



The Circuit Rider

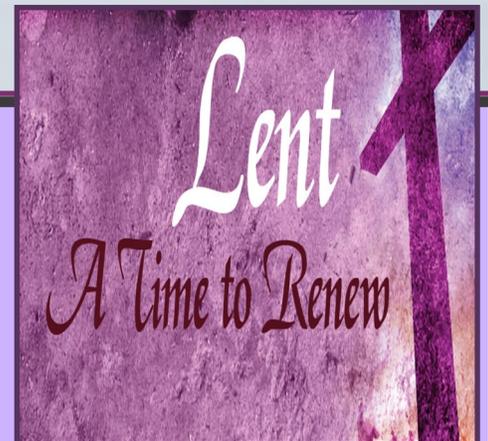
March 2021



Salmon Creek Church

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a note from Pastor John



Our sermon series for the season of Lent is called “*Voyage to Redemption.*” A voyage or journey metaphor is pretty common for a Lenten series, so I don’t get many points for originality. Nevertheless, given the number of journeys and voyages undertaken in the Bible, it is clearly a common way that people have grappled with the transformative nature of life. We move forward in time, we change with the years, we go to unexpected places and meet unusual people. Are all of these things random, or are we moving towards something larger than ourselves?

There is an ancient spiritual practice that encapsulates the essence of the journey towards Christ, called a labyrinth walk. A labyrinth is (usually) a pathway laid out in circular patterns that lead to the center. It is not a maze – you cannot get lost – but it provides a peaceful sojourn for prayer, reflection, and discovery. Here is a picture of a famous labyrinth at Chartres in France:



Salmon Creek Church will be offering a labyrinth walk during Holy Week, and everyone is invited to come and experience this “walking prayer” on **Wednesday, March 31** in the FMC gym. You can arrive anywhere between 5:00 and 8:00 pm, and the walk usually takes about 20 – 30 minutes. It is not a group activity, so social distancing should be a breeze, and the walk is done in prayerful silence. Vivian and I own a portable labyrinth, based on the one you see above, and we will be hosting this walk and will be happy to answer any questions you have about this spiritual activity. It is especially poignant during Holy Week, as we remember Christ’s journey to the cross, that we find our own steps on the path to redemption and grace.

Blessings, Pastor John Hiestand

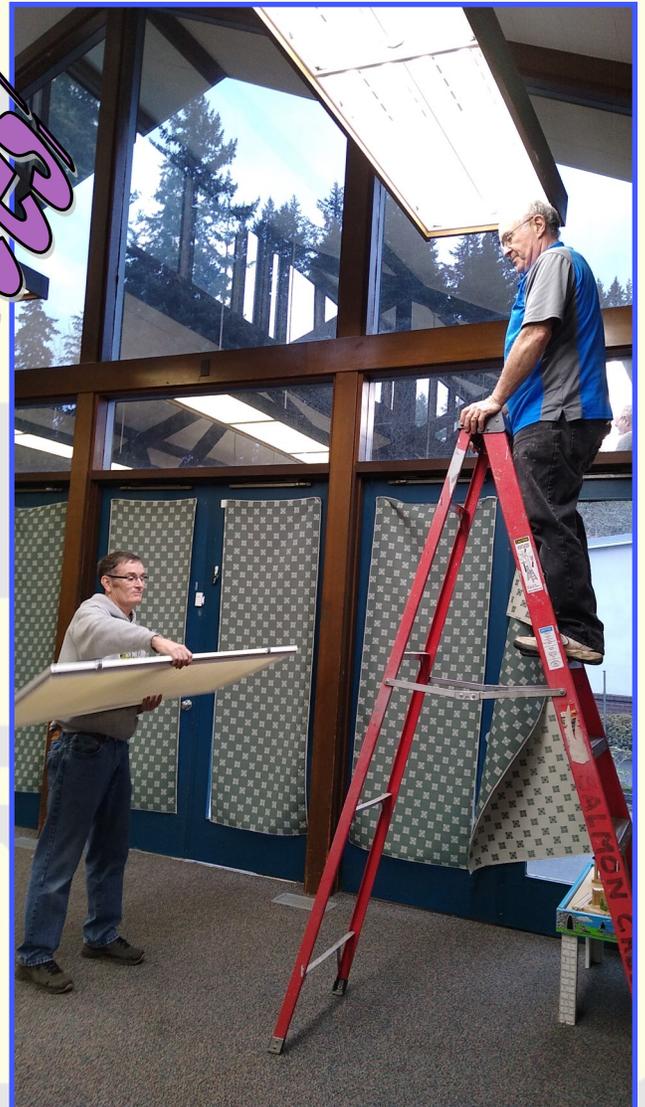
Dear Congregation:

