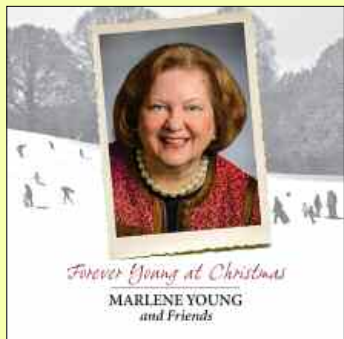


Salem United Methodist Church—Wolfsville

INSIDE



New Christmas CD
By Marlene Young
On Sale Now
All sales at Salem
benefit Salem Church
Details on page 4

Missions 2
 Christmas at Salem 3
 Attendance & Offerings 4
 Marlene Young CD 4
 Calendar of Events 5
 CROP Walk Final Report 5
 Brent Blickenstaff Update 5
 Who's Doing What, When? 6
 It's Your Day! 6
 Inspirational Reading 7
 Recipe 7
 From Our Pastor 8
 Ping-Pong Results 9
 Missions News 10
 Hero's Club 11
 Heavenly Humor 12
 I've Learned 12

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

Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 7th

■ By Sue Ellen Stottleyer
 Merry Christmas! You are invited to the annual Salem Christmas Party to be held at the church on Saturday, December 7th, 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. Any adults and youth ages 12 and above who want to participate, please bring a small wrapped, inexpensive gift (less than \$5). 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.

And you better watch out as we anticipate another visit from Santa this year. Santa has a very busy schedule, but will take



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.]

a few minutes to visit Salem, meet with the children 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 me 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 7th.

Photos from last year's party



Camilo Barkdoll and Chris Leatherman try to guess the number of candies in the jars.



A blind-folded Kenslie Buhrman plays "Pin the Nose on the Reindeer"

The Mountain Shepherd

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Chair, Admin. Council: *Vernon Stottlemeyer*
Outreach: *Barbara Stottlemeyer*
Worship: *Mary Alice Shankle*
Sun. School Superintendent: *Bobby Fogle*
Church Treasurer: *William Burrier*
Sunday School Treasurer: *Mary Fogle*
Chair, Staff-Parish Relations: *Robin Haupt*

SALEM MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS
Current Membership: 234
Sunday School Enrollment: 92
2013 New Members: 5

SALEM PHYSICAL FACILITIES
Church built 1847
Educational Building built 1967
Parsonage built 1974-75

SALEM WEB SITE
www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

SALEM 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.

COLOPHON
Produced using QuarkXPress 8.12 and Mac OS 10.6.8, on an Apple 20" iMac computer, along with an H.P. LaserJet P3015 postscript laser printer, Epson Perfection 4490 photo scanner, 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.



2013 MISSION PROJECTS

		Monthly Minimum	Paid Jan-Oct	2013 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 - November	—	0	\$350	0%
3	Salem Mission & Outreach Supports needs as determined by Salem	—	\$5,204.97	\$1,180	441%
4	Salem Food Pantry Open every Tuesday 6:00-7:00 p.m.	—	\$1,907.21	\$1,180	162%
5	Mary E. - Africa Inland Mission Working in Tanzania, Africa	\$85	\$1,075.00	\$1,020	105%
6	United Methodist Bd of Child Care Care of Homeless or Abused Children	—	\$200.00	\$1,360	15%
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	\$2,000	0%
11	Ronnie & Angi Hopkins The Mission Society - Mission Work in Nicaragua	\$64	\$651.00	\$768	85%
12	Care Net Pregnancy Center 707 N. Market Street, Frederick, MD	\$64	\$708.00	\$768	92%
13	Compassion International Sponsored child in India	\$38	\$509.00	\$762	67%
14	Local Mission Projects Supporting local repair or renovation needs	—	0	\$1,250	0%
15	Hero's Club After School Ministry (Pre-K through grade 5) at Salem	—	\$2,568.97	\$300	856%
16	World Vision Sponsored child in Colombia	\$35	\$140.00	\$210	67%

Total 2013 Mission Goal: \$16,200 | Total 2013 Mission Offering: \$17,502 | % of Goal: 108%

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.



Salem Mission Project No. 6

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 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. Those purchasing poinsettias may take them home after Christmas.

This year's choices were red, white, pink, and marble. Mary Alice Shankle is coordinating the poinsettia orders, which are due December 1st.

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

The Chrismons, 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.



Advent Devotional

An Advent devotional titled *The Story of God With Us* will be available at Salem for you to read during the Christmas season. It's a small book with a big message. With a clear, accessible text of the New International Version as its foundation, *The Story of God With Us* offers a revealing, insightful look at Advent. Compelling and powerful, it shares the Christmas story in one seamless narrative. Pick up your copy at church.

