



Salem United Methodist Church—Wolfsville

INSIDE



Chris enjoys the Ping-Pong Tournament
Details on page 11

Missions 2
 Christmas at Salem 3
 Attendance & Offerings 4
 Food Pantry Update 4
 Calendar of Events 5
 News & Notes 5
 Who's Doing What, When? . 6
 It's Your Day! 6
 Inspirational Reading 7
 Recipe 7
 In Sympathy 7
 Baptism 7
 From Our Pastor 8
 Pastor's Vision for Salem . . . 9
 Hero's Club 10
 Ping-Pong Tournament 11
 Heavenly Humor 12
 Whoever Started This...? . . 12

Celebrate the Christmas season with us... at Salem in Wolfsville

Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 8th

■ By Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer

Merry Christmas! You are invited to the fourth annual Salem Christmas Party to be held at the church on Saturday, December 8th, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Come together as a church family for an evening of fellowship and outreach to the community. A potluck dinner will be enjoyed by all. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Fun activities and crafts are being planned for the children. We will be playing the exchange game, so all adults and kids, please bring a small *wrapped*, inexpensive gift (less than \$3). Those of you who wish, after dinner and games, bring your voices, warm clothes and smiles, as we go caroling to some of the homes near the church. This will be a special outreach to our Wolfsville neighbors as we spread Christmas cheer.

A highlight of the evening for children and adults alike will be a special return appearance by the jolly man in red. Santa Claus has agreed to take time out of his busy schedule to visit Salem, meet with the chil-



Santa will attend Salem's Christmas Party with a special Christmas message about the "real reason for the season, the birth of Jesus." [Photo from last year's party.]

dren, and deliver a **special Christmas message about the real reason for the season, the birth of Jesus.**

This event is a great opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors to share in the Christmas celebration. Those interested in helping during the event should contact Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer at 301-293-1470 or ses1313@comcast.net.

Last year's event was a real blessing. We hope to see you and your family on the evening of the 8th.

Twenty-nine Shoe Boxes Filled for Operation Christmas Child

■ By Barbie Stottlemeyer

On November 19, 2012, I delivered to the Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick, 29 beautifully wrapped shoe boxes, each filled with gifts to be sent to poor and underprivileged children in other countries, through Operation Christmas Child. Through your thoughtfulness and generosity, these children will be able to experience the joy of receiving Christmas gifts this year.



Thank you to each and every one who participated in this annual event. A special thank you to those who wrapped the boxes and those who donated money for postage.

The Mountain Shepherd

Published monthly by Salem United Methodist Church – Wolfsville.
Our mailing address is 12477-79
Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD 21773-9303

EDITOR: William G. Burrier
P. O. Box 94
Myersville, MD 21773-0094
E-Mail: BillBurrier@verizon.net

Articles without a byline are written
by the editor.

PASTOR

Robert E. Snyder
12477 Wolfsville Road
Myersville, MD 21773-9303
Parsonage Phone: 301-293-1616
Cell Phone: 240-994-0825
Email address: revbsnyder@comcast.net

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, Staff-Parish Relations: *Robin Haupt*
Chair, Evangelism: *Michael Burrier*

SALEM MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Current Membership: 231
Sunday School Enrollment: 92
2012 New Members: 12

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 mem-
bers, their families, and our many friends of
the Wolfsville community and surrounding
areas. We pray that this newsletter will in-
spire 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.



2012 MISSION PROJECTS

		Monthly Minimum	Paid Jan-Oct	2012 Goal	% of Goal
1	Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer Retired Senegal Missionaries	\$204	\$2,040.00	\$2,448	83%
2	Operation Christmas Child Postage for Shoe Boxes - Samaritan's Purse - November	—	0	\$355	0%
3	Salem Mission & Outreach Supports human needs as determined by Salem	—	\$522.51	\$1,180	44%
4	Salem Food Pantry Open every Monday 6:00-7:00 p.m.	—	\$975.82	\$1,180	83%
5	Mary E. - Africa Inland Mission Working in Tanzania, Africa	\$85	\$864.00	\$1,020	85%
6	United Methodist Board of Child Care Care of Homeless or Abused Children	—	950.00	\$1,360	70%
7	Gideons International Frederick County - West Camp - Distributing Bibles	\$110	\$1,100.00	\$1,320	83%
8	Potato Project Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, Virginia	\$60	\$600.00	\$720	83%
9	Middletown High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$47	\$470.00	\$564	83%
10	Mission Trip Destination to be determined	—	0	\$2,295	0%
11	Ronnie & Angi Hopkins The Mission Society - Mission Work in Nicaragua	\$64	\$676.00	\$768	88%
12	Care Net Pregnancy Center 707 N. Market Street, Frederick, MD	\$64	\$651.00	\$768	85%
13	Compassion International Sponsored children in Ecuador & India	\$76	\$775.00	\$972	80%
14	Local Mission Projects Supporting local repair or renovation needs	—	0	\$1,250	0%

Total 2012 Mission Goal: **\$16,170**

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.



