

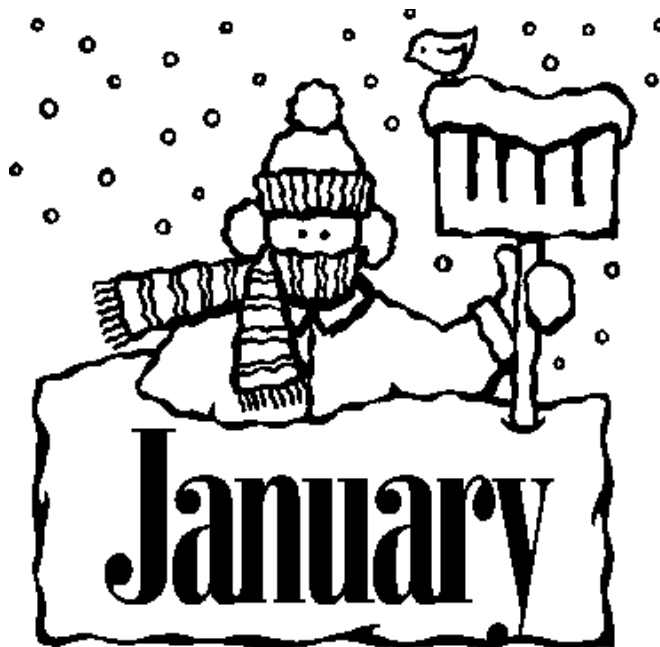
Salem Evangelical
United Church of Christ
435 South Ninth Street
Quincy, Illinois 62301

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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JANUARY 2012
VOL. #26, No. 1

**Salem Evangelical
United Church
Of Christ**

435 South 9th
Quincy, Il 62301

(217) 222-0601



Senior Pastor

Rev. Brian E. Damrow

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Wanda Seydel

**Christian Ed &
Youth Director:**

Jayne Clouser

Worship Times

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

RAMBLINGS FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK.....

HAPPY NEW YEAR! New clothes, new calendar, new car, new baby, new job, new start, new friend, new invention, new crops, new book, new school, new medicine, new doctor, new outlook, new day, new new new new new new new!!!

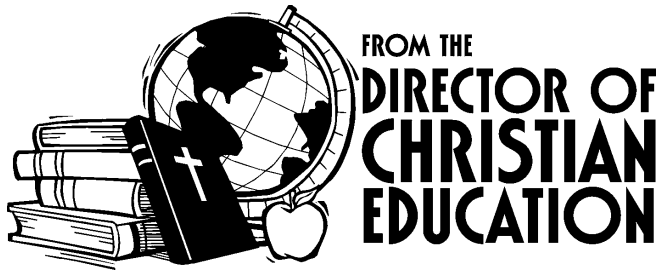
The strange thing about new is that it quickly gets old. Every one of us is on a path where the world promises something better just over the next hill, in the new prescription, the new relationship, the new formats. We know how quickly our hopes are dashed. Not much new in any of it, is there!

We are not God. We can only rearrange the same old stuff or try again to make something work. But when God says "new," God means new. Why is it that we are so dead set on remaking the newness that God offers in the forgiveness of our sins and new relationships to honor and praise him into something old, trite, useless, trivial, when compared with the new plans we have? God warns the Israelites again and again about the "new gods" that their fathers did not know, but which would seem to promise something really new and improved. God calls people fools who want to live apart from what he makes new (Deuteronomy 32). Most of Israel ended up apart from God forever.

Behold I make all things new. New hearts for the wicked! New lives for the believers! I will make a new covenant, not like the covenant I made with the fathers (Jeremiah 31:31). If anyone is "in Christ" he or she is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5). Take eat and drink, for this is the new covenant in my blood (Matthew 26). Destroy this temple (of my body) and I will make a new one in three days!

