At Salem Presbyterian Church on High and Walnut

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

### Salem Presbyterian Thanksgiving Dinner

November 20, 2011, following Worship [about 11:30 a.m.], Mariner Hall. Bring your family and friends! Come and enjoy the fellowship with our church family! Contact Carolyn Lyles (896-1597) or Jeanne Bedwell (883-4850) to sign up to bring food.

- *Church Family Supper Committee*

*Maurice Godfrey, Chair*

*Donna LaFollette, Session Representative*

*Co-hosts: Carolyn Lyles and Jeanne Bedwell*

# A Conversation with Nancy Godfrey

**N**ancy and Maurice Godfrey grew up in Washington county, and graduated in 1960 from Salem High School. Maurice's family moved from Salem to Detroit, Michigan, when he was in the 4th grade. Nancy and Maurice met in high school when Maurice returned to Salem to live with his maternal grandparents. Both sets of Maurice's grandparents were farmers who lived in the Salem area. Nancy grew up on a farm as well, the farm where her father was born, between Conway and Bunker Hill. She said, "I guess I've always been a farm girl."

After high school Nancy went to Purdue University while Maurice took his first year of college at Western Kentucky University. He then attended college in Terre Haute for a semester before joining Nancy at Purdue. Nancy studied home economics at Purdue, and told me "I've always loved cooking and that kind of thing, the domestic scene I guess. It suited me." She completed two years of college before leaving school when she and Maurice married. They continued to live in Lafayette while Maurice finished school and then taught in a small country school in Crawfordsville. He taught social studies and physical education,



**Photo by Vickie Saewert**

and was the junior high basketball coach and assistant varsity coach. Nancy said, "We spent a lot of time going to ball games and they lived and breathed basketball up there."

Nancy has always been a church-goer. She grew up at Bunker Hill, an independent Christian church, and was baptized at a pretty early age. While in Lafayette, Maurice and Nancy attended University Presbyterian Church most of the time they were there. It was the first Presbyterian church Nancy had attended. Nancy

explained, “We were challenged there and stimulated and we really liked that church.”

After moving back to Salem in 1967 to start their dairy farm, Nancy and Maurice visited a few different churches, including Salem Presbyterian Church, and a church where a lot of Maurice’s family attended. Nancy said, “We were welcomed and yet I don’t know, we just never really felt like that was our church. But we did feel that way the times we went to the Salem Presbyterian Church.” Nancy credits their experience at University Presbyterian Church as the reason they decided to visit Salem Presbyterian. She remembers being greeted warmly by Susie Lopp and being impressed with Pastor Shafer, Jeanne Bedwell’s father, who was the minister at that time. Nancy and Maurice stopped attending Salem Presbyterian then because they were just starting out on their farm and there was so much work to be done.

In 1967, Maurice and Nancy just happened upon the farm on which they live now. It was available and so they rented it for a couple of years, then bought it. Over time, Nancy and Maurice bought the two adjoining farms. They now have a little over 500 acres.

Maurice and Nancy have two children, Heather and Tom, and “five exceptional grandchildren.” At the start of 2003, Nancy had been attending church by herself, for about 10 years, at another local church, where Heather and Tom were going. Nancy said, “It is a country church and I like the people there and both of our children went there for a while. And our son and daughter-in-law and her family still

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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 Nancy Godfrey *(continued)*

go there, as well as other members of Maurice's family, and so I felt very comfortable there." It was also similar to the church Nancy had grown up in.

Early that year, Nancy and Maurice decided to find a church they both liked. Maurice had not been comfortable at the church Nancy was attending. When they began their search, they decided to go to Salem Presbyterian Church first and didn't look any further. They attended the worship service on Palm Sunday in 2003, and have been coming to Salem Presbyterian faithfully ever since.

Nancy said, "I think the first thing that struck us was how friendly people were and how welcomed we felt." She told me that as time went by, they learned other things they really like about the church. She explained, "The diversity is one thing that really appeals to us, the members, and even though there is such a great diversity, I think everyone feels free to be their own selves and have their own beliefs and express them without being criticized," that their beliefs are accepted.

The church's Brown Bag group has meant a lot to Nancy. She told me they had attended church for a few months before going. It is

hard for Maurice to get away from the farm in the evenings so Nancy decided to attend first. Afterward she told Maurice she thought he'd really like it, that there's a lot of stimulating discussion, and so Maurice began attending as well. Nancy said, "We've had so many different topics that we've discussed, and have made some really close friendships there. So Brown Bag is really meaningful to us."

