

The  Newsletter of the Salem United Methodist Church – Wolfsville

The Mountain Shepherd

Volume 30 January 2012 Number 1



Salem United Methodist Church – Wolfsville

INSIDE

Food Pantry
OPEN
MONDAYS
6:00-7:00 pm

**For families in the
Wolfsville community
and surrounding areas.**
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Salem to attend ROCK Youth Retreat in Ocean City, January 20-22, 2012

In January, Salem youth and adults will be attending the ROCK Youth Retreat in Ocean City.



The event is organized by The Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Tom Price, Director Baltimore-Washington Conference Youth Ministry.

Donna Snyder, Salem's Youth Leader for the middle school Faith Builders group, reports that "15 are going to the event from Salem— 7 youth and 8 adults. The kids will be helping serve communion! After Christmas, we will be working on our church banner to take along."

Youth groups are encouraged to bring a banner to be hung at the event, and our youth will be making a new banner, after Christmas, to take along.

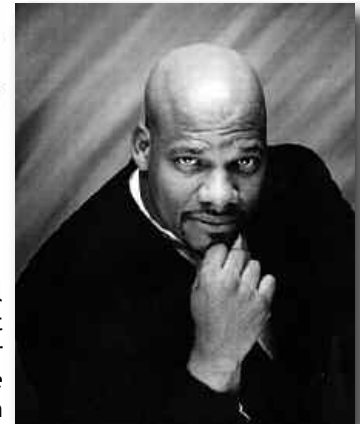
Donna indicates "The youth are excited about this! They voted to go to two seminars at ROCK— one about how to bring Christianity to their world (Bishop Schol is the presenter), and the other about incorporating liturgical dance within worship." Donna said, "I expect we will see some exciting new ways that our youth will glorify God!"

Small group devotionals are encouraged for the youth groups. A crucial aspect of the Youth Retreat ROCK 2012 is its dedication to bringing youth into a greater understanding of, and a relationship with, our ROCK Jesus Christ.

A Prayer Room will be available throughout the weekend as a place where youth and adults can go to pray and reflect on their spiritual journey and leave prayer request at the cross.

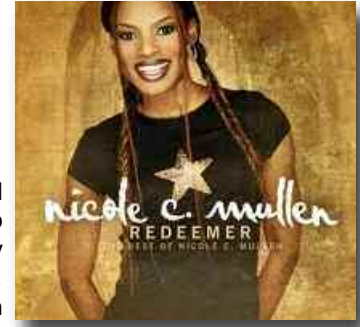
This event is for youth between the ages of middle school and high school.

The event begins on Friday evening, January 20th, and continues with additional sessions on Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning. The event concludes on Sunday at noon. Sunday's event will have a mass youth choir and Communion.



Special Guest Speaker Steve Fitzhugh

STEVE FITZHUGH is a former NFL player for the Denver Broncos and Cleveland Browns. He is a motivational speaker and national spokesperson for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' *One Way 2 Play - Drug Free Program*



Praise and Worship Music by Nicole C. Mullen

NICOLE C. MULLEN is an award-winning song writer and performer and 2011 GMA Dove Award Song of the Year for "Redeemer"

The ROCK program also includes praise and worship music by the Christian band "Uprising". Breakout sessions include "Boys Only" with Steve Fitzhugh, and "Girls Only" with Nicole C. Mullen.

Salem contact for ROCK is:
Donna Snyder
240-994-0338

The Mountain Shepherd

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SALEM KEY CONTACTS

Lay Leader: *Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer*
Chair, Admin. Council: *Vernon Stottlemeyer*
Outreach: *Barbara Stottlemeyer*
Worship: *Mary Alice Shankle*
Sun. School Superintendent: *Bobby Fogle*
Chair, Board of Trustees: *George Stottlemeyer*
Church Treasurer: *William Burrier*
Sunday School Treasurer: *Mary Fogle*
Chair, Pastor-Parish Relations: *Robin Haupt*
Chair, Evangelism: *Michael Burrier*

SALEM MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Current Membership: 227
Sunday School Enrollment: 77
2011 New Members: 14

SALEM PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Church built 1847
Educational Building built 1967
Parsonage built 1974-75

SALEM WEB SITE

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

COLOPHON

Produced using QuarkXPress 8.12 and Mac OS 10.6.8, on an Apple 20" iMac computer, along with an H.P. LaserJet 4000N postscript laser printer, Epson Perfection 4490 photo scanner, Canon PowerShot SD-1000 digital camera, and Ricoh MP-3351 digital laser copier.

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of communicating with our members, their families, and our many friends of the Wolfsville community and surrounding areas. We pray that this newsletter will inspire you, our readers, to regularly attend worship services, Sunday School, and all other activities of the church. For those who are unable to attend, this newsletter is a means of bringing part of the church to you.