Adult Choir Christmas Music

■ **By Sandy Lewis**

Salem's Adult Choir is practicing every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm through December in preparation to sing for Sunday morning worship services and during the Christmas Eve service.

We will be presenting a Christmas musical on Christmas Eve entitled "The Greatest Story of All" by Marty Parks. We hear many stories during December. Some of them are classics like "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Some are leg-

endary like stories of St. Nicholas. They might inspire us or warm our hearts, but none of them can change us forever like the story of Christmas. The Christmas story is God's story and it is true. It is still the greatest story ever told.

Come and join us as we prepare to deliver this story in song. We welcome all who would like to participate with our choir. "The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen." Luke 2:20 NIV.

Mt. Bethel Christmas Sing-A-Long

The Adult Choir will also participate in a Christmas Sing-A-Long at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, 14110 Stottlemeyer Road, Foxville, on Sunday, December 1, at 3:00 p.m.

The choir will be presenting two selections at the Mt. Bethel program, which will include religious and secular songs.



United Methodist Women

Cookie Exchange to be featured at December Bee-lievers meeting

■ **By Fonda Gormer**

When the Bee-lievers group was formed years ago, they started a tradition of marking the December meeting with a cookie exchange.

This year, on December 5th, the tradition continues. All ladies of the congregation are invited to participate. Each attendee brings a batch of cookies and the recipe to share. Cookies are tasted, samples taken home, and copies of the recipes are made for each person so favorites can be made at home.

For devotions at this meeting, all are asked to bring a Christmas reading, poem or scripture to share.

As part of the regular business meeting, possible craft items will be discussed, as well as goals for the new year. Please feel free to join the Bee-lievers as they share the holiday season and plan for the coming year. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the church social area.



Christmas Eve Program

■ **By Mary Alice Shankle**

Salem's Christmas Eve Program at 7:00 p.m. will include children's recitations, music by Salem's Adult Choir, and a program presented by the youth titled *Candles of Christmas*, which includes readings of the Christmas story and Christmas songs between the readings. The reading starts with the birth of Jesus and ends with the wisemen.

The service will conclude with candle lighting at the end.

Everyone is invited.

Enjoy the beauty and celebration of Jesus' birth in Salem's sanctuary.





Attendance & Offerings

OCTOBER 2013

		Worship*		Sunday School	
Oct	6	85	\$1,778.00	44	\$236.50
Oct	13	82	1,287.67	49	98.50
Oct	20	83	2,707.00	58	253.25
Oct	27	93	1,881.25	52	141.50

*Worship attendance & offerings include both worship services.

- **Missions:** \$1,549.67
- **Pavilion Fund:** \$80.00
- **Love Offering for Brent Blickenstaff family:** \$2,383.58 as of 11/17/13
- **Building & Imp. Fund:** \$216.66
- **Cemetery Endowment:** \$0.00

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

	Average Attendance	
	Worship	Sunday School
Oct	86	51
Sept	89	58
Aug	88	54
July	74	50
June	86	61
May	87	58

Average Attendance Jan-Oct 2013

Sunday Worship: 88
Sunday School: 57

New Christmas CD

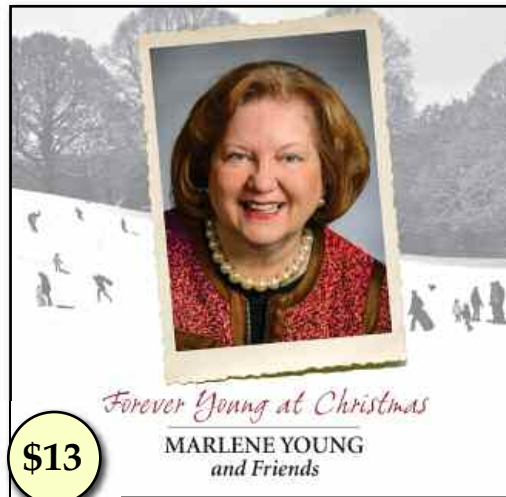
by Marlene Young

FOREVER YOUNG AT CHRISTMAS, the new recording by Marlene Young & Friends is now available for purchase at Salem. The CD features 15 tracks, including the original title song "Forever Young at Christmas" written by Marlene and Doug Benson.

Marlene notes that she never ceases to be amazed at how God orchestrates life, down to the smallest details, by opening doors, creating opportunities and networking people. Such has been the case in every aspect of her life, including the production process of her recordings, having released seven CDs to date and with her seventh, and most exciting album called *Forever Young at Christmas* released for the 2013 holiday season. Marlene gives thanks for the blessing of working with some marvelously talented and spiritually grounded professionals.

