



Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville



Salem Slam

Results of the "Salem Slam" Ping-Pong Tournament on page 9

INSIDE	
Missions	2
Christmas Eve Offering	2
Christmas at Salem	3
Bee-lievers	3
Christmas Party	3
Attendance & Offerings	4
Facility Management	4
Spaghetti Dinners	4
Worship through Giving	4
Calendar of Events	5
Train of Life	5
Directory of Addresses	5
Who's Doing What, When ?	6
It's Your Day	6
Inspirational Reading	7
Recipe	7
New Member	7
From our Pastor	8
Ping-Pong Tournament	9
Outreach & Missions	10 & 11
Sunday School Classes	12
Heavenly Humor	12

Salem to be part of Country Churches Christmas Tour

By Fonda Gormer

On Saturday, December 26, Salem will be participating in the **Country Churches Christmas Tour**, sponsored by the Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society. The tour will include nine local churches, with the buildings open from 1-4 p.m.

This is an opportunity for Salem to share its building with the community while it is decorated for the Christmas season. It is a way to reach out to the community and invite new people to our fellowship. It is also an opportunity for our congregants to tour other churches that they have not been able to visit because of Salem services.

Guests are encouraged to start the tour at the Myersville Town Hall to get maps, brochures, refreshments and view historical displays. Participating churches include:

- Harmony Church of the Brethren
- Harmony Community Lutheran Church
- Salem United Methodist Church
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church
- Garfield United Methodist Church
- Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church
- Pleasant Walk United Methodist Church
- St. John's Lutheran Church
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church



COUNTRY CHURCHES CHRISTMAS TOUR

Saturday, December 26
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by: Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society

The churches have been invited to share their history, give tours of their buildings, and offer any other information they choose. Many have unique features carried over from their early history.

Snow Date: If the snow emergency plan is in effect for Frederick County on December 26, the tour will be held on Sunday, December 27, instead. The hours will be the same.

Come out to see the churches trimmed in their holiday best. The tour is a good way to continue your celebration of Christmas!

Celebrate the Christmas Season with us . . .

* Sunday Worship Themes — 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.			
Sun	Nov 29		"Standing Before Jesus"
Sun	Dec 6		"Zechariah"
Sun	Dec 13		"John the Baptist"
Sun	Dec 20		"Mary & Elizabeth"
Sun	Dec 27	"The Shepherds & the Wise Men"	
* Salem Christmas Party — 5:30 p.m.			
Sat	Dec 5	Party includes potluck dinner, visit from Santa, & caroling Bring a side dish or dessert to share. All ages — Bring a wrapped gift under \$5 for the exchange game.	
* Christmas Eve Program — 7:00 p.m.			
Thu	Dec 24	"Mary & Joseph — Celebrating the Birth of Jesus"	
* Country Church Christmas Tour — 1:00-4:00 p.m.			
Sat	Dec 26	Visit Salem as well as other area churches	



Published monthly by Salem United Methodist Church – Wolfsville.
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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: Donald Stottlemeyer
Church Treasurer: William Burrier
Sunday School Treasurer: Mary Fogle
Chair, Staff-Parish Relations: Dennis Draper
Food Pantry: Dawn Nelson

Salem Membership Statistics:
Current Membership: 241
2015 New Members: 5

Salem Physical Facilities:
Church built 1847
Educational Building built 1967
Parsonage built 1974–75

Salem Website:
www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Colophon:
Produced using iWork Pages 4.0 and
Mac OS 10.9.5 on an Apple iMac computer,
H.P. LaserJet P3015 postscript laser printer,
and Ricoh MP-3351 digital copier

Purpose of Newsletter:
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.

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.

Salem Vision Statement:
We will direct our efforts out into the community to serve people’s needs and bring them to Christ.