2011 MISSION PROJECTS

		Monthly Minimum	Paid Jan-Nov	2011 Goal	% of Goal
1	Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer Retired Senegal Missionaries	\$204	\$2,295.00	\$2,448	94%
2	Operation Christmas Child Postage for Shoe Boxes - Samaritan's Purse - November	—	210.00	\$355	59%
3a	Salem Mission & Outreach Supports human needs as determined by Salem	—	\$2,115.04	\$1,180	179%
3b	Salem Food Pantry Open every Monday 6:00-7:00 p.m.	—	\$1,193.75	\$1,179	101%
4	Mary Elmore - Africa Inland Mission Working in Tanzania, Africa	\$85	\$935.00	\$1,020	92%
5	United Methodist Board of Child Care Care of Homeless or Abused Children	—	\$350.00	\$1,360	26%
6	Gideons International Frederick County - West Camp - Distributing Bibles	\$110	\$1,210.00	\$1,326	91%
7	Henderson Settlement Impoverished Appalachia - Frakes, Kentucky	\$57	\$627.00	\$688	91%
8	Potato Project Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, Virginia	\$60	\$660.00	\$714	92%
9	Middletown High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$47	\$517.00	\$561	92%
10	Mission Trip Destination to be determined	—	0	\$2,295	0%
11	Ronnie & Angi Hopkins The Mission Society - Mission Work in Nicaragua	\$64	\$704.00	\$765	92%
12	Care Net Pregnancy Center 707 N. Market Street, Frederick, MD	\$64	\$725.00	\$765	95%
13	Compassion International Sponsored children in Ecuador & India	\$76	\$866.00	\$942	92%
14	Local Mission Projects Supporting local repair or renovation needs	—	0	\$1,250	0%

Total 2011 Mission Goal: **\$16,878**

Here's how you can give...

- 1 Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church, or place cash contributions in an envelope marked "Missions."
- 2 Tell us which mission project(s) you wish to support by making a note on your check or envelope.

- 3 Place your contributions in the offering plate at Sunday worship. If you do not designate a specific project, your contribution will be distributed to the project or projects needing funds to meet the monthly minimum payout goals listed above.



7 Food Boxes, 18 Fruit Baskets, and 10 Flowers given

Salem Mission Project No. 3a

SALEM MISSION & OUTREACH CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES & FRUIT BASKETS

On Saturday morning, December 17, 2011, a group of church members gathered and prepared food boxes, fruit baskets, and flowers, that were distributed to members of our church and community.

I would like to thank everyone that helped in any way to make this a successful outreach program.

We distributed seven food boxes, eighteen fruit baskets, and ten flowers, and included with each of them was a poem entitled *The Christmas Wreath*, that was donated by Dianna Poling, and a desk calendar that was donated by Phyllis Green. The offering given toward the purchase of food, fruit, and flowers totaled \$173.10.

—Barbie Stottlemeyer, Outreach Chairperson



CONGRATULATIONS!

Salem SUNDAY SCHOOL News

■ By Theresa Haupt
Sunday School Superintendent (2011)

Seven Recognized for Sunday School Attendance

Congratulations to seven members of Salem's Sunday School during the 2011 church year. The following individuals had perfect attendance:

Howard Brandenburg
Bill Burrier
Darlene Burrier
Dick Kline
Fonda Gormer

The following individuals missed only two Sundays during the 2011 church year:

Caroline Buhrman
Linda Hessong

This is a great achievement and a wonderful example for others to emulate. Please congratulate them when you see them on Sunday!

It should be noted that the Administrative Council decided to discontinue giving attendance pins since it has become difficult to purchase appropriate year pins.



Salem gives Bibles to Sunday School youth

Several youth recently received Bibles given by Salem's Sunday School. Those receiving Bibles were:

Madison Elsbach Joey Hawkins
Sarah Burrier

Bibles are given to children in third grade, or to a child that may be a year older but has become a new class member during the year.

Christmas Candy and Oranges given December 25

Sunday School attendees received from the church our traditional candy treat bag and oranges on December 25th wishing everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Sunday School Classes

Weekly Small Group Bible Study
Sundays 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.

Youth

Nursery (infants - 3 years)
Kindergarten (4 years - 1st grade)
Primary (2nd & 3rd grades)
Junior (4th - 5th grades)
Middler (6th grade and up)

Adults

Young Adults (after high school)
Women's Class
Men's Class
Adult Discussion Group
(singles & couples)

Salem Mission Project No. 11

Ronnie & Angi Hopkins Close Out Another Year in Nicaragua

Dear Salem Church Family:

DECEMBER 8, 2011 — As we come to the end of 2011, we reflect on the past year and begin to make plans for the new year.

We have now been living away from the camp for two years but continue to use it for our teams as well as training. We are very thankful for our home which is in a real neighborhood with sidewalks, a park across the street and Peanut's little school within walking distance. It is a home full of activity, with visitors (both from the US and our Nicaraguan friends) coming and going, and yet a refuge for us; and we hope for all who come and stay with us.

Our year has been busy but not having the day-to-day responsibility of the camp gives us time to refresh and renew. In January, we will have a conference with our mission board and we look forward to having some time with our families while we are home in Georgia.

The ministry in Nicaragua continues to evolve as we continue to learn. Over time, we have discovered that the needs



we perceive are not always the needs perceived by the people we have come to serve. Older ministries are re-focused and new ministries develop.

One example is new ways in which we are involving our teams. Teams that are smaller in size seem to work better, as the size of the Nicaraguan support staff grows... so that gradually it is the Nicaraguans ministering to their own people. Team members are being used



The Mission Society

more to teach and share their skills. Through it all, everyone is encouraged to learn from each other... the Nicaraguan people have so much to teach us.

We are thankful for all of you who have taken part. Your support has come in so many forms and we are always reminded that we could not do any of this without you.

May you and the Salem Church congregation be richly blessed during this holy time as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ who came to live among us to show us the true face of love and compassion.

Home Address:
Ronnie and Angi Hopkins
302 Jud Brazier Road
Cedartown, GA 30125



Attendance & Offerings

NOVEMBER 2011

		Worship*		Sunday School	
Nov 6	-	105	\$2,566.25	65	\$355.25
Nov 13	-	100	2,598.25	61	360.25
Nov 20	-	88	1,567.00	60	179.50
Nov 27	-	84	1,270.93	56	143.35

*Worship attendance & offerings include both worship services.