Each day offers us time to start anew, to quit playing god or acting as if we can live without him. All of what allures is old stuff, decaying and worthless. Like little children, hungering for a parent's love, is what we can be anew in Christ. Let us recommit ourselves to confessing our sins against the true God when our old selves-will creep back into our lives and mess up again. Let us recommit to honoring God with our time, talents. Treasures, with each Sunday being a time for us to gather to honor the God whom we ask to make us new and love us dearly. Let us lay aside every "old sin and hurt-against God, ourselves and each other," and pray that others will do the same. Let us start afresh in the power of the One who will open our graves to an eternally new today. To our God be honor and glory forever and ever. May nothing old be more important or central! That is Good News!

Blessings, Rev. Brian Damrow



Faith Formation for the 21st Century

I recently read an article in a professional periodical for Christian Educators that is worthy of thinking about. Below is a short summarization but the full article is available if you would like to read more.

What would a 21st century approach to lifelong faith formation look like? What models of faith formation would we create to engage 21st century people in lifelong faith growth and learning?

Many of the models of faith formation that congregations use today were developed in the 19th and 20th centuries and built on assumptions about generations, families, congregations and society that are no longer true. We have experienced significant generational change in the younger generation (40 and younger) influencing the entire society. Among the most significant trends are:

- 15% of all Americans have no religious affiliation and almost 25% of those in their 20's
- Declining participation in Sunday worship among all generations but especially in those under 40
- Declining levels of family faith practice and socialization at home

These trends are having a significant impact on a life cycle approach to faith formation and church life- an approach built on faith transmission from generation to generation, beginning with marriage and baptism and continuing throughout life. As congregations experience fewer marriages in the church and people marry later, we are seeing fewer young families, resulting in lower Sunday attendance and participation in church life.

We need new approaches to lifelong faith formation that are responsive to current trends and people in society, that incorporate the latest thinking about learning and faith growth and utilize the learning technologies.

We are experiencing a convergence of new web and digital technologies that are transforming life and learning. Congregations have the potential for developing 21st century faith formation. Imagine the possibilities of an approach that integrates new web and digital technologies with the diversity of religious content and experiences now available.

- Imagine a small group of young people who want to learn more about Christianity taking an online course.
- Imagine a six week bible study for youth and /or adults
- Imagine children doing faith formation projects and activities with their parents online
- Imagine parents having access to knowledge about parenting through the church's website and starting a parenting wiki to share their experiences and insights- and inviting all parents from the congregation to join them.
- Imagine creating an online faith formation center where people of all ages and generations can find (and link to) high quality religious content and experiences.

We live in a remarkable time for Christian faith formation. We are experiencing a convergence of new web and digital technologies that are transforming life and learning in Christian faith formation.

Imagine the possibilities!

In Christ,
Jayne Clouser
Director of Christian Education

Excerpts from the winter newsletter of the Association of United Church Educators article written by John Roberto.



T I M E

Talents &

T R E A S U R E

From Your Service Coordinator

This is the third piece of writing about how to identify your special God-given gifts and talents using the resource, *Serving from the Heart: Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service*. This ministry development resource employs the S.T.R.I.D.E. concept to help congregations discover their spiritual gifts... Spiritual Gifts, Talents and Abilities, Resources, Individuality, Dreams, Experiences.

The 'T' in S.T.R.I.D.E. represents our Talents, both God-given and acquired. Each of us is born with natural talents, whether for athletics, music, math, mechanics or something else. Talents are those abilities that seem to 'come naturally.' Here's a brief quiz... identify a talent with these people: Michael Jordan, Barbra Streisand, Bill Gates, Maya Angelou. Talents sometimes are confused with spiritual gifts because both refer to an exceptional ability to do something. Natural abilities may mirror gifts, but there are some differences. Here's the dif... spiritual gifts are given to Christians, while every person whether Christian or not is born with natural talents. Talents are sometimes used to benefit others, but they can also be used for self-edification, or to lift you up morally. Spiritual gifts are used to glorify God and to serve others.