Board of Child Care
Falling Waters Campus

Salem Mission Project No. 5 BOARD OF CHILD CARE BALTIMORE & FALLING WATERS CAMPUSES

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING — The Board of Child Care (BOCC) is an agency within the United Methodist Church that is dedicated to ministering to the needs of troubled children and their families.

The BOCC takes care of children by providing some long term places to stay and schools they can attend while there, as well as sponsoring children for adoption and day care. It is a unique ministry, dedicated to helping children and families in their greatest time of need.

Each year, the entire offering received at Salem's Christmas Eve program is given to the Board of Child Care. Please pray and help with this offering as best you can. Every penny makes a difference to help a child.



CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTH

CHRISTMAS *at* SALEM**Poinsettias to adorn Salem sanctuary**

Salem members and friends were given the opportunity to purchase poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend.

This year's choices were red, white, and pink. Mary Alice Shankle is coordinating the poinsettia orders, which are due December 2nd.

The sanctuary also is decorated with a 12-foot Norway Fir Christmas Tree, wreaths in the windows and on the outside doors, banners, and numerous manger scenes.

The Christmas, which are Christian symbols representing Jesus Christ, were hand-made by Salem members. Ornamental balls on the tree were also made by Salem members and contain a small tag identifying the family who made it. All are white and gold.

**Christmas Eve Program**

Salem's Christmas Eve Program at 7:00 p.m. will include the youth and children portraying the Christmas story. The children will dress up at the beginning of the service and go to the front of the church with Pastor Bob.

The children will also have recitations and a program. Salem's adult choir will sing and there will be candle lighting at the end.

**Adult Choir**

■ **By Sandy Lewis**

Salem's Adult Choir will present a musical entitled "The Spirit of Christmas" during the Christmas Eve Service, Monday December 24, 2012.

This musical combines the original creations of Marty Parks along with familiar carols. As each selection transitions into a familiar carol, the congregation can join in and be part of the musical. This will be a great time of celebrating the birth of our Savior in song.

Salem Bee-lievers to host annual cookie exchange

■ **By Fonda Gormer**

The Bee-lievers will host their annual cookie exchange at their regular business meeting on December 6, at 7 p.m. in the church social area. Each person attending is asked to bring a batch of cookies and the recipe to share. Extra cookies will be donated for the Hero's Club Christmas party. Everyone attending is invited to bring a Christmas reading, poem or scripture to share for devotions.

As part of the meeting, the Bee-lievers will be making jigsaw puzzle piece wreaths for the Wolfsville Elementary School Christmas Store. Bring your scissors and a glue gun or Tacky Glue. Several of the ladies have been working on snowmen ornaments, beaded canes, and felt mice with candy cane tails for the store. The goal is to provide 240 items for the school children to purchase for Christmas gifts. Any women of the congregation are invited to attend the Bee-lievers meetings.

**Salem Mission Project No. 5****A LETTER from MARY — "Transition and Change"**
Africa Inland Mission, Tanga, Tanzania, East Africa

NOVEMBER 2012 — Over the last year I have been praying about this term, and what God would have me do afterwards. I felt quite strongly that this should be my last term in this location. I started this term with this conviction, and my goal is to transition my story groups to our pastor and his wife. As my other teammates are also leaving at the same time, there is a lot of transition work to be done. We are intentionally focusing on strengthening relationships between believers on opposite sides of the bush and those in neighboring villages. We've been encouraged by the response we've seen so far, as they realize that the more established church does care for them. Amani school will also continue to run.

I am excited about the next six months. Please join us in prayer for maturity in these new believers, for transitions of story groups and project accounts to go smoothly, and for the name of Jesus to be exalted. God has been reminding me that this work is His, and He will complete it.

Our Tanzanian pastor and his wife

are continuing on in the village, and we are praying for God to raise up more workers, from both within the local community and elsewhere.

As I prayed for clarity in my next step, God has opened the door for a plan which leaves me with a great sense of peace and anticipation. In my last newsletter I wrote about a trip I was anticipating, where I joined Wendy in leading a workshop among a team working in central Tanzania. During that time God confirmed my desire to be part of this kind of equipping ministry, enabling churches and outreach teams to develop indigenous songs to worship God, encourage believers, and teach Truth. Ideally, this ministry could be done in partnership



with a local outreach such as I have been involved in.