Trustees completed the long overdue cleaning of the Fellowship Hall beams and lights. We oiled the lower-level wood doors and trim and the light fixtures. Greg Berry and Gay helped me finish replacing the fluorescent lights with new LED light tubes. We had to remove all of the old wiring and rewire the fixtures to accept the new LED tubes. 104 tubes in all in 27 4-tube fixtures in 9 wood frames, working from ladders. As mentioned before, the Trustees continue to replace the old fluorescent fixtures, starting in the main building and daycare areas, as they were the oldest. Several of the old fixtures had broken terminals and are brittle from the many years of service. Many ballasts have had to be replaced over the last few years, so hopefully, the new LED fixtures and now tubes will save the cost of those fixtures and the time to replace them.

Day school uses the Fellowship Hall every day and with day school kids now starting to increase as the COVID eases, the Fellowship Hall will be clean and bright for them to play in it.

Thanks,
Steve Enyeart, Chair
Trustees

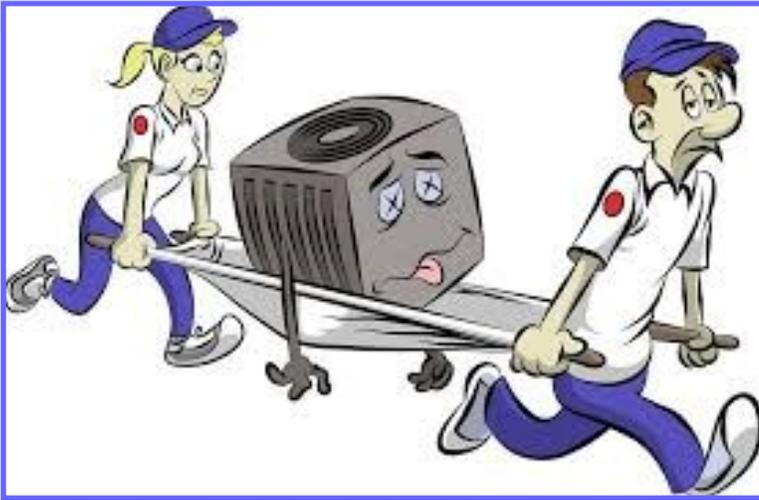
MAINTENANCE
PROGRAM
GOD BLESS OUR TRUSTEES





Greg Berry and Steve Enyeart complete final installation of the lights after cleaning.

PROGRESS



HVAC Replacements

Finally, the weather and permits aligned and Renaud Heating and Electric replaced two roof top units. The one on the St Paul room side of the building failed in late October. The Trustees voted to replace that unit and the one serving the offices on the west side of the flat roof. The work took 3 days and was completed just before the winter storm hit on February 11th. God provided the time, an answer to all of the prayers many had, being in the cold rooms on the east side of the building.

