



Salem Presbyterian Church
www.salempresbyterian.org

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Spring 2012 Issue

Congregational Questionnaire by Kerry Lewis

At the February 23-24, 2012, retreat at Camp PYOCA, the Session of the Salem Presbyterian Church and Pastor Beth Walden-Fisher decided to seek information from our congregation in the form of a questionnaire. During the Sunday March 12, 2012, service, the questionnaire was submitted. The following questions were asked: 1. Are you satisfied with the way Session communicates its operation of the church and the work of the committees? 2A. Are you satisfied with the opportunities for becoming involved with our church? 2B. What would you suggest to increase your involvement with the congregation and its mission? 3. Are you receiving what you need for spiritual growth and Christian living? 4A. Would you be willing to increase your giving to help our church contribute \$4,000 per year to a joint part-time youth program with a neighboring church? 4B. If so, how much? 5A. Would you be willing to increase your giving in order to fund the \$2,300 needed to retain our music leader Doug

McKinley in the summer months? 5B. If so, how much? 6A. Would you please prioritize 12 missions listed in the questionnaire? 6B. Would you be willing to increase your giving to raise funding levels of our mission/outreach/benevolence programs? 7. Was anything not asked that you'd like to comment on? Thirty-eight questionnaires were filled out and returned. Below are the results:

For questions #1, #2A, and #3, "yes" responses totaled 34, 33, and 34 respectively. For question #1, though, there were significant comments indicating that communication could be improved.

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The Stained Glass Window

Spring 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.

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

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Congregational Questionnaire (continued)

For question 4A, 16 respondents said “yes.” In 4B, about 20% of the money needed was offered. For question 5A, 20 people said “yes.” In 5B, the need was met.

For question 6A, the Food Pantry was clearly prioritized as the #1 mission. Second was the Women’s Shelter. Closely bunched from third through sixth were Food Programs for Public School Children, Habitat for Humanity, Programs for At-Risk Youth in Washington County, and Rebuilding Together. In seventh and eighth places were Camp PYOCA and the Ministerial Alliance. Shop with a Cop placed 9th, International Mission was 10th, Samaritan Inn was 11th, and CAPS finished 12th. In question 6B, 14 respondents said that they

would raise their giving to better fund missions. Twenty-eight people answered “no” to question 7. There was no clear positive or negative theme from the “yes” responses.

Beth and the Session thank everyone for the responses. As far as the extra giving for Doug is concerned, we ask all who committed to give more to please identify that extra with your collection plate or mailed offerings. Unless we find additional funding for the youth minister, we won’t ask for any designated extra giving for that purpose.

If you have not yet filled out a questionnaire and would like to, please fill out the survey accompanying this newsletter. Please drop your survey off at the church or mail it there to the attention of Kerry Lewis.

Editor’s Note

There’s been quite a significant gap between the publication of this newsletter and the previous one, due to some unforeseen circumstances. I have labeled this issue “Spring” due to the lull in publication. It seemed most fitting, given the timing of the issue. Please be assured that it is not my intent to switch to a quarterly publication of the newsletter. I plan to resume monthly publication with the next issue.

As always, I would be very happy to publish in the newsletter contributions from Salem Presbyterian Church members and friends. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any article submissions or ideas.

Best regards,
Trina Brown

A Conversation with De Davis

I sat down with De Davis in the church library one afternoon to interview her. Our conversation got off to a light-hearted start when De said to me in mock-offense, “The first thing I want to say to you, Trina, is really? I have to follow David Beck? That is so not fair!” I had interviewed David Beck for the January/February issue of the newsletter.

De has lived in Salem most of her life. Her parents lived in Salem and De was born in Norton’s hospital in Louisville. Growing up, one of De’s favorite things to do was to go to her grandparents’ farm. The property she lives on now had been a part of that farm. Since she grew up in town, going out to the country was a treat. Her grandfather had a small dairy operation and when De was 8 or 10 years old, her grandfather showed her how to milk a cow by hand. She said, “the first time I gave a squeeze and the milk came out that was like a little miracle.” She told me there were always wonderful things to do such as finding kittens hidden in the hay loft, walking through the woods, building campfires, and taking rubber rafts out on Blue River. There were aunts and uncles and cousins living in the area so De grew up with a lot of family support.