With the support of my leaders, my plan, God willing, is to leave my current ministry in early June 2013. I will then join Wendy for 5 months, to travel and work with her in leading ethnomusicology workshops. According to our current plans, these workshops will take place in 8 different countries, mainly located in central and east Africa. I plan to work with Wendy for 5 months, and then return to the States for my scheduled home assignment in early December 2013.

With thankfulness! —*Mary*



Attendance & Offerings

OCTOBER 2012

		Worship*		Sunday School	
Oct	7	76	\$1,575.09	55	\$229.00
Oct	14	95	2,914.83	58	205.50
Oct	21	62	1,106.24	44	73.50
Oct	28	103	1,552.00	46	145.25

	Average Attendance	
	Worship	Sunday School
Oct	84	51
Sept	90	61
Aug	84	53
Jul	80	58
Jun	100	55
May	92	48

*Worship attendance & offerings include both worship services.

- **Missions:** \$1,078.34
- **Pavilion Fund:** \$160.00
- **Building & Imp. Fund:** \$286.00
- **Cemetery Endowment:** \$10.00

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

Average Attendance Jan-Oct 2012
 Sunday Worship: 91
 Sunday School: 56

Salem Mission Project No. 4

Food Pantry Day: Changing from Monday to Tuesday



Photo by Dawn Nelson

■ By Dawn Nelson

In July we started to record information about the families we serve. From July 23rd to November 5th, we have served 26 families. Two of them are families of 6, 3 of them are families of 5 and of 4. We serve one family from a Sabillasville address and the rest are equally divided between Myersville and Smithsburg addresses.

I want to thank those who have recently spent time helping to staff the pantry— Mabel Wolfe, Amy McCormick and her son Paul, Joy Young, and a special thank you to Nancy Ferguson who has been there faithfully each week. Nancy has a compassion for those who are in need in our community and she always greets them with a hug and a big smile, making them feel welcome.

Also, thank you for your food donations and monetary donations, which allow us to purchase needed items. A special thank you to Randy and Karen Sowers of South Mountain Creamery who have just advised us of their desire to donate eggs to our food pantry. At the time of this writing, I am planning to pick up 15 dozen eggs from their farm.

Food Pantry day is changing from Monday to Tuesday

In December, we will be changing our operation day to Tuesday, so that it will not conflict with Hero's Club and our quarterly Ruritan dinners. Also, we are currently working on new guidelines to better serve



Nancy Ferguson works at stocking the shelves of our Food Pantry.

and distribute food to families.

We have seen small miracles with our pantry. A woman with children asked us to pray for her to get a job. A month later, she came back to say "Thank You for our prayers." She said, "I have a job and even get overtime."

So please pray and lift up our Food Pantry families, especially during the holidays. Times are hard— we see it personally through the eyes and the testimonies of our families that we serve.

Salem's Food Pantry
 Available to needy families with Myersville, Smithsburg, and Sabillasville addresses.

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth. —1 John 3:17-18



December

Calendar of Events

Wed	5	Ladies Christian Book Club - 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Joy Young's home
Thu	6	UMW Bee-lievers - 7:00 p.m. at Salem Board of Trustees - 7:30 p.m. at Salem
Sat	8	Christmas Party - 5:00 p.m. at Salem
Thu	13	Administrative Council - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
Sat	15	Assemble Food Boxes & Fruit Baskets - 9 a.m. at Salem
Mon	24	Christmas Eve Program - 7:00 p.m. at Salem Parsonage Open House - 8:30 p.m. Candlelight Service - 11:00 p.m.

NOTES: Adult Choir meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise announced)
Food Pantry is open every Tuesday 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Salem (Note change of day)
Walking Group meets every Saturday morning at Doub's Park at 8 a.m.
Praise Band practices every Wednesday evening at Salem at 7:00 p.m.
Ladies Exercise Group meets every Wednesday evening at Salem at 5:30 p.m.
Hero's Club meets every Monday 3:30-6:00 p.m. when school is open
Faith Builders Youth Group meets every Thursday evening 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Salem



Newsletter Distribution

- E-Mail** — We are currently sending this newsletter to 178 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 45 cents First Class postage rate.

A Letter from our Sponsored Child

Dear Salem:

Hello, how are you? I greet you from my beautiful community Miutsentsa. I'm in good health. I would like to tell you that I learned many things in school and we're going to end the school year in July so I have to study very hard to be able to take exams during this time and pass to the new school year. I want to thank you for the boots, for the educational material, and for the help you give me. I want to ask you— have you been in the jungle? What are the names of your best friends? My best friend is named Mariela. We're both planning to have fun on this vacation. I want to ask you to pray for my dad that I never met. I say bye. Take care very much. God bless you richly. —*Natali Vargas*



NEWS & NOTES

Sunday School teacher needed

Bobby Fogle, Salem's Sunday School Superintendent, has advised that a teacher is needed for the Junior Class (4th & 5th graders). If you are interested, please contact Bobby at 301-416-0856.