Marlene currently lives in Smithsburg, but grew up in Wolfsville and was active at Salem until her marriage to husband Mike. Her ministry continues at Bethel United Methodist in Chewsville.

To order the CD, contact Salem's Treasurer Bill Burrier at 301-293-2665 or BillBurrier@verizon.net. Please make checks payable to Marlene Young.



\$13

Marlene will donate 100% of sales back to Salem Church

1. Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow
2. The Christmas Song
3. Angels from the Realms of Glory
4. Mary, Did You Know
5. Forever Young at Christmas
6. Caroling, Caroling
7. White Christmas
8. A Christmas to Remember
9. The Friendly Beasts
10. Holly Jolly Christmas
11. Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)
12. The Holly and the Ivy
13. Go Tell It On the Mountain
14. Grown Up Christmas List
15. It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

We also have a limited supply of Marlene's previous CDs at \$10 each.



Remember our Memorial and Endowment Programs

Outright Gifts: Financial gifts may be given to Salem at any time in memory or honor of a loved one.

Planned (Deferred) Gifts:

As you do your estate planning, you may consider including your church in your plans?

Many of us have deep roots in our community and feel a deep sense of dedication toward our church and its ministry in the Wolfsville area.

As we think of the future, beyond our lifetime, it is comforting to imagine our church continuing to be a robust ministry, active in leading people to Christ, changing lives, and reaching out and supporting the local community.

One way to assure a fruitful future is to continue your financial support of your church after your death, through a memorial or endowment. It also gives you an opportunity to leave a permanent legacy at Salem Church.

All gifts are tax deductible. Names of those memorialized will be displayed on a plaque in the church building.

For more information contact:
Bill Burrier, Chair, Finance Committee
or Pastor Bob Snyder



Dec

Calendar of Events

Sun	1	Rehearsals begin for Christmas Eve Program - 4:00 p.m. at Salem
Thu	5	UMW Bee-lievers meeting - 7:00 p.m. at Salem Board of Trustees meeting - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
Sat	7	Christmas Party - 5:00 p.m. at Salem
Thu	12	Administrative Council - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
Tue	24	Christmas Eve Program - 7:00 p.m. at Salem

NOTES: Hero's Club After School Ministry meets every Monday when school is open 3:30-6:00 p.m.
Food Pantry is open every Tuesday 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Salem
Adult Choir meets every Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m. at Salem
Praise Band practices every Wednesday evening at Salem at 7:00 p.m.
Faith Builders Youth Group meets every Thursday evening at Salem at 6:30 p.m.



Newsletter Distribution

1. E-Mail — We are currently sending this newsletter to 194 of our readers via e-mail. Our desire is to obtain as many e-mail addresses as possible.

2. 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.

3. First Class Mail — We are mailing about 30 copies, using the 46 cents First Class postage rate.

Children's Sunday School Teaching Position Available

Salem's Sunday School is recruiting candidates to teach or co-teach the 3rd-5th grade class.

Teaching materials are provided.
Teaching begins December 1 or as soon as possible.

Please contact
Sunday School Superintendent
Bobby Fogle at 301-416-0856
or Pastor Bob at 301-293-1616.



Works in Progress Community Praise Band

The Works in Progress Community Praise Band is working on Christmas music. They will provide special music at Salem's 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services on December 8th; and at the 11:15 a.m. service on December 22nd.

The band will also provide music for the Wolfsville Ruritan Club's Christmas party at the Cozy Restaurant, in Thurmont, on Monday, December 16th.

CROP Walk raises over \$4300 for hunger and disaster relief



By Fonda Gormer

All the pledges have been collected from the 2013 CROP Hunger Walk. In addition to the 42 walkers on September 22nd, we had five people walk at other times. Together we raised \$4390.75 for hunger and disaster relief efforts around the world.

Twenty-five percent of funds raised will be returned to local hunger programs at the Religious Coalition for Emergency

Human Needs, the Middletown Food Bank and Salem's Food Pantry.

The remainder will be used by Church World Service worldwide. Their major emphasis at this time is emergency relief to the typhoon victims in the Philippines.

Again I would like to thank everyone for their support of the CROP walk and Salem's fifteen walkers. May God bless your gifts to help those in need!

Update on Brent Blickenstaff

Posted by Patty Blickenstaff on Caringbridge.org

As most of you know on September 7, 2013, our lives were changed completely. We nearly lost our beloved Brent. Fortunately God had other plans.