When De was in the 8th grade in the early 1970s, a girl’s track team was formed at her



Photo by Vickie Saewert

school and she became a member. Mary Hunt was the first track coach and at first the team didn’t have uniforms due to a lack of funding. She said, “I was really shy as a kid, self-conscious, but once I was able to get on the track team and feel successful at something, I enjoyed school more and got more confidence.” De finds it very important to keep a diversity of programs in schools for children including the arts, music and vocational training, so that more children have

a chance to be successful. When they find something they enjoy and “feel passionate about, that helps them feel confident and stay in school.”

De said she can remember being on the track that first year and the boys laughing and making fun of them. But she loved those times with her track teammates. She told me that in high school, when she and Lana Humphrey were on the Lady Lions’ very successful relay team, they got to go to the state track meet. She recalls that Lana handed off the baton to her and that over three years of hand-offs, neither of them ever dropped it.

In the mid-1970s, De left Salem to go to college at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. One of her high school teachers had gone there and had recommended it. De liked that it was a small campus, that some of her friends were going there, and that you could walk everywhere you wanted to go. She told me that Salem at that time was pretty conservative and exclusively white, so when she went to college and got to meet people from many races and nationalities, it was a “big eye-opener.” She hadn’t traveled much or been very many places.

She graduated from Indiana State in 1978 with a degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation, otherwise known as HPER (pronounced ‘hyper’). After graduation she stayed in Terre Haute for a while and then moved to Evansville. She changed jobs, doing all kinds of things, wanting to learn different skills. One of the positions she held was in customer service for a large retail furniture store in Evansville.

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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
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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 De Davis *(continued)*

She said, “It might sound like a stretch from what I studied in college, but I’d done a lot of woodworking as a hobby and I had a job working in a big woodworking shop for a while, so I’d learned how to do a lot with wood.”

De was a troubleshooter. When people would have trouble with furniture they’d purchased, she would go to their home and assess the situation and determine how to resolve the issue. She said she learned a lot about people at that job and enhanced her listening skills, learning how to listen for what they weren’t telling her.

While living in Evansville, De met Amy McCord. They both played softball and both loved bike riding, especially racing mountain bikes. De said it’s fun but is extremely hard and that she was in the best shape of her life back then. She told me if I were to ask Amy about it, she’d say racing mountain bikes is the cause of her arthritis and neck problems, from “sailing over the handle bars too many times.”

De moved back to Salem in 1996, after about 18 years living in Terre Haute and Evansville. Her parents were getting older and her mother became ill and needed De’s help running her businesses, Carriage House Apartments and Holiday Car Wash. De told me that her brother, Brent, majored in Business in college and he’s teaching school now, and that she majored in Education and she’s running the family businesses.

The cozy house De and Amy live in now was built by De and her father and sits on 65 acres, right on Blue River. The land has been in the family since 1819. The first of De’s ancestors to live on the property were Israel and Catherine Brown Hinds, De’s great great great grandparents. The Hinds were members of the Presbyterian Church in Kentucky before they moved to Washington County and were descendants of persecuted Scots-Irish immigrants who had come to America in the 1700s to freely practice their religion.

The house Israel and Catherine Hinds lived on is still standing on the property, back by a cave. Catherine was the daughter of William and Mary Brown, born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1762. She was a “granny doctor,” which De always found intriguing. De explained that before medical doctors were in the area, granny doctors would use herbs to heal illnesses and help deliver babies. De’s ancestors would take their grain to Beck’s Mill to be ground, and De enjoys volunteering at Beck’s Mill now as a kind of connection to those ancestors.

De also volunteers with Relay for Life. She became involved with the organization after her mother was diagnosed with cancer in 1996. De said, “One of the most frustrating things is watching a loved one suffer and feeling like there is nothing you can do. Raising funds for cancer research and prevention is something we can

do.” De’s sister-in-law Rachel was also involved with the group before her death from leukemia. De told me that a few weeks after her death, a new treatment was approved for leukemia. It is unknown whether this treatment could have helped Rachel, but it emphasizes the importance of supporting cancer research. There are many in our families and our congregation who have been touched by cancer and De invites everyone who is able to become involved in Relay for Life.

The house De and her father built on the property was completed in 1997 and was the last project De’s father was able to do before he lost his eyesight. She said it was the first house she’d ever built and was a lot of fun, but when I asked her if she ever planned to build another she said she doubted it, and added “maybe a doghouse.”