Here's one way to distinguish whether an ability is a talent or a spiritual gift. Consider its purpose and results. Does the ability serve others and glorify God? Spiritual gifts will have a 'yes' answer to both those questions.

Acquired skills and expertise can be used to serve others and glorify God as well. Public speaking, facilitation skills, writing and expertise in computers, graphic arts or audio/visual technology can all have a place serving within the Body of Christ.

Sometimes people use their natural talents or acquired

skills in concert with their spiritual gifts. God, however, can also *transform* our natural talents into spiritual gifts. For instance, God may elevate and amplify someone's natural leadership talent to the point of a spiritual gift when they enter into a believing relationship with Jesus Christ.

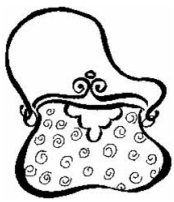
Some jobs or tasks cannot be completed without help from God. We must be open to letting God work through us for great things to happen. In the Bible, when the Moabites and Ammonites came to make war against King Jehoshaphat and the Israelites in 2 Chronicles 20:15, Jehoshaphat called upon the Lord for help. The Lord answered saying, "*Do not fear or be dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's.*"

The same is true for us today as we serve God. We need to 'get out of the way' and let the Holy Spirit work through us. We are only instruments.

What are your natural talents or acquired skills that God could use for God's purposes? We need to recognize that all abilities come from God. In that sense, they are gifts and can be dedicated to God's use. What makes spiritual gifts distinct is that God owns the results. God gets the credit, because what is accomplished is beyond our own abilities.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Romans 12:1.

Kay Whitfield
Service Coordinator



Salem Evening Guild

The Salem Evening Guild will not meet in January and February. We resume meeting in March. We are looking forward to another good year!

Confirmation



Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, January 4 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!



Souper Bowl of Caring

Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2012. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$41 million has gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollars in the soup pot on February 5. We will also be collecting food items to be donated to a local food pantry. Look for the soup pots!



Super Bowl Subs

Sr. High Fellowship will once again be selling Super Bowl Subs. We will be taking orders on January 22 and 29. Plan to place your order with any high school youth. Subs can be picked up on February 5 during Coffee Hour.

Sunshine Kids & Middle School Fellowship



The Sunshine Kids & Middle School Fellowships are "Going Bonkers" on Sunday, January 15 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Please bring \$2.00 and meet at Bonkers at 2:00 p.m. Parents you are welcome too!

All LIGHTS Kids!

LIGHTS begin again on Wednesday, **January 18**. Supper begins at 5:30 p.m.

Sr. High Fellowship

January 8 Board Games
Bring your favorite board game and join us in the youth room for maid rites and board games from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

January 22 Movie & Popcorn
Let's get together in the youth room for a movie and popcorn from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Students/Mentors

January 29 All confirmation students and their mentors are invited to go bowling. Please meet at Tangerine Bowl at 1:00 p.m. We will be finished at 3:00 p.m. Please bring \$3.00 to help with the cost.



Mark Your Calendars!

This year's Shrove Pancake & Sausage Supper will be February 21 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.



Each month, the Salvation Army assists individuals and families in our community with food, medicine, clothing, furniture, transportation, rent, utilities and shelter. During the Christmas season we assist families with special Christmas Baskets and toys for their children. In addition to year round assistance, we strive to provide comfort and basic needs to people in crisis. We could never do these things alone. It is through the grace of God and the generosity and support of friends like you that we are able to continue providing quality programs and services to those less fortunate in our community.

Sincerely,

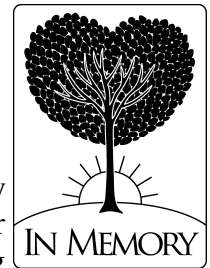
Elizabeth Flynn
Regional Manager of Family Services

Thank you for helping the Quincy Herald-Whig spread the Good News of Christmas this past holiday season. Your contribution will go toward giving this year's Good News families perhaps their merriest Christmas ever. And perhaps even more important, it will give them hope for a brighter future.