Hero's Club receives grant for 2013

In September, Salem submitted a grant application to the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church requesting financial support for the Hero's Club After School Ministry.

We are pleased to report that the grant was approved for \$1,000. This funding, in addition to student tuition, will help cover the expenses of the ministry leader's salary, snacks, craft supplies, and scholarships for middle or high school student helpers.

Hero's Club also receives scholarship support from the Wolfsville Ruritan Club.

Hero's Club is a Biblically-centered club for students in pre-school through 5th grade. Meeting every Monday afternoon when Frederick County schools are open, from 3:30 to 6:00 pm, we look at trust, courage, forgiveness, obedience and love through the eyes of our Biblical heroes. Students will move between homework help, activities such as crafts, music, or games, and hear a Bible story. Growing closer to one another and closer to God, students will gain greater self-confidence and grow in their faith. Each family is asked to contribute \$20 per student, per month, as they are able.



The "Works In Progress" Community Praise Band is providing special music at Salem's 9 a.m. traditional worship service on the second Sunday of each month, and will lead worship at Salem's 11:15 a.m. contemporary service on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The band has played at other area churches, this year's Lord's Acre Festival, and recently at the United Methodist Board of Child Care campus, Falling Waters, West Virginia. Band members are Lori Williamson, Susie Stottlemeyer, Amanda Hawkins, Dawn Nelson, Donna Snyder, Jim Laky, and Michael Burrier.

Who's Doing What, When?

DECEMBER

9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Lay Reader

2 - Mary Cline
9 - Brenda Freysz
16 - Robin Haupt
23 - Mary Alice Shankle
30 - Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer

Ushers

2 - Dick Kline & Steve Leatherman
9 - Vernon Stottlemeyer & Robin Haupt
16 - Donald Stottlemeyer & Meredith Harshman
23 - Philip Koons & Brandon Leatherman
30 - Robin Haupt & Vernon Stottlemeyer

Organist

2 - Susan Koons
9 - Susan Koons
16 - Joann Leatherman
23 - Susan Koons
30 - Susan Koons

Greeters

2 - Donald & Susie Stottlemeyer
9 - Bill & Caroline Buhrman
16 - George, Barbie, & Matt Stottlemeyer
23 - Gary & Wanda Barkdoll & Family
30 - Bob & Petie Stup

Acolytes

2 - Paul McCormick
9 - Jadie Buhrman
16 - Kenslie Buhrman
23 - Joshua Koons
30 - Joshua Koons

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!

December Anniversaries

3 - Ronald and Amy Ellis
23 - Jon and Fonda Gormer
24 - Dennis & Ruth Draper

December Birthdays

3 - Joe Hawkins
4 - Judith Harne
4 - Dottie Hager
6 - Cody Blickenstaff
9 - Mark Koons
9 - Theresa Haupt
11 - Amber Breneman
12 - Laura Barnhart
17 - Holly Rippeon
18 - Holly Brashears
21 - Melanie Raynor
22 - Kelton Bullock
23 - Bill Burrier
25 - Stuart Tolland
28 - Lavena Jenkins
29 - Jackson Haddock

NOTE: To have your anniversary or birthday added, contact Bill Burrier.



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.

Photo by Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer



Laura Snyder focuses on her opponent in the recent "Salem Slam" Ping-Pong Tournament.

Holy Communion
December 2, 2012
First Sunday in Advent
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

WHEN PRAYING
DON'T GIVE GOD INSTRUCTIONS,
JUST REPORT FOR DUTY.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman



Read the **OUR DAILY BREAD**
Daily Devotional
at www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org



**INSPIRATIONAL
Reading**

Christmas Is More

By Berniece Ayers Hall

Christmas is more than candle-lighted trees
Or stockings hung to bulge with mysteries,
More than a glowing fire on home's bright hearth
Or warm goodwill encircling the earth.

More than the joy of friendship and good cheer
Mirrored in eyes this magic time of year,
Or carols sung, or precious gifts we choose.
These things belong, but Christmas is good news

Of God's own love to us, a sacred place
With starlight shining on a Baby's face,
And seeking pilgrims of all centuries
In reverent silence gathered on their knees.

Christmas is all of these, and vastly more—
Hearts that are glad to worship and adore.



Christmas Gifts

By Alberto Dredla

Of all the gifts
That Christmas brings,
The best are made
Of little things:



Melody of carols all the year,
Cheer to friends that you hold dear;
Courage to someone else to start
Some task for which he hasn't heart;

Thoughts for those having less than you,
Faith though the future's not in view;
Fun and laughter to go everywhere,
Kindness to show how much you care;
Strength to begin all over again,
And love to seek the best in every man.