Go  **2015 MISSION PROJECTS**

		MONTHLY MINIMUM	PAID Jan-Oct
1	Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer (Retired New Tribes Mission)	\$204	\$2,040.00
2	Operation Christmas Child (Postage paid in November)	-----	\$0.00
3	Salem Mission & Outreach (Local needs)	-----	\$1,434.74
4	Salem Food Pantry (Open Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.)	-----	\$1,178.15
5	Mary E. (Africa Inland Mission)	\$85	\$1,085.00
6	United Methodist Board of Child Care (Auxiliary & Direct Support)	-----	\$688.00
7	Gideons (Frederick West Camp - Distributing Bibles)	\$110	\$1,100.00
8	Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, VA)	\$60	\$600.00
9	Middletown High School (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)	\$47	\$470.00
10	Mission Trip (Destination to be determined)	-----	\$0.00
11	Ronnie & Angi Hopkins (Nicaragua)	\$64	\$640.00
12	Care Net Pregnancy Center (Frederick, MD)	\$64	\$904.00
13	Compassion International (Sponsored child in India)	\$38	\$380.00
14	Local Mission Projects (Local repair or renovation needs)	-----	\$0.00
15	Hero’s Club After School Ministry (Pre-K through Grade 5)	-----	\$3,292.42
16	World Vision (Sponsored child in Colombia)	\$35	\$350.00
17	Imagine No Malaria in Africa (Pay December 2015)	-----	\$0.00

2015 Goal: **\$17,076** • Total Mission Offering to date: **\$13,305.52** • % of Goal: **78%**

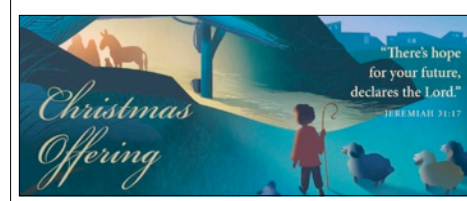
Here’s how you can give . . .

1. Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church, or place cash 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 or mail to Salem.

If you do not designate a project, your contribution will be distributed to the project or projects needing funds to meet the monthly minimum payout goals.

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.

The Cumberland-Hagerstown District Board of Child Care Auxiliary works closely with the Falling Waters campus.

Celebrating Jesus' Birth

Christmas *at* Salem



Salem Mission Project No. 2



Photo by Bill Burrler

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD & SALVATION ARMY STOCKINGS

■ By Barbie Stottlemeyer

Thank you to everyone who contributed shoeboxes for the Samaritan Purse shoebox project and stockings for the Salvation Army this year. We delivered 41 shoeboxes to Trinity Church in Frederick, and 25 stockings to the Salvation Army. Much care, thoughtfulness, and love went into filling each shoebox and stocking. Those accepting these gifts on behalf of the projects at both locations were very appreciative of the outpouring of gift giving from our church each year. I am certain all the children, both near and far, will be excited and thankful for your generosity. I especially would like to thank Annabelle Martin for taking the time each year to wrap many of our shoeboxes.

United Methodist Women

Bee-lievers to hold Cookie Exchange

■ By Fonda Gormer, President, UMW Bee-lievers

The Bee-lievers will hold their annual cookie exchange at their meeting on December 3, at 7 p.m. in the church social area. Attendees are invited to bring a batch of their favorite cookies, along with the recipe, for tasting and sharing.



For evening devotions, those attending are asked to bring a holiday reading or scripture to share with the group.

Though September 2016 and the Lord's Acre Festival seem far away, the women are looking for new craft ideas. If you have a project that you think might be a best-seller or unique or just plain cute, bring a sample, instructions or a picture to see if it might be something the ladies can work on this winter.

The Bee-lievers are women of the church who work to support various projects of the church. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Salem Christmas Party set for Sat., Dec. 5

■ By Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer

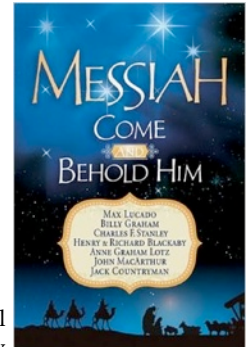
You are invited to the annual Salem Christmas Party to be held at the church on Saturday, December 5, at 5:30 p.m. Come together as a church family for an evening of fellowship and outreach to the community. A potluck dinner will be enjoyed by all. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Fun activities are being planned for all ages. We will be playing the exchange game which is enjoyed by children, youth and adults — bring a wrapped gift under \$5. There will also be a visit from Santa and caroling.



Advent Devotional

An Advent devotional titled "Messiah • Come and Behold Him" is available at Salem for you to read during the Christmas season.

It's a small booklet with daily readings for 30 days, focusing on the names of Jesus. Readings were written by Max Lucado, Billy Graham, Charles Stanley, and others. The names of Jesus will capture your heart with the reality of how greatly you are loved by God. As you read, learn His character, experience His strength, embrace His love for you. And, allow this journey to penetrate your heart and empower your actions as you affirm that He does surely reign today, tomorrow, and forever and ever.