While enjoying the surf at Ocean City, MD, Brent was knocked down and hit the ocean floor with tremendous force. Brent remembers hitting the ground and feeling pain then going numb. He was floating unconscious and was lifted from the water by a muscular angel who carried him to shore. Brent was resuscitated on the beach by life guards and EMT. He was then flown to Salisbury Hospital and a few hours later to UMMC Shock Trauma in Baltimore where he has been receiving treatment for C1 and C2 fractures of the spine and a severe spinal cord injury. Brent's doctors have likened his injuries to those of Christopher Reeves.

Brent was in the neuro ICU for the last two months. We have seen many miracles already. Brent's mind is sharp and we communicate with him by reading his lips and using a Navy cypher to spell out words using eye blinks. Brent has endured

and overcome infections, multiple surgeries, daily lung treatments, invasive tests, and even the removal of a cancerous kidney. Our Lord has brought him through all these trials with an amazing spirit and Brent's usual spunk and determination. Brent and I have been lifted enormously by all the prayers - we have felt God's power! Brent's faith has helped him survive and endure all these trials.

We have acquired a computer utilizing a technology called "Eye Gaze Technology" which allows him to type using his eyes. We look forward to him being able to email using this computer in the near future.

Monday, November 18th, Brent was air ambulated to Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colorado, where he will begin 3 to 4 months of rehabilitation. He was very eager to take this next step. Craig Hospital is well known for their success with people of Brent's level of injury. We look forward to witnessing many more miracles the Lord has in store for him.

Bailey and I are now in Colorado and will reside there for whatever length of time Brent's rehab requires.

Who's Doing What, When?

DECEMBER

9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Lay Reader

- 1 - Mary Cline
- 8 - Dennis Leatherman
- 15 - Robin Haupt
- 22 - Donald Stottlemeyer
- 29 - Brenda Freysz

Ushers

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

Organist

- 1 - Susan Koons
- 8 - Susan Koons
- 15 - Joann Leatherman
- 22 - Susan Koons
- 29 - Susan Koons

Greeters

- 1 - Bill & Darlene Burrier
- 8 - Denny Leatherman & Family
- 15 - George, Barbie & Matthew Stottlemeyer
- 22 - Steve & Joann Leatherman
- 29 - Dennis & Ruth Draper

Acolytes

- 1 - Paul McCormick
- 8 - Jadie Buhrman
- 15 - Kenslie Buhrman
- 22 - Joshua Koons
- 29 - 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
- 12 - Bob & Petie Stup
- 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.

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



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.

NEWS & NOTES

Christmas Eve Rehearsals

Four rehearsals for the children and youth program on Christmas Eve will be held on Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, from 4-5 p.m. at Salem. Contacts are Melanie Raynor and Mary Alice Shankle.

Communion Instruction

Pastor Bob is forming a communion instruction class for 3rd graders and any 4th graders who may not have gone through the instruction last year. Contact Pastor Bob.

Installation of 2014 Church Leaders

On Sunday, January 12, at both worship services, Pastor Bob will install Salem's 2014 church leaders.

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings are due Sunday, December 1st.

Holy Communion

December 1, 2013

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



Sticky Buns For Sale

As a fund-raiser for Salem's United Methodist Women "Bee-lievers", Anita Harshman is making Pecan Cinnamon Sticky Buns.

The buns can be purchased directly from Anita for \$12 per dozen. To place an order, call Anita at 301-293-2080.

Orders can be placed at any time; and can be picked up after services on Sunday mornings.

**Friendship is God loving us
through someone else.**

**BULLETIN BOARD
with a message**

**ERR IN THE DIRECTION
OF KINDNESS**

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman



INSPIRATIONAL Reading

Christmas Caroling

Author Unknown

The winter night was cold and crisp,
And stars were in the sky,
But as the wind would sometimes mount,
We turned our collars way up high.
'Twas worth a shiver now and then
To hear the songs ring out,
And tho some snowflakes drifted down
A crowd soon stood about.



"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
And "Silent Night" were heard,
"Joy to the World" and "Deck the Halls,"
Proclaiming God's great word
The hymn books trembled in our hands
As by the streetlamp's glow
We sang our very hearts away
That Christmas long ago.

Hot chocolate waited at the church
And cookies Mom had made
For all the carolers returned,
Whose songs would never fade;
For in a book called memory,
Which keeps each Christmas Day,
The friendships and the songs are found
Deep in the heart to stay.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

Our Christmas Message

By Harriet Whipple

May the Christmas Spirit fill your heart
With love and joy today
To bring you peace and happiness
In every special way.

May the memories of Christmases
Glow warmly in your heart
Where the cherished old traditions
Ever play a vital part.

May the day be extra special
With the beauty of some snow;
May the sunshine make it sparkle
And bring a festive glow.