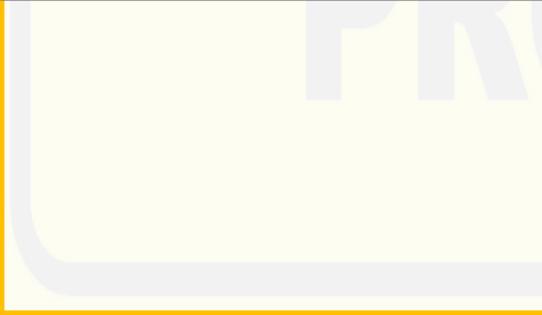
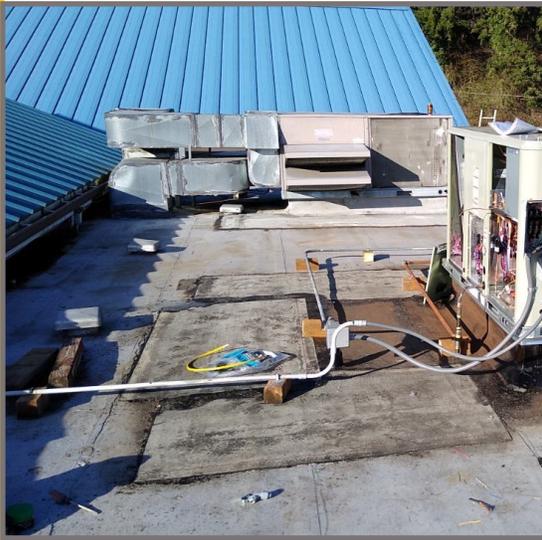
For those who like details, the new Trane HVAC 'package units' are 3-ton (heating and cooling rating, they probably weighed 4-600 lbs). The Renaud crew had to remove the old units, including duct work and old wood supports. The roofer remodeled the roof area around the new bases (nice job, we have had leaks around each of the old units for years). And then the Renaud crew finished assembly of each unit, installed new duct work, and reconnected gas lines and wiring. The new units include an 'economizer' to bring in fresh air and reduce cooling costs, a requirement for commercial buildings.

The pictures show the old units being removed and the new units being installed. It took 2 trips for the crane, the second as he had to come back to set the new units on their bases after the roofer had completed his work around the bases.

Thanks to the congregation for the funds to be able to replace these units.

Steve Enyeart, Chair
Trustees





DID YOU KNOW?



We thought it would be interesting to give you some information on our various committees: Who are the members and what do they do? We are always in need of new volunteers, who bring fresh eyes and ideas to our groups. If you've ever considered serving your church in this way, *now is the time!*

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs - Jim and Betty Selby

Members include: Pastor John Hiestand, Phyllis Browning, Susan Bell, Ken Brandt, Barbara Harmon, Scott Fuller, Cathy Melson, Matthew Compton, Lynne Nieda

Committee functions include: Making sure the altar cloths and banners are correct for each church season, preparing communion, altar candles, securing readers, decorating the church for Christmas and Easter, closely working with the church staff for worship. The chairs attend COM meetings.

Jim & Betty Selby

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (or AD Council)

Ad Board is accountable to the charge conference and has the responsibility for planning, implementing, and evaluating effective ministry. The Administrative Board reflects the character and population of the congregation, provides for financial support, physical facilities, and the legal obligations of its congregation, and has many members who lead and serve in other areas or capacities within the church. The Admin Board members include: Kathy Hardy (Council of Ministries), Lila DeBolt (Lay Leader), Ed Grubel (Finance Committee), Jim Roberts (Finance Secretary), Steve Enyeart (Trustees), Jan Asai (Day School Board), Don Hardy (Staff Parish Relations Committee), Tom Shumaker (Memorials Committee & Admin Board Chair), and, of course, Pastor John Hiestand (Nominations and Leadership Development & Pastor).

Blessings,
Tom Shumaker

SALMON CREEK CHURCH HISTORIAN

Salmon Creek church is truly fortunate that our wonderful founders in 1852 decided to spend 6 months of their lives to travel on the Oregon trail to bring their Methodist beliefs to our area. They followed their faith and established our church in their home in 1853. My duty, as your Church Historian, is to preserve and maintain that history, and to share it with our congregation when appropriate. I follow those past historians such as Ray Northcutt, Chuck Scherer and Jayne McCarley who spent numerous hours compiling our church's daily written records, pictures, and technical files. Our church is a living body of believers who have a hand in shaping our ministries. They have shared their faith and gifts for their love of God and for our communities. This has worked for the past 168 years, and I am quite sure it will continue.

Larry Siewert

THE MISSIONS TEAM at Salmon Creek Church works to promote local and global missions that our congregation can support. We provide financial and volunteer support to Family Promise and Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) in their efforts to address homelessness. We support Share Vancouver in their mission to fight hunger through financial contributions as well as food drives and volunteer service. We are in partnership with Gaiser Middle School, a local school with 60% free and reduced lunch, to provide school supplies, contributions and prayer support. Our annual Missions Auction supports a variety of local community ministries - Share Vancouver, Friends of the Carpenter, Open House Ministries, Safe Choice Women's Shelter, Ft. Vancouver Seafarer's Center. We share information on ministries available through the Advance of the Global Board of Ministries and our overseas missions partners. For several years, we have supported the Kies family in Zimbabwe; we will be looking for a new family as the Kies retired at the end of 2020.