Preparing for Christmas Eve

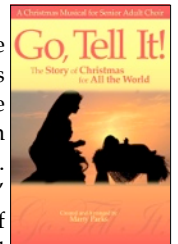
SALEM ADULT CHOIR

■ By Sandy Lewis

Salem Singers will be presenting a Christmas musical during the Christmas Eve service on December 24, at 7:00 p.m. It is entitled "Go Tell It" and it is a combination of traditional and contemporary songs of the season arranged by Marty Parks.

The Christmas story is life-changing and is meant to be shared. This musical challenges us to take this beautiful story of God's love and share the message of hope and peace with everyone we meet.

"After seeing Him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child" Luke 2:17



SALEM CHILDREN'S CHOIR

■ By Sara Weitzel

On Christmas Eve, the children will be singing a couple songs with the Adult Choir as part of the musical, and one song themselves. Practices are held on Sunday mornings, 10:10-10:25 a.m.

Attendance Offerings

October 2015

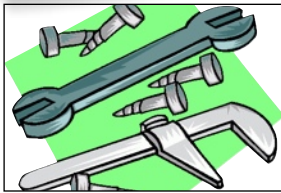
		Worship*		Sunday School	
Oct	4	83	\$2,211.50	59	\$224.50
Oct	11	87	1,893.25	48	109.00
Oct	18	72	2,137.00	50	166.00
Oct	25	88	2,098.75	65	139.50

*Worship attendance & offerings include both worship services.

- Missions: \$1,961.00
 - Pavilion Fund: \$80.00
 - Building Fund: \$155.00
- (Missions, Building Fund offerings, etc. are not included in Worship & Sunday School offerings above.)*

Average Attendance		
	Worship	Sunday School
Oct	83	56
Sept	87	55
Aug	84	51
July	82	52
June	87	55

Average Attendance Jan-Oct 2015
 Sunday Worship: 88
 Sunday School: 54



Board of Trustees FACILITY MANAGEMENT

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Donald Stottlemeyer | Brandon Leatherman | Robin Haupt |
| Gary Barkdoll | Klaus Mueller | John Ward |
| Richard Harshman | George Stottlemeyer | Curtis Nelson |

■ **By Donald Stottlemeyer, Trustee Chair**
 Well, it seems winter is upon us, although not official yet. The air conditioners have been removed from the social room and nursery and stored for the winter.
 We have several projects that we will be working on, i.e., bulletin boards for downstairs classrooms, cabinets for Fonda's middle school and high school Sunday School class, and setting up displays/decorations for the Christmas season. Thanks to Bobby Fogle for doing some electrical work around the church and to everyone who pitches in to make the church run smoothly and look good.
 On behalf of the Trustees, I wish everyone a blessed Christmas.



ADVENT CANDLES — Salem recently purchased new oil candles which will be used during the Advent season. One candle will be lit each Sunday, incrementally, including the white Christ candle in the center on Christmas Eve.

Worship Through Giving — Tithes & Offerings

■ **By Bill Burrier, Church Treasurer**
 The scriptures tell us we will be blessed by our giving ministry and God will be pleased (Deuteronomy 15:10).
 Giving tithes and offerings is a part of our spiritual worship. We don't give in order to get. We give to make an impact; we give to make a difference in people's lives; we give to further the ministry of Christ (2 Corinthians 9:7).

..... WAYS TO GIVE

◆ **Worship Services Plate Offering**
 Give by cash or check during any of our worship services. If you give cash and would like it to be reflected on your year-end giving statement, please use an offering envelope.

◆ **By Mail**
 You may mail your tithes and offerings to Church Treasurer, Salem United Methodist Church, 12477 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD 21773. Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church.

◆ **Electronically Online (Safe & Secure)**
 Salem is now offering the convenience of online giving. Go to our church website and select GIVE. Sign into your account on the secure server at Vanco Payment Solutions, a United Methodist endorsed service. You may set up recurring giving, e.g., weekly, monthly, or give one time. Funds will be automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account. No more checks to write and you may change your giving amount at any time. This is a personal choice. Salem members who have already signed up for electronic giving are pleased with the service.



