

## Changing seasons, but a God who never changes!

A rush of thoughts come to mind when I think about the fall. Preparing, planning, readying for winter. Reflecting on how the summer went by so quickly, leaving me with unaccomplished tasks (some have been waiting more than just one summer)! As I look back over Salem's last few months, we have had several happenings to be thankful for. Our body of believers cut the parking lot debt in half, helping ease the church's repayment burden into the future. In addition, we received funds from generous donors to help complete the acoustic treatment in the sanctuary—something that has been on the minds of the worship ministry for many years. That small change has really impacted how we worship, and our ability to control the acoustics in the room.

The study of Proverbs over the summer has been especially meaningful to me. The 'three bucket' illustration that Pastor Seth introduced is something I still think about in my day-to-day activities. Wisdom can help guide our daily lives if we can recognize where to find it, and Proverbs 1:20 tells us exactly where it can be found: "Wisdom cries aloud in the street". It seems simple, but we sometimes need to quiet our hearts and listen! It reminds me of my childhood when hearing my mother's voice as I was playing outside. I could be blocks away with my friends when she called, but I always heard my mother's voice. I *knew* her voice and immediately responded. Can we get to know wisdom's voice like that? After all, she is crying aloud in the streets! If we do hear her, will we respond or ignore? Jesus also talked about a similar concept of knowing Him and listening in John 10:14-16 "I know my own and my own know me". Also in John 10:26-27, Jesus continues; "*you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.*" 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

*LORD, help us to recognize your voice. Even when it is far away! Give us wisdom. Tune our ears so we are sensitive to your voice so that we can hear it above all the other noise! Call us your own. We want to be known by you and know you deeply! Amen!*

*--Daryl Heinen*

### **A Note from Ken – Rhonda transition**

At our spring Congregational Meeting, we announced that our long time Salem team member Rhonda King will be stepping down from her role as Connections Pastor Assistant on Sunday September 11. Rhonda has faithfully and lovingly served the Salem church family for more than a decade by supporting a variety of ministries administratively. Her help with many of our adult ministries including Life Groups, Men's, Women's, Encore, Adult Sunday School, Prayer, plus all of

our Sunday morning hospitality ministries has been invaluable and greatly appreciated. For many people over the years, Rhonda's was either the first face they saw or voice they heard when initially coming to our church. She has counseled countless people on the phone and across her reception desk as folks have come to Salem looking for hope, help or information. She loves this church family, and we will miss serving alongside Rhonda and we wish her God's grace and blessing in the upcoming years. If you know Rhonda, please make it a point to connect with her, thank her and let her know how much she has meant to you and our church. In case you wondering, who is going to try fill Rhonda's big shoes? Good question! I am thrilled to let you know that Nikki Dunham was offered and accepted the position. Rhonda's prior position has been refined and reduced in terms of scope from a 40-hour per week to 20-hour per week. Many of Rhonda's receptionist duties and larger church responsibilities will be distributed to others. Nikki's focus will primarily be on supporting our Adult Leaders- Life Groups, Men, Women, Encore, Sunday School, Prayer Groups etc., plus supporting all of our Hospitality ministries on Sundays - Greeters, Gathering Grounds, Connections Team and Security Team. Be sure to welcome Nikki if you cross paths with her. There will be a few weeks of crossover between when Nikki starts and Rhonda leaves. I am grateful for how God has provided and for the hearts and talents of both of these women.