When Maurice and Nancy began attending regularly in 2003, Sara Shields was the pastor. Nancy told me, "At Salem Presbyterian there's hardly a Sunday that goes by without grasping onto something you've heard something that's meaningful to you in one way or another." She said Sara made one think about things in a new way. Nancy explained, "I had always thought there had to be an answer to everything. But I have decided, and Sara was very helpful to me in coming to this conclusion, that sometimes we just have to take things by faith. There are not absolutely answers to everything. That's been very liberating for me."

Nancy was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in July 2001. She had been in remission for a time but about the time she and Maurice started attending Salem Presbyterian Church she had

her first recurrence. Nancy told me that Salem Presbyterian members were “so supportive in just every way, offering encouragement and providing food when we needed it and that’s meant a lot to us.” She remembers that several church members brought food, and that she received so many cards. She said, “It’s always just a day-brightener when you get cards. I’m always pleased when I know someone sent me a card and they were thinking of me when they sent that card. I really and truly feel cherished by the members of the church.”

Maurice and Nancy’s son Tom lives on the adjoining farm and farms with them. Tom’s wife teaches at Orleans and their two girls go to school in Salem. Maurice and Nancy’s daughter Heather lives near Paoli and is married to a farmer who she met while studying at Purdue. Nancy said, “We’re a Purdue family.” Heather taught severe and profoundly handicapped children for almost 20 years and resigned last year to make a career change. She is now in nursing school at Ivy Tech in Bloomington.

Nancy told me she was a little surprised that Heather took up nursing but that Heather’s daughter will graduate from the University of Indianapolis in nursing. Nancy believes that her cancer may have had something to do with both her daughter and granddaughter choosing nurs-

ing. She said, “If you’re in good health you don’t think about going to the doctor or being sick or having to make decisions but once you are in the medical system so to speak it’s a world in itself, and they’ve gone through it with me.”

Nancy is a 10-year cancer survivor. She has a slow-growing cancer and she has responded very well to treatment. She considers herself very fortunate in that respect, and that she was diagnosed at a pretty early stage, Stage 2.

Nancy is currently undergoing her seventh round of chemotherapy. She told me that with this latest recurrence she had symptoms for the first time. For the first 5 rounds of cancer treatment, Nancy responded well, but by the 5th round the drugs were wearing out their effectiveness, so a new drug was started for the 6th round, to which she responded very well. By the time she experienced her latest recurrence, the drug that was so effective previously had been taken off the market, so she’s taking another drug. Once the treatment cycle has ended, Nancy’s doctor will do a CT scan to check the effectiveness of the treatment.

Nancy said her doctor told her from the outset that she would never be cured, that her cancer would be treated as a chronic illness. She said she’s always known it would come back,

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## A Conversation with Nancy Godfrey *(continued)*

but “the first time was really scary. It’s just part of life. The last two rounds of chemo I’ve had hardly any side effects at all. Really none. So it’s been an easy treatment.”

Nancy was very disappointed she and Maurice were not able to travel to China as they had been planning to do, but her doctor did not want to wait until they returned to begin the 7th round of treatment. Nancy feels she and Maurice have been very fortunate in the past 10 years, having traveled to so many countries. They’ve been to Germany 4 times; that’s their favorite country to visit. They have also been to Italy, Switzerland, Austria, England, France, Ireland, Canada (Nova Scotia), and Luxemburg, where they visited the American Military Cemetery. Within the US they have visited Alaska and a lot of the western states. Nancy told me that traveling is something she and Maurice both enjoy immensely and that “it’s kind of a reward for all those years. Dairy farming as you know is a pretty confining thing. Maurice and I started out on our own and we’ve done it on our own, so the first years were really hard.”

I asked Nancy about particularly meaningful moments she has had at Salem Presbyterian Church. One time, while Nancy was taking

cancer treatment, Pastor Sara Shields asked at Brown Bag if Nancy would like to have a laying on of hands. Nancy told me she’d not experienced anything like that before and it sounded “kind of far out there” but she said yes and described it as one of the most meaningful moments she’s had at Salem Presbyterian. She said Ed DeJean was attending at that time, that there were twelve to fifteen people there that evening, and that she “just felt so encompassed.”

Another special moment was when Sara mentioned Nancy’s ovarian cancer diagnosis during a worship service and asked for people to share something they appreciated about her. Nancy told me she was “really overwhelmed with the loving comments and remarks that people made.”

Nancy also found being ordained as an elder very memorable, especially because she was not used to women being elders and the laying on of hands was meaningful to her. She described her term on the Session as being a challenge and said that what struck her most about serving was that “it keeps you well-informed about what’s going on in the church.” Nancy told me she decided not to serve again because she’d had another recurrence and didn’t know what the future held.