De and Amy share their home with 3 dogs and 2 cats. The only dog allowed inside is Billy, a part Wire-Haired Terrier and part Rat Terrier. Billy has lived with them for about 3 years, is “king of the castle,” and loves to be on someone’s lap. They adopted him from a friend after their much-larger dog Poco died. De told me it just about killed them when Poco died, that she was De’s buddy.

The first time De visited Salem Presbyterian Church was for her brother’s wedding. Brent and Rachel Davis had married in the church when De was still living in Evansville. Rachel had been a member first and Brent had started attending when they became engaged. The pastor at that time was D. Jo Lowell.

In 1998, a few years after De had moved back to Salem, she was invited by Rachel to attend Salem Presbyterian. Bill Peterson was the church’s pastor but was only at Salem Presbyterian for a year or so after De began regularly attending. De said, “The people are so friendly and accepting and I like the size of the congregation. I like this small, close-knit group that cares so much for each other. People are down to earth. Our minister is so down to earth. It’s just an easy place to be and to feel accepted.” De added that we also have the some of the best cooks in Salem at our church.

She joined the church after attending for 3 to 4 years when she was asked to serve on the Session. Serving on Session was a big learning experience for De. She said, “It’s a lot harder than I imagined running a church and getting a group of people to consensus on the affairs of the church.” She served for two consecutive 3-year terms while Sara Shields was pastor.

Until De was in high school she had attended First Christian Church. She thought the minister there at the time was “a little bit fire and brimstone” and she didn’t care for that. She said it was the time she was starting to have her own ideas and going to church was not appealing. At that time the people she saw representing the organized church were televangelists Jim and Tammy Faye Baker and Anita Bryant, who made De want to distance herself further from the church.

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A Conversation with De Davis (continued)

De said, “Those people really do a disservice to the organized church because people see that and they think that’s what it’s all about. They think that’s what all churches are like. That’s where I was for many years.” De was 40-something before she began to realize that “those hateful people don’t own the church and they’re not all like that. And so coming back to Salem Presbyterian in a way was a healing time for me.”

We have heard members of the Earth Care group from Bloomington speak at our church and De believes they’re doing some really good things. I recalled that when Earth Care representatives visited Salem Presbyterian, De had mentioned she was off the electric utility grid for some time. I asked her about this time and she told me Rachel was responsible for making De aware of environmental issues. Rachel had been an environmental engineer at the University of Louisville and taught De about recycling before it was commonly being done.

De and Amy’s house was off the grid for 8 years along with Brent and Rachel’s house, nearby on the property. De said it did require some lifestyle changes because you have to greatly reduce your electricity consumption. She said anyone can cut their electricity use in half if they really try. The most difficult part of being off the grid was maintaining the batteries. The charge in the batteries must be

monitored frequently and not allowed to run dry or the batteries, which are quite expensive, will be ruined. They had a bank of 12 big deep-cycle batteries to store the electricity their solar panels generated. De believes that the success of off-the-grid technology will depend on improvements in battery technology.

They are on a grid tie system now and have a special electric meter called a bi-directional meter. Their solar panels charge electricity back into the grid when the sun is shining. They receive credit for the excess electricity they put back into the grid. At night when the sun has gone down, they draw electricity from the grid.

I asked De what she would like to see for Salem Presbyterian in the future and she told me that she hopes we can reach out a little more into the community and that this effort has already begun with church members’ recent tornado relief efforts in Pekin. De would like to see Salem Presbyterian focused more on social justice. De said, “if we look at the teachings of Jesus it’s pretty obvious that this was what he was all about and that’s what we are supposed to be about.”

- De Davis 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

Spring Birthdays

A belated Happy Birthday to Salem Presbyterian Church members and friends born in the Spring months!

March 1 - Anne Terrell
March 4 - Keith Hattabaugh
March 7 - Robert Kenninger
March 16 - Ed Caum
March 21 - Ben Morris
March 23 - Brent Davis
March 24 - Lana Humphrey
March 25 - Sharon Gratz
March 29 - E. E. Martin, Virginia Nelson
April 8 - Lindsey Robbins
April 11 - Dick Rose
April 13 - Richard Clark, Chris Morris
April 14 - Jerry Barnett
April 15 - John Stingel
April 17 - Margaret Ann Martin
May 1 - Norma Eisert
May 3 - Mike Ratliff
May 4 - Elinor DeJean
May 7 - Susie Lopp, Emmons Ratliff
May 8 - Chris Beck
May 9 - Maggie Caum, Kevin Hash
May 11 - Andrew Fisher
May 16 - Jean Wilson
May 18 - Cathy Huey, Carla Peugh
May 21 - Ruby Davis
May 22 - Jean Robbins
May 28 - Scott Grosvenor, Ray Hanes
May 30 - Donald Stinnette
June 2 - Deanna Davis
June 7 - Avery Robbins
June 9 - Andy Terrell
June 10 - Wilma Humphrey
June 11 - Bill Spencer-Pierce