The mission team meets at 6pm on the second Tuesday of each month - currently our meetings are via zoom. We always welcome new members and ideas for ministries in which we can be involved. For more information, contact Kathy Hardy - Missions Chai (dkhardyfamily@q.com) or speak to any of our team members: Greg Berry, Gay Enyeart, Tina Hunter, Mary Mountain, Larry Siewert, Linda Sloan.



THE DAY SCHOOL is a mission of the Church to provide a loving, Christian environment for our youngest learners. The Day School Committee is made up of one member from Ad Board, Finance, SPR, Trustees, and a Parent Representative from the Preschool families, and at large members.

Gayle Horwitz has been directing our nonprofit faith-based preschool and daycare center for over nine years now. She pursues collaborative relationships that connect resources, ideas, curricula, learning opportunities and innovative art materials with instructors (and parents!). Gayle oversees the charter and direction of the Day School and assists in the community-lauded Vacation Bible School held each summer. Currently our Board is inactive due to Covid and the School operating at a reduced capacity. We are always looking for members who have an interest in serving on our Committee, please contact Jan Asai, Day School Chair at jan_asai@msn.com.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Our church is in need of one or two persons to serve on the **COUNTERS TEAM**. These are the people who serve as the basis of the church lay-led financial management system. Essentially, this group counts and documents all of the funds which are donated to the church. This includes checks, money from the collection plate, online donations, and occasional memorial bequests. The Counters count, document in the computer, and send a report to our bookkeeper, advising into which funds the money goes. Normally, Counters meet on Mondays for about three hours, on a two-week rotation; the time investment is minimal. Should you be interested or wish to discuss, please contact Jim Roberts at jimpamrobert@gmail.com, or by phone at 360-573-0446.

A fascinating opportunity exists for just the right person (or persons) to assist our church in its ongoing **media ministry** on Sunday mornings, and at selected other times. As many are aware, we have been livestreaming our Sunday services, and this will continue after the church has opened and we move back into our Sanctuary. We currently have a minimal number of folks on the **MEDIA TEAM** who perform the necessary computer, sound, and camera work, and a few more are desperately needed. The position does require some computer work, but orientation/training is provided. Should you be interested or wish to discuss, please contact Jim Roberts at jimpamrobert@gmail.com or by phone at 360-573-0446.

Veterans' Flag Memorial Eagle Scout Project



Dear Congregation:

Liam Oates has proposed, and the Trustees have approved, the Eagle Scout project (as per his letter) below, and he is seeking additional funding. Please, if interested, send your donation to the church (check or Vanco) and include a note "Eagle Scout Project". This effort should be for the month of March only.

Thanks,
Steve Enyeart Chair



Hello! My name is Liam Oates, some of you might know me, others might not, I am a life scout in Troop 14, looking for funds for my Eagle project. For my project, I'm doing a Veterans' memorial right next to where the Troop normally has our annual tree lot. I'm hoping that I can fundraise around \$1,800 in total for the project. I already have about \$1,000, and I'm hoping that members of the SCUMC congregation can help me reach my goal, and help me put in a memorial that will forever honor Veterans all over the country, and most especially, those in our local community. Some might wonder how I, and the troop will maintain this; whatever funds I might have leftover will go to the troop, to be used for maintenance on the memorial, such as replacing flags, bench maintenance, etc., and the troop will uphold the memorial, even once I am aged-out of the scouting program.

Thank you,
Liam Oates
C17's Patrol Leader & Scribe - Troop 14
Camp Meriwether Staff



New bells for the Bell Choir!