While other seasons come and go
And another year hurries past,
Let's give again the little things . . .
They are the gifts that last.

This year, whatever we give, let it be
accompanied with genuine love and joy,
in the spirit of Him whose birthday we
are about to celebrate. Let it be a
part of ourselves that we give, for then
the receiver and the giver will be blest.

—Esther Baldwin York

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given. —Isaiah 9:6



RECIPE



Winter Sausage Bake

- 1 pound sausage links, cut in 1" pieces
- 6 medium white potatoes, sliced thin
- 1/2 medium head cabbage, coarsely chopped
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground pepper

Brown the sausage until golden brown. Place half of it in the bottom of a large 2-1/2 quart oblong baking dish. Add half of the sliced potatoes and sprinkle with half of the flour and salt. Add half the chopped cabbage. Repeat, using the ingredients in the same order. Sprinkle pepper on top. Pour the milk over the dish and bake in a preheated oven at 375 degrees for 1 hour. If using a deep baking dish, increase the baking time by approximately 15 minutes.

Note: Adjust the amount of salt if the sausage is bland. Serves 4-6.



IN SYMPATHY

Zane L. Metzger, Sr.

March 20, 1936 - November 21, 2012

Zane L. Metzger, Sr., 76, of Hagerstown, died Wednesday, November 21, 2012, at his residence. He grew up in the Wolfsville area and was a member of Salem United Methodist Church, Wolfsville. He is survived by eight children, seven sisters, fifteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 24, 2012, with Pastor Randy Reid officiating. Burial was in St. Mark's Lutheran Cemetery, Wolfsville.

The Salem congregation expresses sincere sympathy to the family.



Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

—Wesley

BAPTISM



CHEYENNE NICOLE LEATHERMAN

On Sunday, October 28, 2012, the Salem congregation celebrated the baptism of Cheyenne Nicole Leatherman. Cheyenne is the daughter of Brandon and Jessie Leatherman, Harp Hill Road. The service, officiated by Pastor Bob Snyder, was attended by many friends and family members. We welcome Cheyenne into the family of God through the waters of baptism. God bless you.

Love the Lord your God with all
your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all
your strength. —Mark 12:30

*From the
Pastor*



By PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER

Pastor's Notes — ...Worship in December



.....

calls us to be watchful and righteous.

On Sunday, December 2, the season of Advent begins. Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” When we hear the word Advent, most of us think about the coming of baby Jesus into the world. But Advent is primarily about Jesus’ final return to judge the world, conquer evil, and restore all of creation. The promise of Jesus’ resurrection and Jesus’ final return fulfills the meaning of Jesus’ birth.

We know now what Mary and Joseph only pondered when they gazed at Jesus in the manger: Jesus revealed God, Jesus taught humankind how to live, Jesus died for our sins, Jesus conquered death, Jesus will make a final return, and through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is present to help us through life. Advent is primarily about claiming these promises and living a life worthy of them.

True joy at Christmas comes not from trees, ornaments, gifts, etc. True joy comes from trust and obedience all year long in God our heavenly Father who sent his Son into the world on Christmas day to save us. May you claim that joy as your own and may you have a blessed Advent and Christmas! In Christ’s service. —*Pastor Bob*

December 2 – First Sunday in Advent Holy Communion “Watchfulness, Righteousness” Luke 21:25-36

Those who should have been most prepared for Jesus’ birth were caught by surprise. The most religious of the day didn’t notice that the Savior had come. It was the shepherds who noticed. They were most prepared. They had trained themselves to be watchful. God’s messengers, the angels, came to the shepherds to announce Jesus’ birth. And once the shepherds were told Jesus had arrived, they obeyed and went to worship Jesus.

We are called to be watchful for Jesus’ final coming. We all need to be prepared for that day when all will be judged. We are also called to live righteous lives – to seek to do the right thing as seen through God’s eyes. Being watchful for God’s guidance and support helps us to live righteous lives. On this First Sunday of Advent, God

December 9 – Second Sunday in Advent “Fruits, Promise” Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist was God’s messenger calling the people to repent for their sins. For some, asking God to forgive them for their sins became hollow words. After receiving forgiveness, they went right back to sinning in the same way again. But there were some who turned from their sins and sought to live righteous lives and their obedience brought forth fruit for the Lord. God promises that those who believe will be saved. God promises that Jesus will come again to restore heaven and earth. God’s reliability in the past provides us with strength and hope for today and the future. On this Second Sunday of Advent, God calls us to bear fruit and trust in his promise.

December 16 – Third Sunday in Advent “Rejoicing” Luke 1:7-18

This Sunday in Advent is sometimes referred to as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete in Latin means “rejoice.” It is on this third Sunday that we are lighting the rose colored advent candle to represent our rejoicing in God. John the Baptist was always pointing forward to Jesus. In the same way, we are called to look beyond ourselves to God who is out in front of us leading our way forward.