May the candles, bells, and holly,
The cards and gifts and flowers
Fill the day with cheerfulness
And lovely happy hours.

May those you love surround you
To share your Christmas day;
May the blessings of the season
Come in your life to stay.



RECIPE



APPLE CRANBERRY MUFFINS

1 3/4 cups flour	1 egg, well-beaten
1/4 cup sugar	3/4 cup milk
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder	1/3 cup vegetable oil
3/4 teaspoon salt	1 cup apple, peeled and finely chopped
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon	1/2 cup chopped frozen cranberries

1. In a large mixing bowl, stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon. When well mixed, make a well in the center of the dry ingredients.
2. In a separate bowl, blend together egg, milk, oil, apple, and cranberries.
3. Add all at once to dry ingredients. Stir just until moistened.
4. Fill paper-lined or greased muffin cups about 2/3 full.
5. Bake at 400 degrees for 15-20 minutes, or until tops are lightly browned, and toothpick inserted in center of muffins comes out clean. Cool in tins for 10 minutes. Then remove and continue cooling on wire rack.

Note: Dried cranberries can be used, and Granny Smith apples are a good choice, but other baking apples work also.



Christmas Benediction

By Marian L. Moore

The star which guided the shepherds
Still shines on our fellowmen,
And joy reigns again in human hearts
As it did in Bethlehem.

The Christ Child offers His blessings
Onto all who dwell on earth,
And those who know and love Him
Share in His glorious birth.

May His love, down through the ages,
Glow as the star did then,
And the spirit of peace on earth,
good will
Live in the hearts of men!

The Shepherds

The shepherds saw that brilliant star;
They heard the angels' song
And knew that night was born
The Christ for whom they'd
waited long.

The Peace of Christmas

By Margaret H. Wright

The crystal snow has drifted down
And crested everything in white.
We look upon this tranquil scene,
Serene and silent, holy night!

The lights from many windows give
The snow a rainbow-tinted sheen;
The sky above, of azure blue,
Holds jeweled stars on velvet screen.

The bells chime out, so loud and clear,
Familiar carols the choir sings;
The children's laughter while they play,
Are happy sounds that Christmas
brings.

The peace of Christmas fills our
hearts,
Inspiring many loving deeds.
It takes our cares and fears away
And gives the courage each one needs.

We know how God restored the peace
Between Himself and man on earth;
He kept the promise He had made...
Redemption through the Savior's
birth!

All splendor is this wondrous night,
When peace and joy descend again;
Adorned with love and trust in God,
Comes, "Peace on earth,
goodwill to men!"

*From the
Pastor*



Pastor's Notes... Worship in December and the First Sunday in January

By PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER

During the upcoming Advent and Christmas Seasons, we will embark on a new sermon series entitled "We Were There." The series explores the Christmas story from the personal perspective of several of the story's leading characters. I hope this series will be a blessing to each of you as we celebrate this holy time together.

During Christmas, people hunger for greater meaning in their lives. Advent and Christmas are natural times to invite friends and neighbors to worship and fellowship with us. I pray this Christmas will bring you closer to Christ, and I pray each of us will answer God's call upon our lives to help point someone else to Christ. May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas this year.

God's grace and peace, *Pastor Bob*

December 1 – Advent 1 Holy Communion "Zechariah and Elizabeth" Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

God comes to Zechariah with a promise. Zechariah doubts God's promise and loses his voice. Elizabeth becomes pregnant at her advanced age; this isn't supposed to be possible but it happens. Through Elizabeth's pregnancy and the birth of his son, Zechariah no longer doubts God and regains his voice, naming his son John who as "John the Baptist" prepares the world for the coming of Jesus.

We doubt too, and lose our voice. In our lives, God makes good things happen that shouldn't. God's actions are meant to build up our faith, but sometimes we fail to notice. Regardless of our response, God remains faithfully at work in our lives and the world.

December 8 – Advent 2 "Mary" Luke 1:26-56

Imagine God's messenger coming to a young teenage girl, engaged to be married, announcing that she has conceived a child through the power of the Holy Spirit, that she will give birth, and that the



baby she carries in her womb is the Son of God who has chosen this time in history to come and save the world?

Imagine the range of emotions: disbelief, fear, lack of confidence. And the questions that must have run through Mary's mind: How will I explain this to Joseph? What will I say to my parents? What will my friends say when the baby starts to show? Will I be convicted and stoned to death? If God has chosen me will God protect and sustain me? How will this all play out? Like Mary, we have our own fears and questions. Like Mary, when God asks us to step out in faith God provides for all our needs.