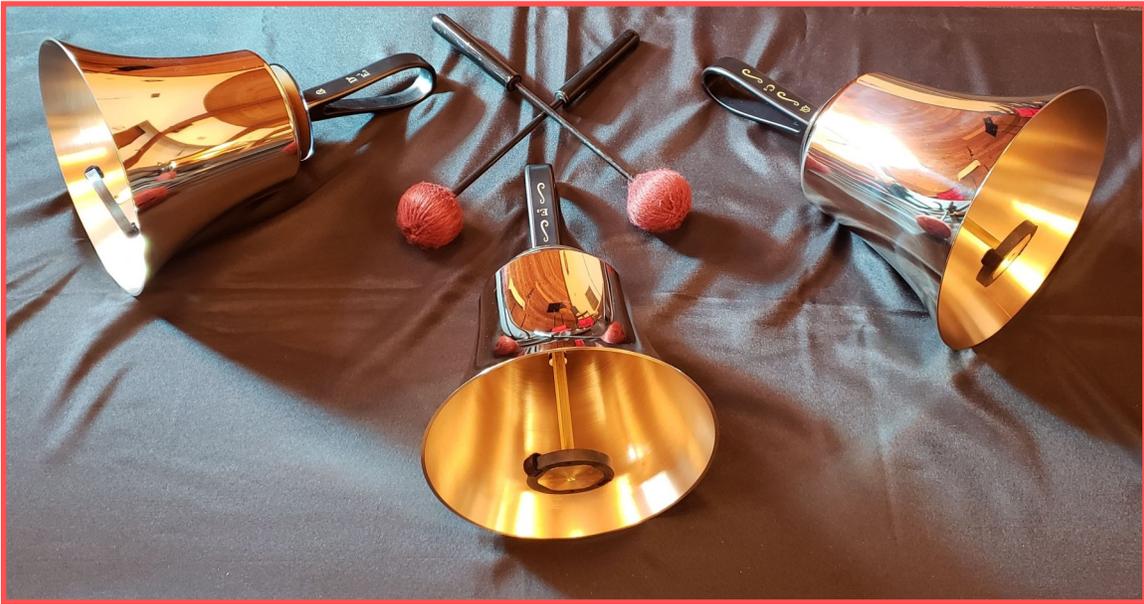
We are excited to share that Salmon Creek UMC now owns their own bass bells! Most people probably did not know that the bass bells that Karen and Skye played were borrowed from places where Matt had connections. Matt would have to lug them back and forth.

A little back story: In 1975, my mom, Jean Trupp, and I had never heard handbells before. Then, a family friend passed and requested that two octaves of bells be purchased as his memorial at his home church in St. Anthony, Idaho.



Jean started as a ringer, but within two years the director passed from cancer and somehow, Jean was designated as the new Bell Choir Director. When I came home from college at Christmas, she was told she would be playing Silent Night on Christmas Eve.

Jean directed the Community Bell Choir for 30 years. The choir consisted of ringers from the surrounding churches. They played for numerous events around Christmas, hauling bells and tables in blizzards, to be rung for these special events. At one time Jean's mom, two daughters-in-law and her husband, Donald, all rang together. I joined later. My brother said that, while Dad did not stop the harvest for many things, when it was time for bell practice, harvest was stopped for the evening.



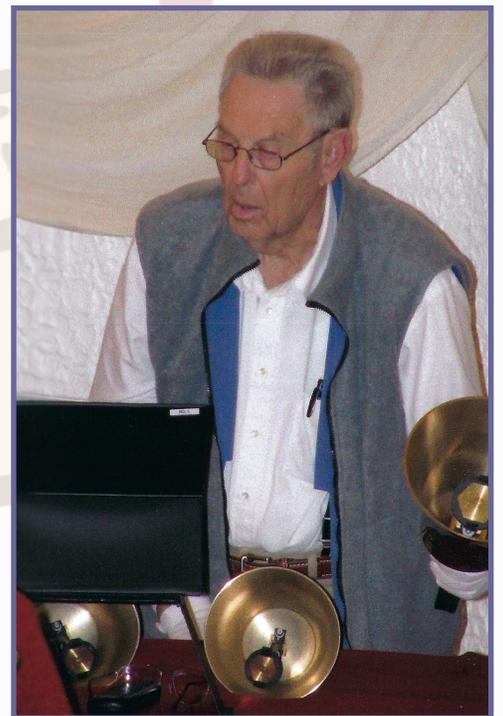
During those thirty years, family and friends purchased bells to expand those beginning octaves, so it only seemed natural that when Jean passed this summer, family and friends wanted to buy a bell in her memory. With the funds from family and friends, plus some extra money from the Salmon Creek memorial funds, the seven bass bells were purchased.