The Good News of Christmas,
Thomas A. Oakley, Publisher

On behalf of the Salvation Army, thank you for your very generous donation of \$2002.22 for our food pantry. Your donation is most appreciated and will help us assist the men, women and children that come to us for assistance in meeting their basic human needs.

Dan Jennings,
Major
Kroc Senior Officer



We would like to take this opportunity to advise you that the Hansen-Spear Funeral Home of Quincy is arranging to have young trees planted in memory of Virginia Scharnhorst, Dorothy Kanauss and Rowen Zander. The living memorial is a part of a large endeavor to restore the Illinois landscape with the eternal beauty of living trees, for the benefit of all the residents of the state.

Robert S. Pearson, President
Lofty Oaks Association



Letter to the Salem Youth Group.....

Thank you so very much for your donation of coats, hats & gloves for our children in need. Your blessing made children in several families very happy! May God bless you for your kindness.

Merry Christmas!
Shelia McElfresh
Ellington School Nurse



Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our Good News projects, our White gifts and Mitten Tree projects. These three campaigns supported a need going unmet in our community. The donated winter outerwear for youth was given to Ellington and Monroe Elementary Schools, ones identified by the Quincy Public School Systems as having needs but often overlooked. Our White gifts will go to support The Madonna House. And on behalf of retired clergy and spouses of the UCC, a thank you is extended for contributing to the Christmas Fund. Contributions to the Christmas Fund can still be made. Check with the office if you would like the special offering envelope.

Church Records

Baptisms

Jonathan Meyer was baptized December 17, 2011.
Parents are Ian & Brandy Meyer.

Funerals

Eunice Koehler 4/17/1919-12/01/2011

Doris Kistler 3/21/1918-12/03/2011

Virginia Brecht 9/30/1924-12/09/2011



Rosie Foster
15917 W. Catalina Dr.
Goodyear, AZ 85395-8199

Brian Jackson
925 Madison
Quincy, IL 62301

Ellen Wray
2130 Harrison, Rm 47
Quincy, IL 62301



Treasurer's Report

We would like to acknowledge that we have received an endowment from the Ceal Knorr estate. Thank you.

Ralph Baxter,
Salem Church Treasurer

Our Members in Nursing Homes

Good Samaritan Cottages

Letha Althoff	Joanna Anesi
Wilma Burke	Eileen Clair
Ruth Disselhorst	Shirley Harland
Eldon & Sally Hibbard	Naoma Hoener
Donald Hungate	Pauline Kleckner
Marilyn Schmidt	Hilda West
Bill & Joyce Winn	Ellen Wray

Good Sam Residences

2130 Harrison Street

Gerald Baker	Nancy Bliven
Irene Cookson	Norma Disseler
Elizabeth Disselhorst	Jean Hamann
Grace Hampel	Elda Herleman
Millie Ippensen	Elizabeth Linnenburger
Mary Maxwell	Selma McNaughton
Anna Morton	Carol Recker
Rosemary Schaller	John Simon
Flora Tucker	