- **Missions:** \$1,381.17
- **Pavilion Fund:** \$180.00
- **Building & Imp. Fund:** \$217.50
- **Cemetery Endowment:** \$40.00

(Missions, Building Fund offerings, etc. are not included in Worship & Sunday School offerings above.)

Average Attendance		
	Worship	Sunday School
Nov	94	61
Oct	92	53
Sept	108	57
Aug	91	54
July	78	51
June	94	59

Average Attendance Jan-Nov 2011
 Sunday Worship: 91
 Sunday School: 56



Salem Finance Committee to meet January 3rd

■ By Bill Burrier

Salem's Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on January 3, at 7:00 p.m. at the church, to develop Salem's budget for 2012.

During the past two years, Salem has faced a very challenging budget situation, where expenses have exceeded income.

At our meeting on January 3rd, the committee will review each budget category to identify budget items which could be reduced or eliminated. The committee will also be asked for ideas to raise additional funds to help pay for operating expenses.

The Finance Committee will present their proposed budget to Salem's Administrative Council for approval at the council meeting on January 12th.

Members of the Finance Committee are: Bill Burrier (Chair), Bob Snyder (Pastor), Michael Burrier (Lay Member to Annual Conference), Vernon Stottlemeyer (Administrative Council Chairperson), Robin Haupt (Chairperson of Pastor-Parish Relations Committee), George Stottlemeyer (Chairperson of Trustees), Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer (Lay Leader), Lora McGraw (Financial Secretary), Bobby Fogle (Sunday School Superintendent), Barbara Stottlemeyer (Outreach Chairperson), Mary Alice Shankle (Worship Committee Chairperson), and Meredith Harshman (Audit).

Offering Envelopes Available for 2012

Your offering envelopes for the new year are now available in the hallway just outside the sanctuary. If you are currently using envelopes, you will automatically get new ones for 2012. If you would like to request envelopes for the first time, contact Lora McGraw, Financial Secretary, as soon as possible at 301-824-3322 or email her at kre8ive4u@yahoo.com.

Salem encourages the use of offering envelopes, which will enable Lora to keep a confidential record of your giving. She will provide you with a year-end statement, which will document your offering as a charitable contribution on your tax return. Along with this statement, the church will certify that you did not receive any goods or services in return for your contributions.

In the event you are audited by the IRS, Lora will be able to provide verification of your financial contributions to the church.

In a recent announcement, Pastor Bob said, "I'd encourage you to use offering envelopes in 2012. Over the years offering envelopes have helped Donna and I stay on track with our giving during the year. They were also an important tool to help us make deliberate increases in our giving over the years and to eventually reach the goal of tithing (giving 10% of our income)."

MY REGULAR CHURCH OFFERING	
For Church Expenses.....	\$ _____
For Missions.....	\$ _____
For Building Fund.....	\$ _____
Name.....	_____

Food Pantry
 OPEN
MONDAYS
 6:00-7:00 pm

Wolfsville Food Pantry at Salem

Salem has a food pantry of commercially canned or packaged items, located on the second floor of the educational building. The church offers food items and supplies on a weekly basis to needy families in the Wolfsville community and surrounding area. Salem's food pantry is open every Monday evening from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for families with Myersville, Smithsburg, and Sabillasville addresses.

We kindly ask that the following guidelines be followed:

Please limit the use of the food pantry to one visit per month, and two plastic grocery bags of food per visit.

Showing God's Love

The scriptures tell us that God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

Since God showed us His great love in Christ, we also desire to show His love in our community and beyond, by helping people in need.



January

Calendar of Events

- Tue 3 Finance Committee Meeting** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
- Wed 4 Salem Ladies Christian Book Club** - 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Joy Young's home
- Thu 5 UMW Bee-lievers** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
Board of Trustees - 7:30 p.m. at Salem
- Sun 8 Installation of Officers** - 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. worship
Second Sunday Youth Meeting - (Grades 3-9)
5:00-5:30 dinner; 5:45-7:00 p.m. meeting at Salem
Bible Study - 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Salem (8-week study on Sunday evenings)
- Mon 9 Worship Committee Meeting** - 7:00 p.m. at Shankle's home
- Thu 12 Administrative Council** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
- Wed 18 Third Wednesday Worship** - 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner, 7:00 p.m. worship
- Fri-Sun 20-22 ROCK Youth Retreat** - Ocean City, MD
- Sat 28 Leadership Days** - 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Otterbein UMC, Hagerstown

NOTES: Hero's Club meets every Monday when school is open.
Food Pantry is open every Monday 6:00-7:00 p.m.



Newsletter Distribution

- E-Mail** — We are currently sending this newsletter to 164 of our readers via e-mail. Our desire is to obtain as many e-mail addresses as possible.
- Pick Up Paper Copy at Church** — We are printing 85 copies for members who do not have e-mail and can pick up their copies at church.
- First Class Mail** — We are mailing about 30 copies, using the 44 cents First Class postage rate.



Photo by Michael Burrier

Salem's Christmas Party was held on December 10th. One of the highlights of the event was a visit from Santa. In the above photo, Santa talks to the children about the real meaning of Christmas... keeping the birth of Jesus first and foremost in their minds this Christmas.

Salem Ladies Christian Book Club Begins New Book

■ **By Joy Young**

The Salem Ladies Christian Book Club met in December to discuss the first 2 chapters of *God Has a Dream For Your Life* by Sheila Walsh.