December 15 – Advent 3 "Joseph" Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph must have felt betrayed by Mary. They did not have relations, yet she was with child. "Pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit," she explained to Joseph. Really? Joseph must have been thinking, "You don't really expect me to believe that, do you Mary?" But God saw Joseph's need, and God came to Joseph to calm his fears and provide answers. So much so that Joseph fully responded to his role as husband and father, standing against the ridicule of family and friends, getting Mary safely to a place where she could give birth, leading the family to safety in Egypt and back again, and raising Jesus in the faith. People have loved us, protected us, cared for us, and sacrificed for us. And God calls us to love, protect, care for, and sacrifice for others. In that way, we are all Joseph.

December 22 – Advent 4 "The Shepherds" Luke 2:1-20

The shepherds were among "the least." The occupation of shepherd was one of the lowliest occupations of all. Shepherds were looked down upon. But who did God decide to lift up on Christmas? Who did God invite first to visit the Savior – it was the shepherds "living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them." And the "good news and great joy" that the angels were bringing to share was going to be shared with whom first? - The shepherds. What does this tell us about God? It tells us that God seeks out the least, the last and the lost, bringing justice and righteousness.

There are times in our lives when we feel like the least, the last, and the lost and God sees our plight and comes to us. And there are times when God chooses us to bring Christ to the least, the last, and the lost around us.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship and Program – 7:00 p.m. Open House at the Parsonage – 8:30 p.m. **NOTE:** There will not be an 11:00 p.m. candlelight service this year.

December 29 – Christmas 1 "The Wise Men and King Herod" Matthew 2:1-12

Already at his birth, Jesus is shown to be the Lord and Savior of all people. Were the wise men Jews? No. The wise men (Magi) studied the Hebrew Scripture of the day but they were not Jews, and they lived nowhere nearby. They had traveled a great distance from far-away lands to the east. Like the shepherds, the wise men point to an important characteristic – that God is the God of all humankind and that God's love and care extends to all people, everywhere, across all time. Not everyone receives God's love and care. King Herod was threatened by Jesus. He thought, "If Jesus is the king of the Jews, as the wise men claim, where does that leave me?" So Herod instructed the wise men to return after visiting Jesus to inform him of Jesus' whereabouts. He wanted to eliminate the threat of Jesus by killing him. Jesus is our savior, not a threat or one to avoid. A variation of the popular saying goes "Wise men, and wise women, still seek Jesus."

—continued on page 9



—continued from page 8

**January 5 – Christmas 2
“Simeon and Anna”**

Shortly after his birth, Jesus was taken to the temple by Joseph and Mary to be presented to God.

Simeon, a devout man of faith, was also at the temple that day. He had been led there by God, the Holy Spirit. Simeon, an old man, had been assured by God that he would not die before seeing Jesus, his Savior. Indeed, on that day Mary the mother of Jesus invited Simeon to hold Jesus in his arms. Afterward Simeon praised God in a beautiful prayer.

Anna was also at the temple that same day. Like Simeon, she was old and a woman of great faith. And like him, she also told the others around her about God’s saving purpose through Jesus.

When we act in faith, God blesses us; when we share with others how we see God working in our lives and in the world we point others to God and God’s saving grace.



Celebrate His Birthday

By Alice Mackenzie Swaim

Down the years of memory,
The pageant of Decembers,
Christmas is the miracle
That every heart remembers.

Above the dreaming little towns,
The fields of drifted snow,
There falls the benediction
Of the Christmas star’s warm glow.

And heavy hearts grow lighter,
And joyful voices ring,
To celebrate His birthday
And worship Christ, the King.



SALEM SLAM

Ping-Pong Tournament Results

■ **By Joe Hawkins**

Salem’s annual ping-pong tournament was held on Friday evening, November 15th. We had 11 adults compete, 6 younger youth (6th grade and below), and 6 older youth.

Sue Ellen provided a wonderful pre-game meal and we had Battin’ for Brent Apple Dumplings for dessert.

Thanks go out to everyone that brought something, helped set-up, or helped clean-up.

A good time was had by all.

Adult Division

- Meredith Harshman, Champion
- Klaus Mueller, 2nd place
(Klaus was champion last year.)

Older Youth Division

- Chris Leatherman, Champion
- Lily Mueller, 2nd place
(Lily was champion last year.)

Younger Youth Division

- Joe Hawkins, Champion
- Paul McCormick, 2nd place



Tournament Winners from left are Joe Hawkins, Paul McCormick, Chris Leatherman, Lily Mueller, and Klaus Mueller.

Photos by Joe Hawkins



Eleven adults, six younger youth (6th grade and below), and six older youth compete in Salem’s annual “Salem Slam” Ping-Pong Tournament on November 15th.