Bickford Cottage

4221 Maine Street

Marian Grimmer
Bette Starnes

Sunset Home

418 Washington Street

Robert Brinkmeyer

Sycamore Healthcare

720 Sycamore Street

Zelma Davis

Illinois Veteran's Home

1707 North 12th Street

Lester Hamann

Barry Community Care Center

1313 Pratt St, Barry, IL 62312

Jennifer Bliven

North Adams Home

2259 E. 1100th Mendon, IL 62351

Ruth Rems

Beverly Living Community

524 N Laura Street, Maryville, MO 64468

Harley & Elma Epperson

Stewardship
Update



PROGRESS TOWARD OUR FAITH PROMISES

Fund	Total Faith Promises	September Contributions	October Contributions	November Contributions	December Contributions	YTD Contributions
Current	\$90,834.52	\$12,113.50	\$16,745.75	\$13,718.66	\$12,429.25	\$160,507.97
Benevolences	\$24,064.00	\$1,642.50	\$1,722.75	\$1,627.00	\$1,323.50	\$17,857.00
Heritage	\$6,627.00	\$693.00	\$779.75	\$675.00	\$645.70	\$8,606.70
OCWM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Maint/Repairs	\$1,664.00	\$529.00	\$878.75	\$543.00	\$479.50	\$8,167.00
Other Givings	\$2,599.00	\$254.00	\$933.00	\$1,530.78	\$3,185.15	\$20,489.93
Total	\$125,788.52	\$15,232.00	\$21,060.00	\$18,094.44	\$18,063.10	\$215,658.60





JANUARY

<p>January 2 Jim Wittland Tiffany Jones Daniel Alter Parker Fuller</p> <p>January 3 Candy Willing Matthew Harland</p> <p>January 4 Barbara Bornman</p> <p>January 6 Ruth Rems Nancy Bliven John Elliott Christina Hugenberg Jeremy Hibbard Tyler Boren Ricky Kempe</p> <p>January 7 Jeannie Kammerer Jana Speed Karen Voss Aaron Damrow Riley Eisenberg</p> <p>January 8 Don Hunter Kim Koenig Leah Fuhrman</p> <p>January 9 Patti McNay Kathryn Kreinberg Alyssa Daggett Cristen Todd</p>	<p>January 11 Bob Jackson Ric Hillebrenner Drake Miller</p> <p>January 12 Elaine Mangold Edward Hagenbaumer Charlotte Moore</p> <p>January 13 Carl Spory Ruth Thevil Julie Leenerts Spencer Lamberson</p> <p>January 15 Doris Jones Jerry Huner Jayne Clouser Elaynarose Jones</p> <p>January 16 Parker Armbruster Eryn Beswick Jordan Fuller</p> <p>January 17 Eldon Hibbard Wilma Burke Jack Van Camp John Drebes Mike Pettus</p> <p>January 19 Heather Altgilbers Sean Thompson</p>	<p>January 20 Ted Colvin</p> <p>January 21 Virginia Foster Mike Terry</p> <p>January 23 Mary Huseman</p> <p>January 24 Mary Witte Carol Eddy</p> <p>January 25 Marilyn Loos</p> <p>January 26 Jean Schoonover Vicki Jackson Rev. Jack Perdue</p> <p>January 28 Lester Althoff Barb Edwards Allie Humes</p> <p>January 30 Kathleen Kelly</p> <p>January 31 Diane Jones Norma Spory</p>	<div data-bbox="954 321 1206 457" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>January 6 Jim & Jean Loeffler</p> <p>January 9 Frank & Edna McMullen</p> <p>January 12 Kenneth & Leslie Abbott</p> <p>January 16 Allan & Mary Witte</p> <p>January 17 Wayne & Jackie Drebes</p> <p>January 20 Bob Hays II & Judy Hays</p> <p>January 22 Bud & Judy Bushaus Richard & Mary Wellman</p>	<div data-bbox="1218 1623 1528 1925" data-label="Table"> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2012</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	January 2012							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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				
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January 2012 Salem Calendar

Sunday, January 1-New Years Day

9:00 Sunday Worship/Rev. Seydel
10:00 Coffee Hour

Monday, January 2-Office Closed

5:30 Aerobics

Tuesday, January 3

9:00 Staff Meeting
3:30 After School Tutoring
7:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 4