Matt was thoughtful and let me unwrap the bells and be the first to ring each bell. They are one pound lighter than the set we borrowed! When I wrapped my arm around the bell to dampen it, I felt like I was hugging my parents.

When people asked my Dad, "Why ring bells?", Dad would respond with Psalm 100: *Make a joyful noise to the Lord!* I can't wait to make a joyful noise to the Lord with Mom and Dad's bells!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen,

Karen & Richard
Beilsmith





Back to school... *in March!* Vancouver Public Schools has begun “hybrid learning”, which means small groups of students attend school two days a week, and work remotely the other three days of the week. Elementary school began in February and Middle Schools will begin March 1, with high schools following in a few weeks.

This has been a difficult time for students, parents and teachers as they try to make remote learning work. There is a lot of excitement about going back to school, but also some anxiety. Our families and schools really need our prayers at this time! Please pray for health, as the schools open up, for flexibility and cooperation, as we change the way school gets done!

Salmon Creek Church has a history of supporting Gaiser Middle School, and we will continue to support them as they open up to students for the first time in almost a year! The mission team is sponsoring a supply drive for Gaiser during the month of March. Our first collection date will be Sunday, February 28th, then we will have weekly collections during the month of March. The most needed supplies are: pencils, composition notebooks, scotch tape, highlighters. We will also be collecting \$5 gift cards from Dutch Brothers and Starbucks to be given as student rewards.

Contact kathy.hardy@vansd.org if you have any questions.



Winter at Salmon Creek

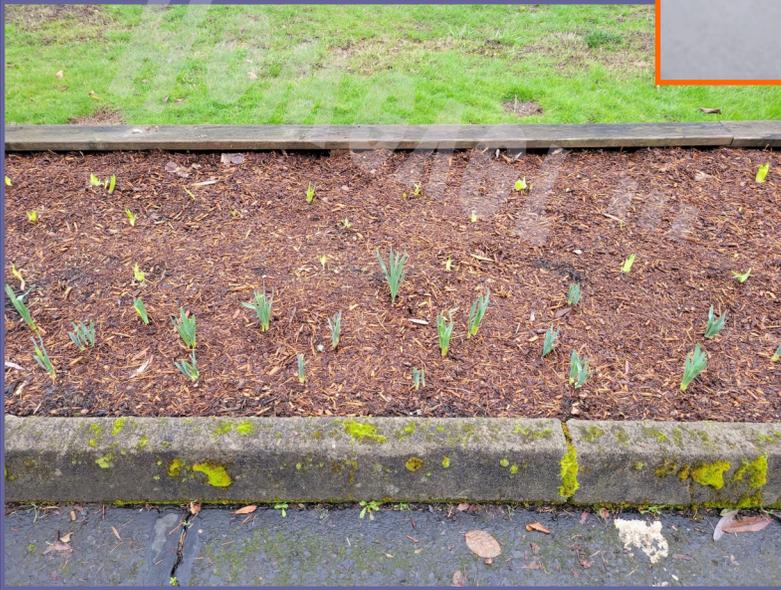


Richard Beilsmith was kind enough to shoot some beautiful photos of our lovely church and grounds during the snow storm we had in February. Please enjoy them and be sure to thank Richard for sharing. The cover photo of this month's *Circuit Rider* is also Richard's photo.





However !!!



to come
FLOWERS





2. Ken Brandt
3. Alex Longshore
5. Shelby Fisher
6. Jane Clark
8. Kevin Hunter
10. Roberta Gapsch
11. Aaron Hawn
11. Jan Ward
13. Jim Selby
14. Ross Hollister
15. Karen West
16. Phyllis Deaver
19. Lance Bachman
19. Nancy Brandon
19. LaVeta Scherer
23. Katie Albrici
24. Patricia Petersen
29. Ron Doering
30. Joan Hackett



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Thank you for reading the Circuit Rider! If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

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Submissions for the Circuit Rider can be sent to circuitrider@salmoncreek.church. Articles and announcements are due by midnight on the third Sunday of each month.

Editor: Nancy Volgamore

HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER

PSALM 136