She said she really enjoys the music at church, that it is “very uplifting and is just a very important part of the service to me.” And we talked about what it is that causes so many people to find a home at Salem Presbyterian Church, to feel so welcomed. Nancy told me it would be nice to “define that feeling of belonging or togetherness that I think a lot of people in our church feel about our church.”

I asked Nancy about what she would like to see in the future for Salem Presbyterian Church and she told me she really wants the church to “become a vital part of our Salem community.” She would like us to consider what the community would miss if Salem Presbyterian Church were no longer here, and “be aware of what we can do to give to the community, to be a vital presence in the community.”

Nancy told me that Salem Presbyterian Church for her “is just a place where you can explore your own beliefs. I think life is a journey in itself and we are always on a journey, a spiritual journey. I feel that we’ve been encouraged in that at the church.”

*- Nancy Godfrey 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.*

## Important December Dates

### December 3rd

Hanging of the Greens at 9:00 a.m.

### December 4th

Second Sunday of Advent

### December 7th

Advent Study on Ancient/Modern Prayer Practices, 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor.

### December 11th

Third Sunday of Advent

Progressive Dinner and Christmas Cantata, starting at 4:00 p.m.

### December 14th

Advent Study on Ancient/Modern Prayer Practices, 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor.

### December 18th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

### December 21st

Advent Study on Ancient/Modern Prayer Practices, 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor.

### December 24th

Christmas Eve Service

### December 25th

Christmas Day Worship Service

# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		<b>1</b> Beth Walden-Fisher's Birthday
<b>6</b> <b>All Saints Sunday.</b> Communion will be served. Liturgist: Paul Scifres Communion elements: Betty Stanley Leslie Gilstrap (883-6932), Coffee Hour contact person.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Debbie Catlin's Birthday
<b>13</b> <b>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b> Liturgist: Richard Clark	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Bruce Grosvenor's Birthday
<b>20</b> <b>Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday.</b> Salem Presbyterian Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, immediately following the worship service. See newsletter page 3. Liturgist: Stephanie Scifres David Spencer-Pierce's Birthday	<b>21</b>  Jo Barnett's Birthday	<b>22</b>  John Stanley's Birthday Jessica Gilstrap's Birthday
<b>27</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent.</b> Liturgist: Kerry Lewis	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Brown Bag Supper,</b> 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Choir Practice,</b> 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. Dee Dee Zink's Birthday</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Brown Bag Supper,</b> 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor.  Ellie Spaulding's Birthday</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Choir Practice,</b> 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Brown Bag Supper,</b> 6:00 p.m. at the Fihe's home. (883-7576)</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Choir Practice,</b> 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Mary Boggs' Birthday</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>The Event</b> at 3:00 p.m. - See notice below. Contact Beth for more information.  Carolyn Lyles' Birthday</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Brown Bag Supper,</b> 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Thanksgiving</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Norm Webster's Birthday</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Advent Study on Ancient/Modern Prayer Practices,</b> 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Event</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 19th @ 3pm Corydon Presbyterian Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Featuring a Concert By:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">THE GREAT ROMANCE</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Worship • Communion • Food • Food • Games • Friends</p> </div>		

# Our Mission Statement

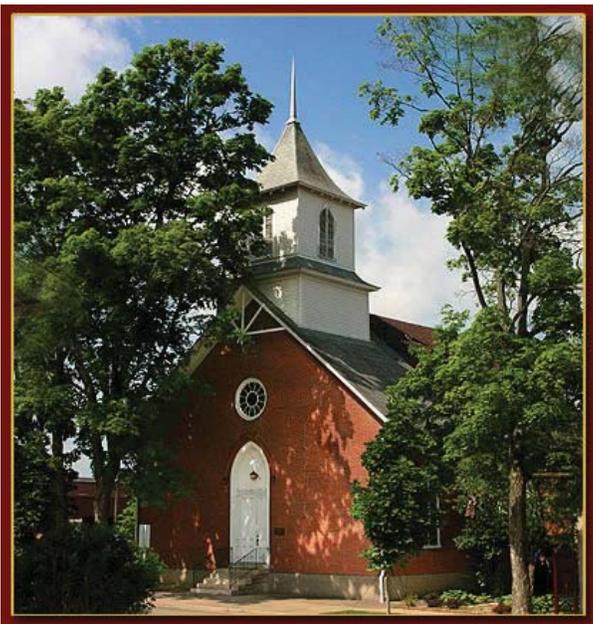
*Understanding that grace is a gift from God to the world, to us.....*

**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 November 2011*