Spaghetti Dinners support Salem Youth

Salem currently has a very active youth group which meets every Thursday evening at the church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and also participates in an extra activity once each month. This year, in the spring and in the fall, the youth group and its leaders held spaghetti dinners to raise money to support the group's many activities. The Salem congregation was invited to the dinners and although there was no set price for the meal, a donation was requested. \$2,135 was raised for youth activities.
 At left, Gary Barkdoll gives a "thumbs up" as he enjoys his meal at the October 23rd dinner.



December

Calendar of Events



- Thu 3 UMW Bee-lievers** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
Thu 3 Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
Sat 5 Christmas Party - 5:30 p.m. at Salem
Sun 6 Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. at Salem
Thu 10 Administrative Council - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
Thu 24 Christmas Eve Program - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
Thu 24 Parsonage Open House - Following the Christmas Eve Program
Sat 26 Country Churches Christmas Tour - 1:00-4:00 p.m. (Nine churches including Salem)

Recurring Events: Hero's Club meets every MONDAY at Salem when school is in session

Food Pantry is open every TUESDAY 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Salem

Adult Choir practices every TUESDAY at 7:30 p.m. at Salem

Praise Band practices every WEDNESDAY at 7:00 p.m. at Salem

Youth Group meets every THURSDAY 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Salem

Women's Book Club meets THURSDAY 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Harne's Store

The church is cleaned FRIDAY or SATURDAY every week

Newsletter Distribution

- E-Mail** — We are currently sending this newsletter to 193 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 49 cents First Class postage rate.



Salem Mission Project No. 4

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS — We were so blessed this month with two large donations to our food pantry from Grossnickle Church of the Brethren and Myersville Church of the Brethren. From left, Pastor Tim Ritchey Martin and Robert Delauter deliver a carload of food to the food pantry at Salem. —*Dawn Nelson*

Train of Life

At birth, we boarded the train of life and met our parents, and we believed that they would always travel by our side. However, at some station, our parents would step down from the train, leaving us on life's journey alone.

As time goes by, some significant people will board the train: siblings, other children, friends, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we won't realize that they vacated their seats! This train ride has been a mixture of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves. The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. Thus, we must try to travel along the track of life in the



best possible way -- loving, forgiving, giving, and sharing.

When the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty -- we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who continue to travel on the train of life.

Let's remember to thank our Creator for giving us life to participate in this journey.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

Directory of Addresses

■ By Bill Burrier

A new updated Directory of Addresses, with anniversaries and birthdays, has been printed.

The directory contains current members of Salem, friends who attend but are members elsewhere, those who support the church and its ministries, and others who have asked to be on the list

simply because they have an interest in Salem Church and its ministry.

Although the directory has been printed, please let me know of any address changes as they occur, and the change will be published in the next issue.

Also, if you would like your email address added, or your birthday added, please let me know as well.

Copies are available at church.

Who's Doing What, When?

9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		DECEMBER
Lay Readers 6 - Patrick Boyton 13 - Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer 20 - Dawn Nelson 27 - Dennis Draper	Ushers 6 - Dick Kline & Steve Leatherman 13 - Vernon Stottlemeyer & Robin Haupt 20 - Donald Stottlemeyer & Meredith Harshman 27 - Philip Koons & Brandon Leatherman	Music 6 - Sara Weitzel 13 - Works in Progress 20 - Susan Koons 27 - Susan Koons
Greeters 6 - Phyllis Beall 13 - Robin & Theresa Haupt 20 - George, Barbie, and Matthew Stottlemeyer 27 - Dennis & Ruth Draper	Acolytes 6 - Paul McCormick 13 - Jadie Buhrman 20 - Kenslie Buhrman 27 - Joshua Koons	
11:15 A.M. CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP		
An informal FAMILY FRIENDLY service with contemporary Christian music, pastor's message, children's time, sharing of joys and concerns, and prayer.		Music Dec 13 - Works in Progress Praise Band Dec 27 - Works in Progress Praise Band

It's Your Day!

December Anniversaries

- 3 - Ron & Amy Ellis
- 12 - Bob & Petie Stup
- 23 - Jon & Fonda Gormer
- 24 - Dennis & Ruth Draper

December Birthdays

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

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

Faith Builders Youth Group (Middle School & High School)

Weekly get-togethers during the school year: Every Thursday, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Salem.