The Book Club is a discussion group that focuses on Christian authors, spirituality and related topics. The club meets the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at our home in Myersville.

All Salem ladies and their friends are invited. For more information call Joy at 301-293-1317.

The next meeting will be January 4, 2012. The group will be discussing the third chapter. There are extra copies of the book for new members.

The book club encourages members and potential members to attend, even if you have not started the book or are not caught up, since our discussion is not solely reliant upon the book itself.

So, please join us whether you are at the first page or the end of chapter one or beyond!



Worship Committee to meet January 9th

■ **By Mary Alice Shankle**

Worship Committee Chairperson

Salem's Worship Committee will meet on January 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m. at our home in Myersville, to plan upcoming worship programs and events.

Members of the Worship Committee for 2012 are: Mary Alice Shankle (Chair); Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer (Communion Steward - Prepare & Serve), Susie Stottlemeyer (Communion Steward - Serve), Darlene Burrier (Communion Steward Assistant - Serve); Michael Burrier (Computer System Coordinator and Contemporary Service Representative); Joe Hawkins, Jim Laky & Donna Snyder (Computer System Operators); Olive Kline and Barbie Stottlemeyer (Flower Coordinators); Bill Burrier, Theresa Haupt, Amanda Hawkins, & Delores Myers (members).

LIVING, He loved me.

DYING, He saved me.

BURIED, He carried my sins far away.

RISING, He justified, freely, forever.

One day He's coming.

Oh glorious day!

—Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman

Who's Doing What, When?

JANUARY

9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Lay Reader

- 1 - Randy Freysz
- 8 - Phil Koons
- 15 - Steve Leatherman
- 22 - Brenda Freysz
- 29 - Fonda Gormer

Ushers

- 1 - Dick Kline & Steve Leatherman
- 8 - Vernon Stottlemeyer & Robin Haupt
- 15 - Donald Stottlemeyer & Meredith Harshman
- 22 - Philip Koons & Brandon Leatherman
- 29 - Richard Freysz & Vernon Stottlemeyer

Organist

- 1 - Krista Bussard
- 8 - Susan Koons
- 15 - Krista Bussard
- 22 - Susan Koons
- 29 - Krista Bussard

Greeters

- 1 - Bill & Darlene Burrier
- 8 - Anita & Richard Harshman
- 15 - George, Barbie, & Matt Stottlemeyer
- 22 - Brandon & Jessie Leatherman
- 29 - Joann & Steve Leatherman

Acolytes

- 1 - Ali Robinson
- 8 - Jadie Buhrman
- 15 - Ali Robinson
- 22 - Joshua Koons
- 29 - Jadie Buhrman

11:15 A.M. CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

An informal **FAMILY FRIENDLY** service with contemporary Christian music, pastor's sermon, children's time, sharing of joys and concerns, prayer, and multimedia to enhance the worship experience.

It's Your Day!

January Anniversaries

- 2 - Kyle and Leann Crutchley
- 16 - Charles & Christi Beall
- 21 - Charles and Dawn Brown

January Birthdays

- 3 - Donna Horn
- 6 - Patty Weagley
- 6 - Phoebe Sparks
- 7 - Dwayne Ledford
- 19 - Bill Buhrman
- 19 - Elizabeth Beall
- 19 - Della Hager
- 20 - Bradley Flook Jr.
- 21 - Joann Leatherman
- 22 - Lora McGraw
- 25 - Dennis Tolland
- 27 - Carley Weagley
- 31 - Chase Tyler Woods

TO ADD YOUR NAME to the anniversary and birthday lists, contact Bill Burrier at BillBurrier@verizon.net or call 301-293-2665.



CHILDREN are welcome to stay with their parents during the worship services. Children activity bags are available in the hallway just outside the sanctuary. The small tote bags contain Bible story books, small games, activity books, crayons, activity cards, etc. Please return it to its place at the end of the service.

Salem Youth Complete Communion Instruction

Congratulations to Jadie Buhrman, Sarah Burrier, Madison Elsbach, and Joey Hawkins for successfully completing communion instruction, taught by Pastor Bob Snyder.

The 3-week class was held on Sunday mornings November 13, 20, and 27, during Sunday School. The children were recognized during the worship services on December 4th, and each received a lapel pin featuring a mustard seed.

In the future, communion instruction will be included in confirmation classes (for youth about 12 years of age). A confirmation class will be organized in early 2012 for youth desiring to be confirmed in May 2012.

Holy Communion

JANUARY 1, 2012

9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Worship



NEW CEMETERY Now Open



To purchase a burial lot, contact
George Stottlemeyer at 301-293-2372

**BULLETIN BOARD
with a message**

**LIFE WITHOUT GOD
IS LIKE AN
UNSHARPENED PENCIL...
IT HAS NO POINT!**

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman



INSPIRATIONAL Reading

A New Year With the Lord

By M. S. Lowndes

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore.
Doors will open for new experiences
New adventures with the Lord.

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year.
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware.

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him.
And He will guide our every step,
By His presence we have within.

What God has placed within our hearts
We find we'll be able to do.
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through.

We mustn't let anything hold us back,
But rise up and take our place.
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace.

When Winter Comes

By John C. Bonser

When winter visits us at last
with many an icy, chilling blast
and scatters mounds of fallen leaves
until they hide in shrubs and eaves,
we mourn the gentle seasons past.

When snow comes down for many days
and hills are cloaked in silver haze,
when all the ground is frozen hard
and slippery slopes put us on guard,
we rail at winter's devious ways.