Sometimes we trust that the material things of Christmas are enough to bring us the joy we seek this time of year. We find they fall short. On December 26, the build up to Christmas is over, Christmas Day has come and gone, and we’re no happier than we were before. The things we trust in to bring happiness often fall short. True joy comes from patient trust and obedience in God. On this Third

Sunday of Advent, God calls us to rejoice!

December 23 – Fourth Sunday in Advent “Good News” Luke 1:19-55

The words to remember for this week are “Good News.” The word Gospel means “good news.” So when we say the Gospel of, we’re really saying the Good News of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – the good news that God sent Jesus to save the world.

From the Bible, we already know the finish of God’s plan: Christ will come a final time to judge all, defeat evil, and restore creation. On Christmas, we celebrate the day when God started to put this plan into action. And we live our lives in the time between start and finish, a time when God is directing history toward its completion, active in the world and in our lives. It all started on the day God decided to come and live with us to show us the way. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, God calls us to live in keeping with his good news.

December 24 – Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program 8:30 p.m. Parsonage Open House 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

December 30 – First Sunday after Christmas Day “Simeon and Anna” Luke 2:21-40

Eight days after Jesus’ birth, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to be presented; he was circumcised and given the name Jesus, which means “the chosen one.” While they were in the temple, a man named Simeon met them. Simeon praised God for allowing him to meet Jesus. Simeon witnessed his faith to Mary and Joseph. Then they were met by a woman named Anna. She was very devout, worshipping in the temple, fasting, and praying. She gave God thanks for Jesus and spoke about the child to all who had been hoping for the coming a Savior.

Several persons have been prominent in the Christmas story: Zechariah and Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph, the angels and shepherds, the Wise Men. Simeon and Anna aren’t usually the first we think of regarding the Christmas story yet their lives seem to capture all the words we’ve looked at each week during Advent: watchfulness and righteousness, fruits and promise, rejoicing, and Good News. Simeon and Anna seem to represent all those who strive to live out the Advent and Christmas message every day of the year.

Our PASTOR'S VISION . . . for Salem in Wolfsville



Submitted to the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church
October 21, 2012

By PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER

Salem's Mission Statement

At Salem, with God's help, we pledge to: INVITE others to Christ, HELP each other grow in faith, and SERVE those in need in our congregation, the community, and the world.

Salem's Vision Statement

We will direct our efforts out into the community to serve people's needs and bring them to Christ.

Faith Celebration (INVITE, HELP)

Continue to strive for worship and preaching that are scripturally sound, interesting, and relevant to the needs of people in their daily lives. Continue to build our worship team in the contemporary service so we can select from a larger set of methods/media: audio, video, props, skits, witness talks, live music, etc. Remain attuned to the needs of the disabled in worship. Deliver at least five sermon series during 2013.

Faithful Connections (HELP)

Conduct monthly youth group meetings and events for 3rd through 5th graders, and monthly events for families, including children preschool through 2nd grade. Conduct weekly youth group meetings and monthly events for middle and high school youth. Continue to build a young adult group, including frequent contact with our college students living outside of the area. Begin to build a seniors group, meeting at least monthly. Nurture existing small groups: United



Methodist Women, choir, praise band, exercise group, woman's book club, youth groups, and short-term Bible studies. Encourage formation of additional small groups.

Faith Development (HELP)

Build Bible study and prayer time into all meetings and small group gatherings. Develop a systems approach for organizing and conducting youth group programs based primarily on *Sustainable Youth Ministry* by Mark Devries, and engaging the congregation. Continue to preach about, and communicate in multiple ways, the importance of the daily practice of the means of grace. Continue to build a stewardship program that incorporates time, talents, and resources, and provides the opportunity for the people of God to give sacrificially, with the goal of tithing. Continue to deliver Holy Communion instruction for our 3rd graders. Continue to deliver confirmation instruction. Deliver at least two short term Bible Studies.

Faithful Service (SERVE)

Continue to direct our efforts out

into the community. Strive for excellence in the weekly Hero's Club after school program, a partnership with Wolfsville Elementary School (WES). Continue to explore other ways we can partner with the school, other local churches, the Ruritan, and the Fire Company, etc. to meet community needs. Excel in our weekly Food Pantry and continue to strive to uphold the dignity of those we serve. Build a mission component into each small group of the church. Make a mission trip opportunity available to the congregation in 2013, and respond to the need for local emergency needs/building projects as they arise. Ask each member to share in the opportunity for caregiving.

In addition to monetary support of mission projects, provide opportunities for "arms and legs" support. Plan and conduct an Extra Learning Opportunity (ELO) Program (or similar ministry) at WES at least one day a week.