Calendar of Activities

2015

- Dec 5 - Christmas Party
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Program

2016

- Feb 5-7 - ROCK Youth Retreat
- Feb 14 - Youth Sunday
- Feb 14 - Roller Skating Party
- Mar 13 - Seniors' Appreciation Luncheon
- Apr 16 or 23 - Hershey Park Trip
- Apr 22 - Spaghetti Dinner/Fundraiser
- May 27-28 - Progressive Dinner & Lock-In
- Jun 18 - End-of-Year Pool Party (Mueller's)
- June 29-July 2 - Creation Music Festival
- July 17 - Ice Cream Social

Co-Leaders:
 Wanda Barkdoll (301-416-0882)
 Laura Snyder (240-440-4884)

NEW
 Young Adult
 Sunday School Class
 Sundays 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.
 Teacher: Denny Leatherman

JOIN NOW!

Holy Communion
 Sunday, December 6, 2015
 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.



Sticky Buns & Apple Pies For Sale

As a fundraiser for Salem's United Methodist Women "Bee-lievers", Anita Harshman is making Pecan Cinnamon Sticky Buns and Apple Pies.

- Pecan Cinnamon Sticky Buns: \$12 a dozen
- Apple Pie (9-inch): \$10 each

You may purchase these items directly from Anita. 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.

Think about this . . .

We're concerned with how things turn out; God seems more concerned with how we turn out.



Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman



A Message at Christmas

By Grace Bush

I would light a Christmas candle of peace
to burn within your heart,
To cheer you with its gentle glow
whenever we're apart,
That you may be given strength and calm
and courage for each new day,
A peace that the world could never give
and cannot take away.

I would light a Christmas candle of faith
to burn with steady light,
To keep your faith in God secure
through even the darkest night,
That His care and His love surround your path
and you may always know
Your trust in him shall never fail,
wherever you may go.

I would light a Christmas candle of love
to burn so clear and strong,
To shine with an unfailing light
and bring to your heart a song,
For the Prince of Peace came down to earth
from His radiant heaven above
On that Christmas long ago, to bring us
His Father's love!

Christmas is a Time . . .

By John & Edna Massimilla

Christmas is a time for caring
And being with the folks you love.
Christmas is a time for sharing
Blessings sent from up above.

Christmas is a time for giving
To those who have some special need . . .
A time for trusting and forgiving —
A time for doing a worthwhile deed.

Christmas is a time for music,
For Christmas carols we love to sing,
Bringing peace, goodwill to men,
And praising Jesus, Lord and King.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

Remember,
if Christmas isn't found in your heart;
you won't find it under a tree.



RECIPE



Baked Chicken with Rice and Broccoli

This chicken and rice casserole has no processed foods in it, unlike most casseroles.

1 1/2 cups rice, uncooked	1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced (optional)
1 teaspoon salt	3 cups chicken broth
1 teaspoon celery seed	4 bone-in chicken breasts
1/2 cup onion, chopped	salt and pepper
3 cups broccoli florets	1/2 teaspoon paprika

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour rice in bottom of greased 9 x 13 pan, and sprinkle with salt and celery seed. Stir onions, broccoli, and mushrooms into rice. Pour chicken broth evenly over rice mixture. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper, and place chicken on top of rice. Sprinkle with paprika. Cover dish with foil and bake for 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake an additional 10-15 minutes. Serves 4.

Selected from A Farmer's Daughter — Recipes from a Mennonite Kitchen by Dawn Stoltzfus



His Name is at the Top

I had the nicest Christmas list,
The longest one in town,
Till Daddy looked at it and said,
"You'll have to cut it down."
I knew that what he said was true
Beyond the faintest doubt,
But was amazed to hear him say,
"You've left your best friend out."
And so I scanned my list again,
And said, "Oh, that's not true!"
But Daddy said, "His name's not there,
That Friend who died for you."
And then I clearly understood,
'Twas Jesus that he meant;
For Him who should come first of all
I hadn't planned a cent!
I'd made a Christmas birthday list,
And left the Savior out!
But, oh, it didn't take me long
To change the list about.
And though I've had to drop some
names of folks I like a lot,
My Lord must have the most--
because His name is at the top!

Submitted by Dianna Poling

Immanuel — God with us!