And yet, when winter brings as well
a log fire's own delightful smell
and rosy cheeks on each small face
as children play outside our place,
the snowballs fly and targets yell.

We find that winter's not so bad
but offers much to make us glad:
fond memories of holidays—
with loved ones shared in many ways—
that once in wintertime we had.

Give your all to Christ;
He gave His all for you.



RECIPE



HAM & PASTA BAKE

1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon dried minced onion
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
1/8 teaspoon pepper
2-1/2 cups milk

1 package (10 ounces) frozen
chopped broccoli, cooked
and drained
2 cups elbow macaroni, cooked
and drained
2 cups cubed fully cooked ham
3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Topping:

2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs

In a medium saucepan, combine the flour, onion, salt, mustard and pepper. Gradually stir in milk until blended. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Stir in broccoli, macaroni, ham and cheese. Transfer to an ungreased 2-quart baking dish. For topping, combine butter and bread crumbs. Sprinkle over macaroni mixture. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

Makes 6 servings.



In Sympathy



Jeffrey Alan Burns

Jeffrey Alan Burns, 50, of Waynesboro, Pa., died Wednesday, November 30, 2011, at the Waynesboro Hospital. Jeff was the fiancé of Salem member Dana Woods. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 5, at Salem United Methodist Church, Wolfsville. Pastor Bob Snyder officiated. Burial was in Salem United Methodist Church Cemetery. The Salem congregation expresses sincere sympathy to the family.

Keep Some Memory

By Tom Kolb, Frederick, MD

Keep some memory in your heart,
Or a favorite dream or two,
To draw from as the years go by,
When we are feeling blue.

Let some memory linger on,
Like a sunny day,
To give us light as time goes on,
When we have lost the way.

Keep that dream alive and well,
Always bright and clean,
And always let that memory dwell
In a place that you can lean.

So keep that memory stored away
In some sacred place,
Where moth and rust cannot corrupt
And time cannot erase.

Submitted by Olive Kline

The Country Church

By Loise Pinkerton Fritz

We sat together as a family
In that country church;
We worshiped there for many years
And oft the Gospel heard.

We sang great praises to God's name
And prayed to Him above;
There was a bond of unity
Which knew no bounds of love.

We shared the hope we found in Him,
The joy His presence brought;
We worked together faithfully,
Just as the Lord had taught.

So when my earthly day is spent,
I fain would take my flight
From that little country churchyard
To Heaven's home so bright.



By PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER

January 6th is Epiphany; not until then does the Christmas season come to an end. And what a Christmas season it has been. We are proud of our children and youth who worked hard and led us in a meaningful Christmas Eve musical at the 7 p.m. service. We sensed a bright future as we watched our younger children get up in public and do their best to share their recitations. We were inspired by the singing of the Adult Choir and left the service feeling as though our hearts had been opened to the true meaning of Christmas.

At the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service, we once again experienced both the love and holiness of God as we heard lessons and sang carols.

And this year we had the opportunity to be together as a church family to worship on Christ's birthday. At the Contemporary Service on Christmas Day, several adult members of the same family were baptized. What a great gift on Jesus' birthday.

As we enter 2012, we do so having been filled with God's love. May God bless you richly in this New Year.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Bob*

January 1st – Epiphany Sunday
Holy Communion
“The Visit of the Magi”
Matthew 2:1-12

Dianna Poling creates a gift item to include with the fruit baskets and flowers distributed by the congregation at Christmas. This year's gift was a colorful red and green Christmas wreath attached to the bottom of a large bookmark-size card inscribed with “The Meaning of the Christmas Wreath.”

The circle of the wreath represents Christ's never ending love, the entire wreath itself is a sign of welcome, and the hole in the center of the wreath is a reminder of the emptiness that would exist in our lives without Christ's love and grace.

Christmas is a season of twelve days, and today is Epiphany Sunday, the Sunday we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men (Magi) to baby Jesus in the stable where he was born. These were wise men — they seemed to know instinctively “The

WORSHIP in JANUARY



Meaning of the Christmas Wreath.” May we too seek this same wisdom.

January 8th – “A Welcoming Life”
Sermon Series

Week 1 - “Know Your Story”

We each have a story of how we came to claim Christ as our Lord and Savior. For some, it may have been a dramatic, almost lightning bolt-like experience. For others, it may have happened over time.

Martin Luther, who led the reformation of the church in the sixteenth century, had such a lightning bolt experience, after which he dedicated his life to Christ.

It was not until after John Wesley was already an Anglican priest that he one day “experienced his heart strangely warmed,” leaving him with the sure knowledge that even he was saved.

I was raised in the church; I can't point to an exact time and place. There is no “right” story. We're all different, so our faith stories are going to be different. Do you know your story? Have you said it to yourself?

January 15th – “A Welcoming Life”
Sermon Series

Week 2 - “Listen to Another's Story”

The key word in “Listen to Another's Story” is “listen.” The fact is, most of us are not good listeners. We naturally seem to want to talk rather than to listen.

Human communications is a complex endeavor. The person speaking must be able to put their thoughts into words. The listener must be able to hear these expressed thoughts without getting his own thoughts in the way. Most of us have played the circle game where one person secretly whispers a message to the ear of their neighbor and the message continues on around the circle, one person to another. The last person to receive the message reports to the group what they heard.

What is reported is rarely the statement that was started by the first person in the circle. Listening involves caring, concentration, and work. Listening to

another's story upholds that person. It brings worth to them. Listening to another's story brings our own story into sharper focus. With practice, we can become good listeners.