Yard and Bake Sale for PYOCA Camp

The funds raised by the May 19th Yard & Bake Sale for Pyoca Camp totaled about \$390. A lot of useful items were successfully recycled among assorted Presbyterians, among others. SPC may have five campers attending this year. Great Enthusiasm!! The cost is \$330 per camper and donations to help our children/youth attend will be gratefully accepted. Send checks to Wendell Brown, 2314 S Brown Lane, Salem---designated for Pyoca Fund. SPC Elder Max Bedwell serves on the Pyoca Board.

Food Bank

The Salem Presbyterian Women decided to have a "theme" drive each month 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.

- * July---toilet paper
- * August--toothpaste and tooth brushes
- * September--bath soap and shampoo
- * October--laundry soap and dish soap
- * November--paper towels and cleaning items
- * December--sanitary napkins and diapers

Blessing of the Animals

Salem Presbyterian Church will have a Blessing of the Animals in the near future. The date will be announced soon.

Calendar

June 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

June 17, 2012

Worship Service - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Guest Musician: Richard Torstrick, Trina Brown's father. Liturgist: Maurice Godfrey.

June 19, 2012

Tom McQuiddy's Birthday

June 20, 2012

Family Night Supper - 6:00 p.m. in Mariner Hall.

Andy Terrell's Birthday

June 21, 2012

David Beck's Birthday

Carolyn Haag's Birthday

June 22, 2012

Amy McCord's Birthday

June 24, 2012

Worship Service - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Donna LaFollette.

Vacation Bible School Fundraiser - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at New Hope Methodist Church. Proceeds will go to the Salem Ministerial Alliance Cooperative Bible School.

June 24-28, 2012

Vacation Bible School - 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at First Christian Church.

* SPC needs to supply three workers each evening to arrive at 5:00 pm and work until 8:30 pm [will assist children]

* Powdered drinks, plus canned drinks are needed for Wednesday-night-at-the-pool. Also needed are cookies, chips, fruit, and fruit cups.

* We will not have a designated night to bring drinks and food; containers will be available in the Parlor for donations.

June 27, 2012

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

June 28, 2012

Jim Apple's Birthday

July 1, 2012

Worship Service - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Communion will be served. Liturgist: De Davis. Communion elements: Leah Fihe.

July 3, 2012

Elsie Rose's Birthday

July 4, 2012

Molly Kelly's Birthday

Wilma Winslow's Birthday

July 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				

present in the Sanctuary to pray: call Norma, Jo, or email jeannebedwell@gmail.com.

July 18, 2012

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

Jason Zink's Birthday

July 21, 2012

Judy Davis' Birthday

July 22, 2012

Worship Service - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Donna LaFollette.

Abby Spaulding's Birthday

July 23, 2012

Alene Smith's Birthday

July 24, 2012

Alice McGinnis' Birthday

July 25, 2012

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

July 26, 2012

Jeff Saewert's Birthday

July 27, 2012

Jordan Humphrey's Birthday

July 28, 2012

Sue Humphrey's Birthday

Vickie Saewert's Birthday

July 29, 2012

Worship Service - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Stephanie Scifres.

July 8, 2012

Worship Service - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Liturgist: Norman Terrell.

Lee Henry Peugh's Birthday

July 10, 2012

Roger Lyle's Birthday

July 11, 2012

Salem Presbyterian Women - 12:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor. Bring your own sandwich or salad. Fellowship and prayer.

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

July 15, 2012

Worship Service - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Guest Musician: Richard Torstrick, Trina Brown's father. Liturgist: Maurice Godfrey.

July 16, 2012

Jeanne Bedwell's Birthday

July 17, 2012

Salem Presbyterian Church Day of Prayer - 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Names for prayer list may be given to Norma Eisert or Jo Barnett. To name a time you wish to be

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
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