NEW MEMBER — November 15, 2015

The Salem congregation is pleased to welcome **SARA REMSBURG WEITZEL** as a new member.

Sara, who began attending worship at Salem about a year ago, is on staff as a part-time pianist, accompanying Salem's traditional worship on the first and fifth Sundays of the month.

Sara expressed, "I feel so blessed to now 'officially' be part of this congregation!"

Sara is also using her musical ability at Salem as she sings with the adult choir and leads the children in singing on special occasions. She is also a member of the Adult Discussion Group Sunday School Class.

Sara came to us from the Jefferson United Methodist Church.



Pastor's Notes... and *Worship in December*

■ By **PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER**

The theme for this year's Advent and Christmas Seasons is "Seeing Christ at Work in Your Life and the World around You." On Christmas Eve each year, we peer into the manger and look at baby Jesus. But in looking, do we see Christ? Do we encounter God?

The Seasons of Advent and Christmas are an opportunity for us to practice seeing how Christ is at work in our lives and in the world every day, to acknowledge the Lord's work on our behalf, and to trust in Christ even more.

This time of year Advent Calendars are popular. As we mark off each day of our Advent Calendars, how did we see Christ at work for us that day and what difference has that made for us?

December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

"Seeing Christ at Work in Your Life – Zechariah"

Luke 1:68-79

Zechariah was taking his turn serving at worship. It was his job to burn the incense. While serving, God came to Zechariah and told him his wife would bear a child. They were both older, and Zechariah didn't believe they could have a child. Due to Zechariah's unbelief, he lost his ability to speak until his son was born. Yes, they did have a child. Time had not run out for them.

Their child became John the Baptist, the one who would prepare people to receive their long awaited Savior. Zechariah witnesses to us today, "God changed my life. How is God present in your life, working for your good?"

December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

"Seeing Christ at Work in Your Life – John the Baptist"

Luke 3:7-18



John the Baptist was God's servant, enabling people to turn from their sins and have their relationship with God restored. John was clear what it would take: "Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God" (Luke 3:8). Some turned. Some did not. John the Baptist witnesses to us today, "God is present in our lives, working for our good and calling us out to turn from that remaining sin that continues to hold us back. Will we turn from that sin and turn to God?"

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Seeing Christ at Work in Your Life – Mary, Elizabeth"

Luke 1:39-45

Mary was pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. It seemed impossible, but somehow God helped her understand it was true. But how would Joseph ever understand? How could she possibly explain it to him? How could this possibly end in them remaining together? Mary needed a trusted friend to be with and talk to.

So Mary made the journey to be with Elizabeth. God worked through their care and support for one another. When God calls us to serve, God provides what we need. And many times, God's care comes to us through other human beings. Mary and Elizabeth witness to us today, "What is God calling upon you to do? Who has God sent into your life to help you?"

December 24

Christmas Eve Service

"Seeing Christ at Work in Your Life – Mary and Joseph"

Mary and Joseph aren't the only characters in the birth story. There were also the angels, the shepherds, the wise men, and even the cattle present at the stable. But Mary, Joseph, and their new born baby are clearly the central figures. The parents must have been relieved that everything had turned out ok. The miraculous pregnancy, the arduous journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, no room in the inn when they arrived, hurriedly locating and preparing the stable, the birth itself – there must have been a great sense of relief that mom and the baby were ok and I'm sure Mary and Joseph just wanted some time to take in this mountaintop experience.

But that was not to be. Visitors came almost immediately – shepherds and wise men. And right after that the couple was forced to escape to Egypt where they would live as aliens for several years hiding from the king who considered Jesus a threat and sought to kill him. But all that time God was with them, and they eventually returned back home safely. "On this night, Lord, when we remember that day you first came, help us to see how you are present and at work in our lives and the world around us right now. Thank you for always being with us.

December 27

First Sunday of Christmas

"Seeing Christ at Work in Your Life – The Shepherds and the Wise Men"

Luke 2:41-52

Sometimes we may not see ourselves as worthy to receive God's love and care. The occupation of "shepherd" was considered one of the least significant in Jesus' time. The Wise Men were gentiles, not considered to be within the circle of God's chosen people. But Jesus turned all those social norms upside down.