January 22nd – “A Welcoming Life”
Sermon Series

Week 3 - “Share Your Own Story”

Most of us are reluctant to share our own stories. There are various reasons why: We don't know our story, we don't think our story is worth sharing, we believe sharing might infringe on others personal space. But the choice to share really isn't our call, if we're obedient to God that is.

In Matthew 28:19, Christ says, “go and make disciples of all nations...” Christ commands us to “go and make disciples.” We can't make disciples if we are unwilling to share our own faith story.

So sharing involves commitment — we need to see it as a part of being a Christian. Sharing also involves empathy — reading a situation, meeting others where they are, and using good judgment.

We should not shy away from sharing. We should also have compassion for the other person when we share. Christ shared courageously, yet always with compassion. Christ spoke the truth, yet always in love; so can we.

January 29th - “A Welcoming Life”
Sermon Series

Week 4 - “Invite this Person into Your Life”

Stephen Ministries is a Christian care giving ministry. Care givers receive 50 hours of training, then they are assigned to a care receiver — a person going through a crisis in their lives. The care receiver agrees to meet one hour per week with their care giver. The care giver mostly listens. After the relationship grows, she might reflect back to the care receiver, some of the struggles she believes the care receiver is expressing. The care giver is not there to solve the other's crisis. The care giver is there to be Christ walking through the crises with the care receiver. The care giver has “invited this person into her life.”

Some of these care giving assignments last a month, others last a year or more — whatever it takes to be Christ to the care receiver and journey with that person through the crisis. Inviting a person into your life requires an unselfish and long term commitment to that person.

Christ is calling you to invite a person into your life — to point them to God. Who is that person? What will you do?

2012

*Serving the Lord in Wolfsville***SALEM CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2012**

EACH YEAR, church leaders are nominated by Salem's Committee on Nominations & Personnel, and then elected at the Charge Conference, which was held on October 23, 2011.

Administrative Council

Chair – Vernon Stottlemeyer
 Pastor – Bob Snyder
 Lay Leader – Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer
 Assistant Chair – Meredith Harshman
 Chair of Board of Trustees – George Stottlemeyer
 Evangelism Team Leader – Michael Burrier
 Chair of Finance Committee – Bill Burrier
 Chair of Outreach Committee – Barbie Stottlemeyer
 Chair of Pastor Parish Relations Committee – Robin Haupt
 Chair of Worship Committee – Mary Alice Shankle
 Church Communications Coordinator – Bill Burrier
 Church Historian – Bill Burrier
 Church Treasurer – Bill Burrier
 Family Ministry Co-Leaders – Joe Hawkins & Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer
 Financial Secretary – Lora McGraw
 Lay Member to Annual Conference – Michael Burrier
 UMW/Bee-lievers President – Fonda Gormer
 Secretary of Church Council – Theresa Haupt
 Sunday School Superintendent – Bobby Fogle
 Sunday School Treasurer – Mary Fogle
 Youth Group Co-Leaders – Jessie Leatherman (WildFire Grades 3-5) and Donna Snyder (Faith Builders Grades 6-9)
 Youth Member – Camden Raynor
 Young Adult Leader – Adam Robinson
 Young Adult Member – Jessie Leatherman
 Members-at-large – Howard Brandenburg, George Harne, Delores Myers, Matthew Stottlemeyer

Board of Trustees

Robin Haupt (2012), Randy Freysz (2012), George Stottlemeyer, Chair (2012), Bobby Fogle (2013), George Harne (2013), Donald Stottlemeyer (2013), Gary Barkdoll (2014), Richard Harshman (2014), Brandon Leatherman (2014)

Children's Coordinators – Caroline Buhman and Doris Fogle

Choirs

Adult Choir Director – Sandra Lewis
 Children's Choir Leader – Karyn Snyder

Church Organist – Krista Bussard and Susan Koons

Church Historian Assistants - Linda Hessong and Joy Sentz

Finance Committee

Bill Burrier (Chair), Bob Snyder (Pastor), Michael Burrier (Lay Member to Annual Conference), Vernon Stottlemeyer (Administrative Council Chairperson), Robin Haupt (Chairperson of PPR Committee), George Stottlemeyer (Chairperson of Trustees), Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer (Lay Leader), Lora McGraw (Financial Secretary), Bill Burrier (Treasurer), Bobby Fogle (Sunday School Superintendent), Barbie Stottlemeyer (Chairperson of Outreach), Mary Alice Shankle (Chairperson of Worship Committee), Meredith Harshman (Audit)

Local Lay Speakers

Michael Burrier and Amanda Hawkins

Serve the Lord with enthusiasm. Romans 12:11b

**Nominations & Leadership Development Committee**

Pastor - Bob Snyder (Chair), Lay Leader – Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer, Brandon Leatherman (2012), Steve Leatherman (2012), Lora McGraw (2012), Jennifer Burrier (2013), Ruth Draper (2013), Theresa Haupt (2013), Gary Barkdoll (2014), Susie Stottlemeyer (2014), Joy Young (2014)

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

Lay Leader – Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer, Lay Member to Annual Conference – Michael Burrier, Pastor – Bob Snyder, Brandon Leatherman (2012), Joe Hawkins (2012), Donald Stottlemeyer (2012), Michael Burrier (2013), Della Hager (2013), Roger Jackson (2013), Brenda Freysz (2014), Robin Haupt (2014) (Chair), Dawn Nelson (2014)