SALEM MISSION PROJECTS

MISSIONS *is the* MISSION *of the* CHURCH

Salem Mission Project No. 1

A Letter from Frank & Nancy Stottlemyer

Retired Missionaries • New Tribes Mission

Dear Folks at Salem United Methodist Church:

NOVEMBER 2013 — We want to thank you sincerely for your financial support and for your prayer support for us.

Nancy and I remain in good health. We stay busy doing pretty much the same things we've been doing for several years. Nancy volunteers three days a week at the Hagerstown Rescue Mission, visits several shut-ins, helps at church, does some sewing for friends, and other things. Frank continues to do some work for shut-ins & others who need help, serves on the board of our home church, teaches an adult Sunday school class, is treasurer of our home church, and serves on the FBC mission committee.

As far as our family, our son-in-law, Lynn Harney, ministers at the Hagerstown Rescue Mission as well as working at FedEx a few hours at night. Wanda does home-schooling of their youngest son. Their daughter, Keshia, is studying at Messiah College. They have a son and his family in California and

another son who lives with his parents while he works at a security job and takes some college on-line courses.

Eric and Wendy returned to Senegal October 27th. Eric is working on getting a hand water pump for a well that serves the village of about 800 people where they live. He plans to take the pump to the village and install it and then his family and the rest of the missionary team will go to the village. Once they are settled back into their homes, he plans to inform the village that they plan to re-start teaching the Bible. He has prepared a series of Bible lessons to give an overview of God's word and present the gospel. Please make this a special matter of prayer. Their youngest daughter, Tara, is a senior and taking home school courses in Senegal. Three of their children are now in the U.S. Jessica was married in June and her husband is completing courses to become a Christian counselor. Shawn is in his third year of college at Penn State. Jason is looking for a full-time job while taking what part-time



work he can get now.

Rebecca also is part of the missionary team ministering to the Badyaranké people. She also returned to Senegal October 27th. She is buying supplies and doing other things in the capital city before returning to the village where she plans to resume a literacy program in two villages.

Gary, Lisa & family serve at the New Tribes Mission Homes, a center for retired missionaries in Florida. Gary is mostly involved in grounds work and Lisa is involved in meal preparation and office work. They also seek to be a blessing to the "retired" missionaries living there.

Thank you again for the vital part you have in our lives, the lives of our family, and those to whom we all minister.

Joyfully in Christ,
Frank & Nancy Stottlemyer

Salem Mission Project No. 4

Food Pantry Update

■ By Dawn Nelson

We are planning something nice for our 45 families that come to our Food Pantry for Christmas.

We were able to purchase two cases of assorted candy for \$10 from the Maryland Food Bank and our plan is to fill stockings for each of the families.

We are also putting with those stockings, gently used stuffed small animals for the 34 children that come to our pantry. If you have gently used stuff animals that you would like to donate to the cause, please place them in the food pantry box in the lobby of our church.

We would like to have these stockings completed by Nov. 30th, so please have them brought to the church at that time. If you are unable to get them to the church, you can contact me and I would be happy to collect them from you.

Thanks for considering to help our families and please keep them in your prayers during the Christmas holiday.

Salem Mission Project No. 11

Ministry in Nicaragua

■ By Ronnie & Angi Hopkins

We are excited to announce that this year's Sunday School Conference is in Ayapal, at the mouth of the River Bocay, in northern Nicaragua.

Last year we focused on inviting teachers from this area and a number of them were able to attend. However, most of them could not come because their communities are so remote that it can take up to two full days of traveling to arrive in Tipitapa.

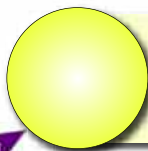
For many of them, a typical trip to the capital city might consist of a 2-hour walk to the river, traveling by boat for 4-6 hours, riding in a cattle truck for 2 hours to Bocay where they then catch the regular buses for another 9 hours. Life on the river is almost impossible to describe and we are deeply awed by the stoicism and resourcefulness of the people who live in these communities.

The Sunday School Conference was held during the third week of November.


 The Mission Society


NICARAGUA
September 2013

The Youth Leadership Team continues to meet every month at the camp. They are now putting into practice what they learned in their classes. They are working in groups focusing on a variety of issues including community development, Christian education, physical and mental health, and domestic abuse.



Hero's Club Salem's After School Ministry



At Hero's Club we share God's love and learn from one another how to be a Hero in God's eyes. We're studying about Jesus and how he is the ultimate Super-Hero.

Hero's Club News

■ By Dawn Nelson

Hero's Club Snacks

Each week we are feeding approximately 22 children and 8 volunteers at Hero's Club snack time. It's never a challenge to get the children to eat at Hero's Club since their last meal was at 11:30 a.m. (in school), and we are feeding them at 4:00 p.m.