Shepherds were the first to be invited by God to worship the newly-born Jesus. And God invited the Wise Men to come and worship Jesus, widening the circle of God's chosen people to include everyone in the world. The Shepherds and Wise Men witness to us today, "You are worthy in God's eyes. Nothing and no one can take that from you. See all the ways Christ is at work in your life and the world around have and have joy!"

November 20, 2015

Scenes from the "Salem Slam" Ping-Pong Tournament



RESULTS

Photos by Joe Hawkins



ADULT DIVISION WINNERS — 1st Denny Leatherman, 2nd George Stottlemeyer, 3rd Meredith Harshman, and 4th Chris Leatherman. From left, Chris, George, Denny, and Meredith.



YOUTH DIVISION WINNERS — 1st Josh Koons, 2nd Matthew MacPhee, 3rd Joe Hawkins, and 4th George Hawkins. From left, Joe, George (front), Matthew, and Josh.

PLAY ACTION



■ By Joe Hawkins

Salem's annual "Salem Slam" Ping-Pong Tournament was held on Friday evening, November 20th.

We had our best turn-out ever. We had 35 players and about 10 spectators. It was a fun evening with a great crowd.

Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer, Anita Harshman, and Wanda Barkdoll provided a wonderful pre-game meal. Thanks go out to everyone who brought something, helped set-up, or helped clean up.



Outreach and Missions



Salem Mission Project No. 17

All of our Mosquitos have been swatted!

By Fonda Gormer

Thanks to our out-of-state friend's challenge, the generosity of the Adult Discussion Group Sunday School Class and a few other people, Salem has met (and exceeded by \$117) its goal of \$1,620 for the "Imagine No Malaria" initiative in 2014-15.

This fulfills Salem's total pledge of \$2,820, made by our Administrative Council in early 2014 towards the Baltimore-Washington Conference's effort to raise \$2,106,167.06.

Each \$10 represents one life saved from malaria, so Salem has potentially



saved 280 lives through the generosity of its congregation. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this mission project.

All the mosquitos have been removed from our hallway display. Feel free to pick-up a green "Imagine No Malaria" bracelet from the table.

Salem Mission Project No. 6

Board of Child Care Auxiliary



November 23, 2015 — The group in the above photo, including Dawn Nelson from Salem, set up the Christmas Store for the residents at the Falling Waters facility. The children can purchase items for their families, with the most costing 75 cents.

Salem Mission Project No. 1

A Letter from Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer

Dear Folks at Salem:

We have so much for which to thank God! And you folks are among those for whom we are thankful. We thank you for your friendship and for your faithful financial support over many years.

We are both doing well as far as our health. We have aches and pains like pretty much everyone, but we are thankful that we don't have any major medical problems, as far as we know.

Nancy is still doing volunteer work at the Hagerstown Rescue Mission; usually three days a week. She continues to visit several widows, serves in the church nursery, and other things. Frank continues to serve on the board of our home church, serve as the church treasurer and serves in other ways at our home church. He also helps others with practical work as we learn of needs.

We praise God that He provided a pastor for our home church, Black Rock Bible Church. He and his wife are really entering into the ministries there, and we are thankful for them.

One matter for which we would really appreciate your prayers is that we have been told that we need to leave the house we have been renting since January 2004. That was a big surprise and disappointment for us, but we understand the need of the owner for his family situation. So would you please pray that God will direct us to whatever

house He has for us. We are looking into the possibility of buying a house instead of renting, but at this point we don't know if that will be possible. We have until October 1st, so we have some time before we need to move.

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. Our son, Eric & his wife Wendy continue their ministry to the Badyaranké people in Senegal. Eric is preparing another set of Bible lessons to begin teaching again when people are finished harvesting their crops & will be able to attend. They are also recording Bible lessons for MP3 players that they loan to people in the village. Our daughter, Rebecca, is on home assignment from Senegal and is living with us. She arrived here June 30th and plans to return near the end of December or in early January to resume her ministry with the Badyaranké people. Our son, Gary, his wife Lisa, & family continue to serve at the New Tribes Mission Homes, a center for retired missionaries in Florida. We were able to visit them for a week in October. Lisa's mother had surgery for cancer and is now taking chemo treatments.

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



CROP Walk raises over \$3,300 for Hunger Programs

By Fonda Gormer

The 2015 Wolfsville/Myersville CROP Walk for Hunger raised \$3,356 for local and international hunger programs.