Sunday School

Superintendent – Bobby Fogle
 Treasurer – Mary Fogle
 Secretary – Lora McGraw
 Assistant Secretary – Bobby Fogle
 Librarian – Brandon Leatherman
 Nursery Class Teachers – Caroline Buhman & Anna Kate Draper
 Kindergarten Class Teachers – Jennifer Burrier, Michael Burrier, Joy Young
 Primary Class Teachers – Robin and Theresa Haupt
 Junior Class Teacher – Susie Stottlemeyer
 Middler Class Teacher – Fonda Gormer
 Senior High Class Teacher – N/A
 Young Adult Class Teacher – Adam Robinson
 Adult Discussion Group Teacher – Bill Burrier
 Men's Class Teachers – Bobby Fogle, George Harne, Meredith Harshman, & Dennis Leatherman
 Women's Class Teachers – Darlene Burrier, Mary Cline

Worship Committee

Mary Alice Shankle (Chair); Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer (Communion Steward - Prepare), Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer & Susie Stottlemeyer (Communion Stewards - Serve), Darlene Burrier (Communion Steward Assistant - Serve); Michael Burrier (Computer System Coordinator); Joe Hawkins, Jim Laky & Donna Snyder (Computer System Operators); Michael Burrier (Contemporary Service Representative), Olive Kline and Barbie Stottlemeyer (Flower Coordinators); Bill Burrier, Theresa Haupt, Amanda Hawkins, & Delores Myers (members)

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.

—Matthew 28:19



Salem's United Methodist Women "Bee-lievers"



Betty Brandenburg has stepped down as President of the Salem United Methodist Women "Bee-lievers" after 15 years: Recalls formation of the group and wonderful ministry projects.

■ By Bill Burrier

In January 1997, 15 years ago, a faithful group of women at Salem decided to form a new group to be known as Salem's United Methodist Women "Bee-lievers". With the encouragement of a new pastor, Pastor Randy Reid, who had been appointed to the Wolfsville Charge the previous July, Salem's women came together to form the group.

In addition to setting goals and purposes, the women wanted to come up with a catchy name. In remembering back, Betty notes, "The group had chosen three or four possible names and then voted." The name "Bee-lievers" got the most votes. When asked about the unusual spelling, Betty said the name connotes two meanings, the obvious one is that they are believers in Christ, and the other is that they expect to be "busy as bees".

Betty was elected the president and remained in that position for 15 years, just recently announcing her retirement from the position. When asked about her tenure as president, Betty emphasized that it's always a group effort, everyone working together. She has a great affection for the group saying, "There is lots of love between us; we care about each other. It has been a wonderful experience to work with the group."

Betty insists that everything they do is a group effort, working together, helping one another. She affectionately recalls the assistance and encouragement she received from the late Linda Kline in those early days when the group was newly formed. Betty also has admiration for the others who serve the group in leadership positions, saying what a good job they all do. The group also is attentive to Salem's sick and shut-ins. They send greeting cards, signed by all the group members.

The Bee-lievers are, in fact, as the name implies, busy as bees. When asked about the groups projects, Betty indicated two projects that are continually high on their list: (1) making crafts and fancy needlework projects to sell at the annual

Lord's Acre Festival (they work all year to ensure a good variety of items are available), and (2) support of the United Methodist Board of Child Care Auxiliary (their work supports the care of homeless or abused children).

When Pastor Bob first came to Salem, Betty spoke to him about the important work of the Board of Child Care Auxiliary. He recalls the conversation, saying, "Shortly after being appointed to Salem, Betty gave me a call inviting me to the Board of Child Care Auxiliary meeting. Through Betty, I learned about the important work of the Board of Child Care and how, under Betty's leadership, Salem has supported this important ministry over the years."

Betty also emphasized numerous other "Bee-lievers" projects, such as collecting labels for the Board of Child Care, serving suppers to the Wolfsville Ruritan Club, fund-raisers, food stands at public sales, and teaming with Salem's outreach functions to provide funeral luncheons, food boxes and fruit baskets at Christmas and Easter, and many more. The group is a "can-do" group of women — they step forward whenever a need arises. Betty recalls that years ago, they even made costumes for the Christmas programs.

Betty has a humble spirit and does not wish to take credit for anything the group has done. Again, she speaks of a group effort, always, and she is grateful for the recent new members. But, as president of the organization, we commend her for her 15 years of faithful service in that position.

Pastor Bob reiterates his conversation with Betty about her decision to step down as President of the Bee-lievers, saying, "Due to health reasons, Betty is no longer able to serve in the church in some of the ways she loved to serve. Being so active in the past, I'm sure this has been difficult for her, yet she has handled it with dignity and grace, and continues to serve well in ways she can. Many times



Betty Brandenburg
Retiring President of the Salem United
Methodist Women "Bee-lievers"

when visiting a person who is in the hospital or is recovering at home, I'll hear that Betty has sent them a card or given them a call. Betty continues to be a good role model for us."

Pastor Bob continues "Recently, Betty approached me about stepping down as President of the Bee-lievers/United Methodist Women group. She shared that she wasn't able to attend meetings and contribute to activities and events in the way she felt a group leader should, and that bothered her. Encouraged by others to stay on as President, Betty held fast that it was time for her to step down. When you love serving the church as she does, that's a difficult thing to do, and I respect her for it."

Although Betty will no longer be an officer, she will continue to be as active as she can. She has a passion for helping the children at the Board of Child Care Auxiliary, and she will continue to be Salem's contact for the auxiliary.