Faith Sharing (INVITE)

Place renewed emphasis on evangelism in 2013: invite new people, invite inactive members, build skills of congregation to witness, and begin to build a library of 2-3 minute videotaped witness talks. Advertise, through multiple means, Advent, Christmas, and Easter services and the sermon series that follow, as well as the Lenten sermon series and a post-Labor Day sermon series. Invite Hero's Club children and families to worship and church events. Goal for Pastor is to attend 2/3 of Ruritan meetings in 2013.



BALLOON LAUNCH

200 Balloons were launched on July 22, 2012

NEWS — Four months after the launch, another balloon card has been returned. It was Ivy Hill's balloon and it was found near Mt. Airy, Maryland.

Balloons Found and Returned

Name on Card	Where Found	Miles Traveled
1. Rick & Barbie Harshman	8139 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD	74
2. Jennifer Burrier	5204 Talbots Landing, Ellicott City, MD	57
3. Beverly Stottlemeyer	3085 Ballesteras Court, Mt. Airy, MD	37
4. Karen DeLauter	11425 Woodsboro Pike, Keymar, MD	21
5. Kenna Raynor	9930 Woodsboro Road, Woodsboro, MD	21
➔ 6. Ivy Hill	14628 Peddicord Road, Mt. Airy, MD	32



Photo by Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer



Lily Mueller won the championship of the Middle/High School Division at Salem's recent Ping-Pong Tournament.



Hero's Club Salem's After School Ministry

FALL SEMESTER
2012

HERO'S CLUB students build friendships, grow academically and spiritually

■ By Amanda Hawkins

We've had a great time at Hero's Club this fall! With student enrollment in the mid-twenties; our three amazing high school helpers, Alexa, Bailey and Camden; and the awesome help of Dawn and Pastor Bob, it is fun to watch the students build friendships and grow academically and spiritually.

Lesson topics have included the wordless book, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving. Three children asked Jesus into their hearts this fall— we have new brothers and sisters in the Lord!

Thank you for your prayers and gifts of snacks. A special thank you to Salem's United Methodist Women "Bee-lievers" for the snack donation of cookies left over

Hero's Club Service Project



rmhc.org

from the pavilion dedication service—they were a hit!

Hero's Club to celebrate Christmas

We look forward to a special Christmas-y Hero's Club on Monday, December 17th; as well as welcoming Hero's Club children and families to the church-wide Christmas party at Salem on

Students may join at any time.

Applications for student enrollment are available online at www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org.

Saturday, December 8th.

A Thought about Bible Heroes

In the Old Testament, Moses was a murderer. In the New Testament, Paul was an accomplice. Then they met God and were never the same. They went on to write a lot of the Bible we read today. You never know how God can change a life.

In the spirit of getting ready for Christmas, changing lives is why Jesus came to earth! Celebrate the true heroes of the faith by recognizing that, just as they changed through the power of God in their lives, we too can change! The sky's the limit!

Photos by Amanda Hawkins



Bailey & Alexa hang out with the kids during homework time.



Camden & Dawn help the children with the Thanksgiving placemat craft.



Zane makes a necklace.



Jack shows Pastor Bob his placemat craft.



The Thankful Turkey— each child filled out a feather with what they are thankful for.

Salem PING-PONG TOURNAMENT



November 3, 2012

Photos by Joe Hawkins

■ **By Joe Hawkins**

We had 9 adults and 8 youth attend our annual "Salem Slam" Ping-Pong Tournament.

This year we did not have many elementary school age kids, so Joey Hawkins (last year's winner of the Young Beginners Division) moved up to join the middle/high school age kids. That left Lorali and George to play each other. They enjoyed playing so much, they played each other 8 times and were co-champions of that division.

In the Middle/High School Division, we had some great games. Both Camden Raynor and Christopher Leatherman went into the semi-finals undefeated. Newcomer Lily Mueller fought her way through the loser's bracket to reach the finals. Salem Slam is a double elimination tournament.

Going into the championship, reigning champ Christopher was still undefeated, so if a new champion was to be crowned, Lily would have to beat Christopher twice in a row. Lily seemed to get better the longer she played and won the championship, preventing Christopher from repeating.