We were blessed by Kathy Laky who helped provide the snack recently. It was a taco in a bag. Using small bags of fritos, we crushed the fritos inside, and then placed taco meat, cheese, lettuce and homemade taco sauce on top of the crushed fritos.

The children ate it up as if they had not eaten that whole day. We even heard from a young child that this was going to be their only meal that night since they were on the run with after school activities.

Most of our snacks come from the Maryland Food Bank. When I pick up a truck load of food for the Food Pantry, we are able to choose from some items that are free. One week we were able to get a sheet cake, platter of cookies and peaches at no cost. This helps us keep our budget down for our Hero's Club program.

We were also able to purchase 5 16-inch pizzas for \$5 each, and a case of pizza pockets for \$6. This helps us to provide more than a snack but a meal which



Photo by Dawn Nelson

Heros helping Heros. The children made Christmas cards for Veteran Heros on Veterans Day.

will tie them over when their parents pick them up around 6:00 p.m.

Thanks go out to Patty and Bailey Blickenstaff for donating to the Hero's Club their left over food from their open house . It was greatly appreciated!

Hero's Club Christmas Party

We are currently planning our Christmas party for the children on

December 16th, the last day of the Hero's Club fall semester. We could use your help to make this a celebration for them to remember. If you can help in anyway, whether providing cookies, snack, decorations or volunteer your time, please contact me at 301-293-9988.

We would greatly appreciate the help, and at the same time, you will be blessed by the experience.

Two more balloon cards returned... much to our surprise!



More than fifteen weeks after our Ice Cream Social and Balloon Launch on July 21, we were surprised to receive two more balloon cards.

Six-year-old Zach found our balloon on the beach in Montauk, New York, 363 miles from Wolfsville. This is the longest distance this year, however only the lamination was found and the name of the person launching the balloon was not legible. Zach's dad said "Zach was thrilled to find the balloon on the beach and mail it back to you."

The other balloon recently returned was found by a dentist in Fairfield, PA, while clearing leaves from his yard. He actually found and returned two balloon cards, both launched separately by Jessie Leatherman and her daughter Cheyenne, but interestingly enough, both landed in the same person's yard.

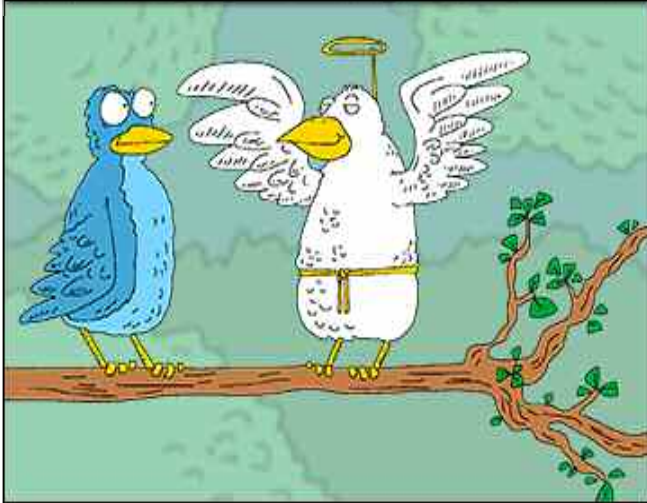
Balloon cards returned so far:

Name on Card	Where Found	Miles Traveled
Jennifer Burrier	Taneytown, MD	29
Jessie & Cheyenne Leatherman	Fairfield, PA	37
Diana Laky	Manchester, MD	49
Sophie Wagaman	Freeland, MD	60
Laura Snyder	White Hall, MD	72
Nellie Stup	Street, MD	75
Lacy Hill	Rising Sun, MD	118
Karen DeLauter	Amagansett, NY	354
Name not legible	Montauk, NY	363

Heavenly Humor

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Prankster Dove!

I've learned . . .

written by Andy Rooney



- I've learned... that just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
- I've learned... that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- I've learned... that when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
- I've learned... that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- I've learned... that when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.
- I've learned... that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
- I've learned... that the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.
- I've learned... that love, not time, heals all wounds.
- I've learned... that money doesn't buy class.

—Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

Some thoughts to ponder . . .

No gift is greater than the gift of Christ Himself.

The cradle without the cross misses the true meaning of Christ's birth.

The glory of life is to love, not to be loved; to give, not to get; to serve, not to be served.

A wonder-filled life is ours when we know the Christ of Christmas.

The Mountain Shepherd

Salem United Methodist Church
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Myersville, MD 21773-9303

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

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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

