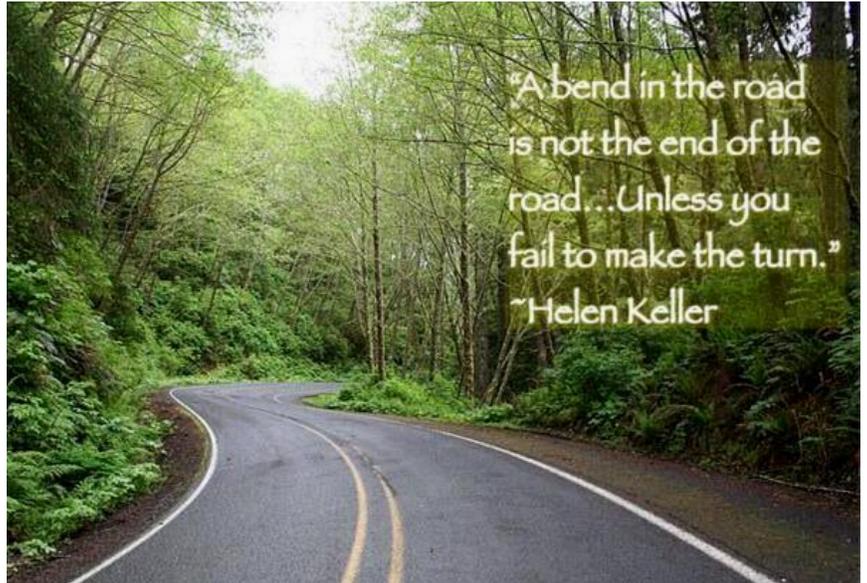


I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye over you . . . Psalm 32:8

A BEND IN THE ROAD

I have been teaching both boys to drive lately. Son Dima will be 18 in about three weeks, and has been driving since early summer. Son Vladimir turned 16 in late August, and has been learning to drive since early September. Pray for Debbie and I - watch out for a blue Toyota Highlander with a 'student driver' sign in the back window!

One thing we are working on is paying attention to the signs. Reminds me of an old song 'Sign, sign, everywhere a sign, blocking out the scenery, breaking my mind . . .' Sure are a lot of signs. The boys are each doing really well, but once in a while, they don't see the sign!



A lot of our roads around here, especially country roads and back roads have a lot of curves - bends in the road. Sometimes they are marked with a sign, and given a recommended speed rating. Sometimes they are not marked at all. In those cases, if you are driving along at your regular speed (at or above the speed limit!) and your mind is busy, and you haven't been on this road before, and you encounter a sharp bend in the road . . . it could be a problem. Further compounding this scenario may be the road conditions - if the road is wet, or snowy, and you are not anticipating a bend in the road - and are not warned of it's coming, you could be in big trouble! Like sliding out of control. Or driving into a tree. Or someone's house. Or into the oncoming traffic lane.

Well, life can be like that. There can be many bends in the road of life. We believe we are on the straight and narrow, going along at a good clip, and suddenly, there's an unexpected bend in the road. Could be . . .

- The loss of a job
- The death of a child, or spouse, or parent
- The sudden onset of a difficult disease, like cancer, or heart failure, or Parkinsons
- The end of a relationship, divorce, or broken friendship
- The loss of a cherished pet
- A major argument or disagreement at home that is hard to navigate.

There are many, many things that constitute a 'bend in the road' for us.

One of our favorite radio personalities, Pastor David Jeremiah, found himself going around the bend when he was suddenly diagnosed with cancer. He had likely walked with others through their cancer journeys dozens of times, but now it was his turn. He wrote a good book about it, called 'A Bend In The Road.'

When we are forced into a sudden detour from the place we thought we were going, to a new and uncomfortable place in life, we can have many reactions. We can become angry at the Lord for allowing us to suffer. We can lash out in anger. We can suspend our faith and belief in God. Or we can choose to walk more closely with God during this unexpected phase of our journey.

I have heard from many who have gone through 'the bend in the road' and have come out the other side a sentiment along the lines of *'I don't know how others get through this without the Lord!'* The Lord can be our strength during times of trouble. He can be our guiding light. He can show us the way. We can actually come closer to the Lord, learn from Him, and identify more closely with Him, because He suffered as well.

Of course, Jesus, as the Son of God, seemed to know there was a bend in the road coming for Him. His betrayal by Judas. His arrest by soldiers. His various trials in the kangaroo courts of the times. His being sentenced to die. And that sentence being carried out on the cross.