The presidential torch is being passed to the very capable Fonda Gormer, effective January 2012. Fonda faithfully served as secretary of the group, effectively keeping everyone informed of events and activities through her monthly articles in this newsletter.



SUNDAY EVENINGS for 8 WEEKS

BIBLE STUDY *at Salem*

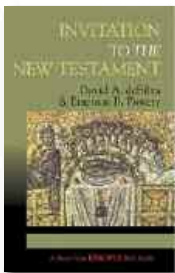


Sign Up for the Short-term Bible Study Coming in January 2012

■ By Pastor Bob Snyder

As a follow-on to the Bible's Five Big Stories sermon series, I'd encourage you to sign up for the 8-week Bible Study, *Invitation to the New Testament*.

I will teach the study, which is being planned to start in January on Sunday evenings at the church, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Once the group is formed, we can decide how child care will be provided.



Invitation to the New Testament

Using Matthew's Gospel as a starting point, this study explores how the New Testament writers and the early Christian community wrestled with the coming of Jesus— his life, actions, mission, death, and resurrection— and the implications of his arrival for their lives and their communities of faith.

Study Contents:

1. Jesus Calls Us Into God's Redemption Story
2. Jesus Calls Us to a Transformed Life
3. Jesus Calls Us to Minister to a Hostile World
4. Jesus Calls Us to Complex Communities of Faith
5. Jesus Calls Us to Serve One Another
6. Jesus Calls Us to a New Relationship With Tradition
7. Jesus Calls Us to Live in Light of His Coming Again
8. Jesus Calls Us to Experience the Gifts of His Dying and Rising

Moving through the Gospel of Matthew sequentially, the overarching themes from this story of Jesus provide the conversation topics for each of the eight sessions. Each theme is then traced through other related passages in the New Testament.

Who is Jesus and what is his significance for our lives? Participants are invited to join this conversation, to study afresh this story of Jesus, and to learn

Study begins Sunday, January 8, 2012

.....
more about their calling to discipleship and to community.

Authors:

David deSilva - Professor of New Testament and Greek at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, OH.
Emerson Powery - Chair of the Department of Theology and Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Lee University in Cleveland, TN.

In addition to the authors, video segments feature these scholars:

Amy-Jill Levine - E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, TN.

Bishop William Willimon - Bishop of the Birmingham Area, Southeastern Jurisdiction, of The United Methodist Church.

K. K. Yeo - Henry R. Kendall Associate Professor of New Testament at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.

Leadership Days

Training by the Western Region for clergy, church leaders, laity and others who want to take a more active leadership role in their church.



A Leadership Day will be held on **Saturday, January 28, 2012**, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Otterbein United Methodist Church, 108 East Franklin Street, Hagerstown. (Snow date is February 4, 2012.)

Leadership Day provides individualized training, through workshops, in several areas that will help the participant gain deeper understanding and broader insights into themselves, their congregations and the communities in which they serve. The expected result is spiritual leaders living transformed lives and transformational ministries.

The schedule for the day is:

- 8:30 – 9:00 Check-in
- 9:00 – 9:15 Praise and Worship

- 9:15-10:15 Plenary "Biblical Models for Leadership and Change"
- 10:15 – 11:15 Workshop 1
- 11:15 – 12:15 Workshop 2

Of the 7 areas in each worship, each participant is asked to select one in each:

Workshop 1

- Youth Ministries - *Chris Bishop*
- Finance - *Paul Eichelberger*
- Trustee - *Steve Robison*
- Stewardship - *Frank Robert*
- Adopting a New Church DNA - *Conrad Link*
- How to Start a Healing Ministry in Your Church - *Linda Warehime & The Healing Team*
- Missional Evangelism Encounter - *William T. Chaney Jr.*

Workshop 2

- Staff Parish Relations Committee - *Sue Collins*
- Dealing with Difficult People - *William T. Chaney Jr.*
- Mission Bones—the What, Why & How of Mission - *Barbara Suffecool*
- A Preview of General Conference - *Terri Rae Chattin*
- Blessings & Challenges of the Small Membership Church - *Ed Grove*
- "E" Stands for East in E-Newsletters - *Penny Gaver (Ridenour)*
- Stewardship - *Frank Robert*

The cost is \$25 per person. Registration deadline is January 15, 2012.

For more information visit:

www.bwcumc.org/academy/westernleadership

Heavenly Humor

by REVERENDFUN.COM



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Good thing I found you Gideon ... it seems someone has been hiding all your Bibles in hotel rooms.

Submitted by Vicki Robinson

THROUGH the EYES of a CHILD ...



Dear God:

I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that OK? —Neil

Dear God:

If you watch in church on Sunday, I will show you my new shoes. —Mickey

Dear God:

We read that Thomas Edison made light, but in Sunday School they said you did it. So I bet he "stoled" your idea. —Donna

Dear God:

I think the stapler is one of your best inventions. —Ruth

Dear God:

You don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways. —Dean

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

Some thoughts to ponder . . .

Encouraging a friend or co-worker open an opportunity to share God's love.

Placing God first in all that we do will develop within us a healthy confidence.

When life's storms come, friends and family can be true blessings. Let's return the blessings as we are needed.

The Mountain Shepherd

Salem United Methodist Church
12477-79 Wolfsville Road
Myersville, MD 21773-9303

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Address Services Requested

Place Stamp Here

Happy New Year 2012
January

TWO WORSHIP SERVICES

— Every Sunday —
9:00 a.m. Traditional
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Contemporary

COME GROW WITH US

Positive • Encouraging • Uplifting