8:30 Quilters
4:30 Lights Task Force
5:30 Aerobics
6:30 Confirmation Class

Thursday, January 5

3:30 After School Tutoring

Friday, January 6

5:30 First Friday Dinner-Village Inn

Saturday, January 7

9:00 Breakfast Club
11:30 Saturday Meal
4:30 Saturday Worship/Communion

Sunday, January 8

9:00 Sunday Worship/Communion
10:00 Coffee Hour
10:30 Adult Bible Study
10:30 Bell Choir Practice
10:30 Kingdom Kidz Practice
11:30 Salem Selah Practice
4:00 Kings & Queens Undecorating
5:30 Sr. High Fellowship

Monday, January 9

3:30 Communion Service-Good Sam
5:30 Aerobics
7:00 Qcy Symphony Chorus Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 10

9:00 Staff Meeting
3:30 After School Tutoring
6:00 20/20 Meeting
7:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 11

8:30 Quilters
5:30 Aerobics
6:30 Confirmation Class

Thursday, January 12

3:30 After School Tutoring
6:00 Executive Committee
7:00 VMST Meeting

Friday, January 13

Saturday, January 14

9:00 Breakfast Club
11:30 Saturday Meal
4:30 Saturday Worship

Sunday, January 15

9:00 Sunday Worship/Baptism
10:00 Coffee Hour
10:00 Drama & Puppet Ministry Meeting
10:30 Adult Bible Study
10:30 Bell Choir Practice
10:30 Kingdom Kidz Practice
11:30 Salem Selah Practice
2:00 Sunshine Kids/Middle School

Monday, January 16-Office Closed

5:30 Aerobics
7:00 Qcy Symphony Chorus Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 17

9:00 Staff Meeting
3:30 After School Tutoring
7:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 18

8:30 Quilters
5:30 LIGHTS meal
6:00 Contemporary Worship
6:30 Confirmation Class
6:30 Educational Classes & Children's Activities

Thursday, January 19

3:30 After School Tutoring
6:00 Property Task Force

Friday, January 20

Deadline for Newsletter
7:00 Movie Night

Saturday, January 21

9:00 Breakfast Club
11:30 Saturday Meal
4:30 Saturday Worship

Sunday, January 22

9:00 Sunday Worship

10:00 Coffee Hour/Sub Orders

10:30 Adult Bible Study
10:30 Bell Choir Practice
10:30 Kingdom Kidz Practice
11:30 Salem Selah Practice
1:00 Jr. High Fellowship
5:30 Sr. High Fellowship

Monday, January 23

5:30 Aerobics
7:00 Qcy Symphony Chorus Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 24

9:00 Staff Meeting
3:30 After School Tutoring
7:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 25

8:30 Quilters
5:30 Aerobics
5:30 LIGHTS meal
6:00 Contemporary Worship
6:30 Confirmation Class
6:30 Educational Classes & Children's Activities

Thursday, January 26

3:30 After School Tutoring
7:00 All Ministries Meet

Friday, January 27

Saturday, January 28

9:00 Breakfast Club
11:30 Saturday Meal
4:30 Saturday Worship

Sunday, January 29

9:00 Sunday Worship
10:00 Coffee Hour/Sub Orders
10:30 Adult Bible Study
10:30 Bell Choir Practice
10:30 Kingdom Kidz Practice
11:30 Salem Selah Practice

Monday, January 30

5:30 Aerobics
7:00 Qcy Symphony Chorus Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 31

9:00 Staff Meeting
3:30 After School Tutoring
7:00 Choir Practice

Nothing that is worth doing can be
achieved in our lifetime; therefore
we must be saved by **HOPE.**

Nothing which is true or beautiful
or good makes complete sense in any
immediate context of history; therefore,
we must be saved by **FAITH.**

Nothing we do, however virtuous,
can be accomplished alone; therefore,
we are saved by **LOVE.**

No virtuous act is quite as virtuous
from the standpoint of our friend
or foe as it is from our standpoint.
Therefore, we must be saved by
the final form of love which is
FORGIVENESS.

— Reinhold Niebuhr
Eden Seminary
Class of 1913