And yet, despite all this suffering, God's Word indicates that there was joy involved too! ***"for the JOY set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right side of the throne of God"*** (Hebrews 12:2)

Interesting! Jesus endured the cross, for the joy of saving our souls - freeing us from slavery to sin and death! His suffering was worth it!

And another interesting thing, the previous verse from the same passage in Hebrews:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us . . .

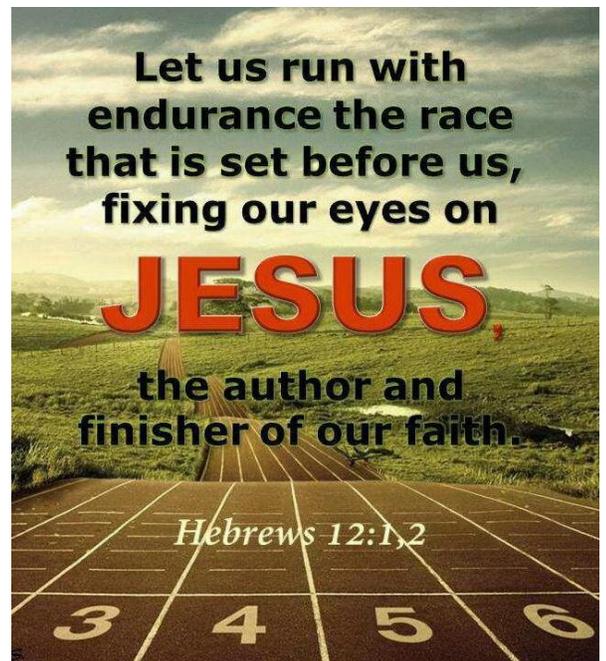
I think we would have to admit, that for most of us, our journey through life is of our own design. We have prepared the map of life for ourselves, we know where we want to go, we know what and whom we want to bring along with us, we know about when we want to get there. That's our plan.

But God has His plan too. In this passage, it's called 'the race marked out for us.' God doesn't always permit us to go where we want to go, and do what we want to do. He may allow . . . a bend in the road. He may take us to a place we never imagined we'd be, a place we never planned on going to.

When this happens, we can experience a variety of reactions. Anger. A sense of betrayal. Disappointment. Sadness. But we need to remember, at these times when we are bent and stretched in new directions, that the journey is not our own. We, as Christians, belong to the Lord. And He will take us to new places, and teach us valuable driving lessons along the way.

And for all of us, the ultimate destination, we pray, is the same: Heaven. That is where we are headed. Our lives on planet earth may be long or short, hard or easy, but our lives here are as a breath, compared to what is coming next: eternal life with the Lord, in heaven.

And so we are to 'run our race', and run it with endurance, no matter where the Lord takes us, including around unexpected bends in the road. May we have a strong and deep faith, and sense the Lord's presence with us in our lives, through all the ups and downs, twists and turns, and bumps in the road. May He bless you on that journey!



FROM OUR SECURITY CHIEF

In the past few years, we have had a number of thefts occur in the church. Money has been taken from ladies purses in the kitchen, and from collection containers in Sunday School rooms. Our security and safety ministry leader, Ron Amon, and his team have been wrestling with what to do to tighten our security at Salem.

We have talked of installing video cameras to record what's happening . . . we've talked of installing lockers to secure purses . . . but these options don't make much sense given that we will likely be moving to our new location sometime during 2019.

So, the best recommendation we can give at this point: Please secure your own valuables while at church. Don't leave purses laying around unsupervised. Perhaps even consider leaving them locked in your car, out of sight. Don't leave money in unlocked containers.

I know, I know, **'but we are a church!'** How can this be happening? Well, Jesus spent time with tax collectors and sinners, and so do we today. And . . . all we like sheep have gone astray, some in different directions than others.

So be wise about your belongings when in church. If you do experience a problem, please report it to Ron Amon, as the head of our safety and security ministry. Thanks!



EXCITING NEWS: FARM HANDS TO RETURN, OCTOBER 21!

I am pleased to share that the Nashville Gospel group the Farmhands will return to Salem for a repeat performance on Saturday, October 21st, at 7 PM. The Mongul String Band will provide warm up before the Farm Hands come on.

I was out of town the last time, but have listened to their recording over and over again - very enjoyable. Note this on your calendars, and invite family and friends - they will be blessed!

SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY: OCTOBER 28

On Saturday, October 28th beginning at 9:00 AM you are invited to a packing party, to load up many shoeboxes with the toys and gift items that we all have been donating and collecting throughout the year. This is a fun, fast paced adventure for people (and kids) of all ages! Contact Carol Lingle for more information. The fun will take place downstairs in the church.





MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2017

We are changing our approach to missions conference this year! Rather than trying to pile everything into one weekend, as we have been doing for years, we are going to devote three consecutive Sundays to missions. Each of our regular worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM will feature missionary speakers, for the first three Sundays in November, as follows:

- ✝ **November 5:** Salem One Way Youth will share their testimonies from recent mission trips
- ✝ **November 12:** Nathan Boggs from Laurel Missions will share. Pledges for the 2018 Faith Promise will be received.
- ✝ **November 19:** Sean Coffey from Churches In Mission will speak about missions.

Please do plan on attending each of these services, and pray that God touches our hearts to further engage in the mission of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

SALEM PRAYER CORNER . . . Please be in prayer for

- ✝ Ministry Needs:
 - Potential Salem relocation to North Pointe
 - Care Ministry - Sandy Ibaugh
 - Renewal of Children's Ministry area
 - Teachers and Helpers for Children's Ministry
- ✝ Our Nation
 - Response to many seasonal hurricanes
 - Renewal of national purpose
 - Recovery of patriotic spirit and unity
 - Collaboration of political parties
- ✝ Hospital, or recovery
 - Dezirae Rohrer - recovery from lung surgery
 - Ella Moats - recovery from brain surgery
 - Betty Davis, fell, broken pelvis, Hershey
 - Jeff Rohrer, broken leg, skin graft
 - Jen Ross, recovering from plastic surgery
- Margaretta Young, recovery from surgery
- Mike Hotchkiss, Back surgery TBD
- ✝ Suffering from pain, discomfort, illness, treatment
 - Mark Lehman, recovery from back surgery
 - Mike Butts, recovering from auto accident
 - Earl Ross, severe arthritis, legs
 - Janet Extine (Roy's niece) cancer, bad
 - Dorothy Rice, Kidney cancer treatment
 - Julianna Shubert, hospitalized, serious
 - Bob Paxton - compression fracture spine
 - Ray Bricker, Parkinsons
- ✝ Grieving
 - Family of Essie Knouse
 - Family of Doris Guyer
 - Family of Betty Sellers
 - Kim Myers, loss of father, Dick Hoffman

NORTHPOINTE BUSINESS CENTER TOURS

As was announced in church recently, Orrstown Bank has received and has signed off on our 'letter of intent' to purchase the NorthPointe Business Center property (corner of Salem Road and Philadelphia Avenue). The closing will likely be scheduled for January of 2019, to allow both organizations time for transition planning.

Orrstown Bank has graciously agreed to allow us inside their banking facility for a set of tours, so that ALL our Salem families can look around and see the fabulous possibilities this facility will offer us:

- ✦ Space! There is more space in this facility, than all the present buildings we have combined.
- ✦ One level! No more stairs for young and old to try to navigate!
- ✦ Flexibility! Most of the building is very open, and therefore very flexible in how we use space.
- ✦ Welcoming! We will finally have the benefit of a large space in which to welcome and mingle with people.
- ✦ Restrooms! Restrooms are large, handicap accessible, and private. You won't have to 'go to the front of the church' in order to . . . whatever!
- ✦ Parking! Lots of parking - safer, and more accommodating for us and for guests when we have large functions.
- ✦ Visibility! Our new facility will be in a very visible location along the major north south route through Chambersburg.

Here is the tour schedule. Please sign up at the table in the midst of our present sanctuary, and grab some tickets. Members of our staff and board will be on hand during the tours to guide you and share some possibilities.

Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 PM

Thursday, October 26, 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 11, 8:00 AM

On your selected tour dates, please arrive a few moments early and meet at the main entrance to the banking complex, shown to the right.



LAST WORDS: GOING DEEP

There is something about our world today that seems so shallow, and superficial. Nothing seems very deep anymore; relationships don't seem very deep. Many of us, and especially our children, have 'facebook friends', these may be people we have never even met, and never actually spoken to!

For several months now, we have been learning about going deeper in our faith. It is helpful to us if we can have more than a superficial faith; it would be FANTASTIC if our faith was strong and could help us navigate life well, to rise to every challenge, and to be able to positively influence family and friends during our trek through life!

We have learned about deep: joy, obedience, cleansing, desire, and hope. Two final lessons to come: Deep Love, and Deep Certainty. In what area would you like to go deeper in your journey with Christ? What steps will you take?

Have a blessed week - see you Sunday at Salem!

Pastor Art

