

The Salem Tidings, February 2012

The monthly newsletter of Salem United Methodist Church

541 Hwy. 59, Waukesha, WI 53186

Salem's mission is to GROW Disciples of Jesus Christ.

From the desk of Pastor Linda...

It feels very strange to think of retiring from being a pastor. I'm beginning to realize that one never does. It is a bit like retiring from being a mother or a father; one never does. Mel said to me on Sunday when I announced my up-coming retirement in June that we will stop serving in the local church but we won't stop being Christians or ministers. Our ministry will go on, as will Salem's ministries, in new and exciting ways. What will this time of transition bring to us as a church and as individuals?

Personally Mel and I feel so blessed to have had these years to gather up the witness of the people at Salem UMC who have shown us how to be disciples in retirement. The amount of volunteer hours spent by the laity of Salem is very impressive and moving. Mel experienced much the same thing at Trinity UMC in Omaha, at Colgate UMC, and at Immanuel in Kenosha. There is a great cloud of witnesses who "let their lives speak." We want to be like you.

We have been similarly inspired by the witness of our members who hold down full time jobs at home and at work and who give countless hours to the church and to the community. Your presence in so many meaningful ways has made a real difference at Salem and in Waukesha. You have truly been the Body of Christ in our world today.

Our worship life together has been very rich with so many people entering into a ministry through music and faith sharing, through telling their stories, and giving of their time to bring us closer to God.

Our youth, men's and women's groups and our Bible study groups have been a wonderful opportunity to share in each other's lives in the context of the Word of God and writings of those who have much to teach us. We've enjoyed these times set aside for one another and Christian fellowship.

In my devotions this week, I came upon a prayer that I have taken as my own. It is written by Peter Priven, and is entitled *A Prayer for all Saints...*

For the people of God who are sent to support us,
for the people of God who are sent to disturb us,
for the people of God who are sent to inspire us,
for the people of God who are sent to trouble us,
for the people of God who are sent to enthuse us,
for the people of God who are sent to still us,
thanks be to God! Amen

In the days ahead, let's continue to thank God for all our blessings. Time goes quickly and we don't want to miss anything. It is too precious.

In Peace, Linda