In the Adult Division, there were many very close games, often times going beyond 21. We had a lot of scores in the 26-24 range. Pastor Bob was the runner-up last year and I'm sure he hoped to take the next step and be crowned the champi-

Tournament Winners

Young Beginners

Lorali & George

Middle/High School

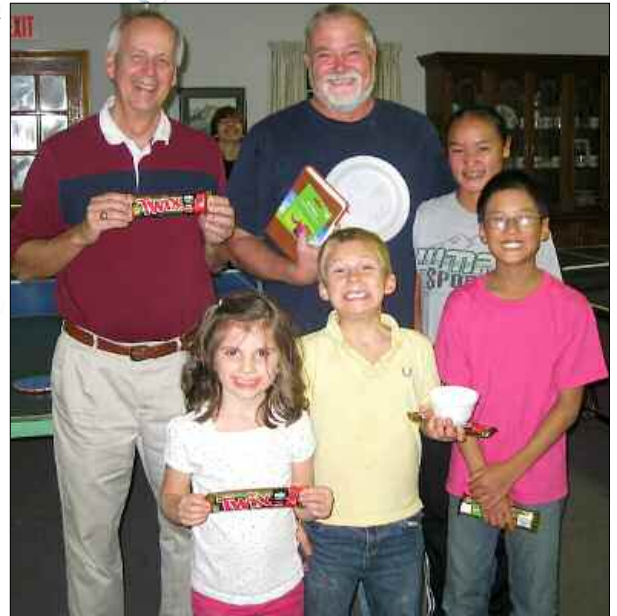
Lily & Christopher

Adults

Klaus & Pastor Bob



Vernon & Sue Ellen



From left, Pastor Bob, Lorali, Klaus, George, Lily, and Christopher

on this year. Standing in his way was Klaus Mueller, who like his daughter Lily, fought his way up from the loser's bracket to face an undefeated Pastor Bob for the championship. Let's just say the Muellers came to play, because Klaus defeated Pastor Bob twice in a row to win the Adult Division.

I would like to thank Adam Robinson and Denny Leatherman for the

use of their ping pong tables, and Sue Ellen and Vernon Stottlemeyer for their help in setting up the tables. I would also like to thank Jim Laky for his donation of ping-pong balls and everyone that made donations of food and drinks.

This is truly a fun event for the whole family and we look forward to seeing many more of you and your friends next year.

NOTE these UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Ministries

The following church-wide events are planned for the near future. All are invited.

December 8 - Christmas Party, 5 p.m.
Salem Social Room

Family Ministry Co-Leaders are Joe Hawkins and Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer

Faith Builders Youth Group (Middle School and High School)

Weekly Get-Togethers: Every Thursday, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Salem

Dec 8 - Christmas Party, 5 p.m.

Jan 11-13 - ROCK Youth Retreat

Feb 17 - Roller Skating Party

More to come ...

Leaders: Pastor Bob Snyder -

301-293-1616, 240-994-0825

Donna Snyder & Wanda Barkdoll

WildFire Youth Group

(Grades 3 through 5)

■ **By Jessie Leatherman, Leader**

Our meetings this year will be based in homes. I am looking for anyone who would be willing to open their home to our little group, and to maybe provide a simple snack/treat for the kids. Our theme this year is: *Use your Uniqueness to Make a Big Deal of God Every Day.*

Our kids are at the age of making decisions about activities with friends, extra-curricular activities, how to get involved in elementary school (helpers before/after school, band instruments), and what they would like to get involved in during their first year in middle school! Choices are on the horizon, so how do they know what they would enjoy? What would they be good at? My hope is to give



them a little help in seeing their God-given gifts, and get them pointed in the right direction when employing those gifts in an area of their life where they see a need or an opportunity. If you are interested in having a meeting at your house, please call me at 240-676-1811.

"What are MY gifts?"
January 13th, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

"Why do I have these gifts?"
February 10th, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

"How can I use my gifts?"
April 14th, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

"Where do I start...and what if I fail?"
May 12th, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

End of Year Celebration!
June 2nd, at the Leatherman farm!

Heavenly Humor

THE VERY FIRST KING SIZE BED



THANK GOD FOR THAT BED

—Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

“Whoever started this whole Christmas thing?”



A woman was Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable; and after hours of hearing both children asking for everything they saw, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday time of the year—overwhelming pressure to go to every party, taste all the holiday food, get that perfect gift for every person on our shopping list, make sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and so on.

The elevator was very crowded as she pushed her way in, dragging her two kids and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and said, “Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be strung up and shot.” For the back of the elevator a quiet, calm voice responded, “Don't worry, we already crucified him.” For the rest of the elevator ride, it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

—Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

Some thoughts to ponder . . .

Counsel from those of faith in the Lord, can help give us a more clear vision of the road ahead.

When those we know face difficult situations or bad news, we can help comfort them with friendship.

Feeling envious of what others have, only causes us stress. Let's be thankful for all God blesses us with.

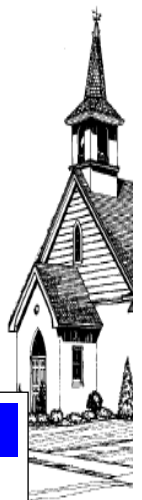
The Mountain Shepherd

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

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Address Services Requested

Place Stamp Here



December

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

Invite • Help • Serve