There were 45 walkers on September 27, along with 2 dogs and Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer and her horse Mischief. Four others walked on other days and collected pledges. The oldest walker was Delphin Frushour from St. Mark's Lutheran Church; the youngest was Camden Baker from Harmony Church of the Brethren.

Participating churches, the number of walkers, and the amount raised are as follows:

Pleasant Walk UMC	3 walkers	\$130
Grossnickle COB	10	\$985
Harmony COB	10	\$565
Salem UMC	23	\$1,361
St. Mark's Lutheran	3	\$315
TOTAL	49	\$3,356

Once again, Salem's congregation has been very supportive of mission efforts. Thank you to all our walkers and their sponsors, and to Michael Burrier who serves as walk treasurer.

Outreach *and* Missions



Salem Mission Project No. 15

Photos by Dawn Nelson



Heather O'Connor, Hero's Club Leader, helps a Hero's Club student with his pumpkin carving.

Pre-school through 5th grade children may join Hero's Club at any time. Registration Forms are available at www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org/heros-club

October 26, 2015 — The Hero's Club children enjoyed their "Jack-O-Lanterns for Jesus" pumpkin carving event. They gathered their pumpkins one week earlier while on a field trip to the Crumland Farms Pumpkin Patch.

Salem Mission Project No. 12

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick

Dear Salem:

This past week reminded me how important it is that Care Net Frederick doors are open, and how important your support is to us.

A young woman came to Care Net in tears. She had an abortion appointment scheduled for that day, and she was struggling because she didn't want to go through with it. She felt as if she didn't have anyone to talk to about this monumental choice.

She shared that she had come to Care Net Frederick a few years ago for material assistance, and while she was aimlessly driving around, she remembered us.

She shared her story with me, and was looking for encouragement so that she cannot make the choice to carry this pregnancy.

I am so thankful that she remembered



us, and that we were here to love and encourage her so that she definitely could make the decision to continue her pregnancy.

She left the center feeling stronger in her decision, and will be coming back for an ultrasound.

Please pray for her that she will continue to be strong and that seeing her baby on ultrasound will encourage her heart. Your partnership is a blessing to us and to our clients. Blessings, —Linda

Salem Mission Project No. 8

Potato Project at Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, VA

Dear Friends in Christ:

You make all the difference! Through your gifts, Salem will put healthy, nourishing food on the tables of individuals and families who are struggling to get by. With us, you engage volunteer gleaners in hands-on mission and service. Every nickel you give puts two servings of healthy food on the tables of people in greatest need. Thank you for reaching out as the hands and feet of Christ, and thank you for your faithfulness.

Salem Mission Project No. 11



The road to the Kayaskita church.

Ronnie & Angi Hopkins say "Thank You" from Nicaragua

Thank you for giving us time in the pulpit to share a moment regarding the ministry in Nicaragua.

You and your church have been so faithful in your support over these many years. We are very grateful for that.

When we visit your church, we feel a very sweet spirit there. We wish our visits could be longer... we seem to always be in a rush!

Now, back in Nicaragua, Ronnie continues to make monthly trips to the Rio Bocay. The communities on the river have shared their needs for clean water, schools for their children and churches. We are helping them with these projects.

As Ronnie shared in the service, we are doing a lot of training for pastors, Sunday School teachers and youth directors.

—Ronnie & Angi, Nicaragua

Sunday School Classes

Every Sunday 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.



Children, Infant to 4 years

Teacher: Caroline Buhrman

Children, Grades K to 3

Teachers: Michael & Jennifer Burrier

Children, Grades 4 to 6

Teachers: Kathy Laky, Melissa Thornton, Patrick Boyton

Youth, Grades 7 to 12

Teacher: Fonda Gormer

Young Adult Class [NEW]

Teacher: Dennis Leatherman

Adult Discussion Group - Couples & Singles

Teacher: Bill Burrier

Men's Class

Teachers: George Harne, Bobby Fogle, Meredith Harshman

Women's Class

Teachers: Mary Cline & Darlene Burrier

Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. —Mark 16:15 New International Version (NIV)



Merry Christmas to You, Mary Christmas

Merry Christmas to you, Mary Christmas. That's what the former Mary Young will be hearing this holiday season, after she married Brian Christmas recently.

"It was meant to be," Mary Christmas told her local newspaper. "God has a sense of humor. What are the chances that it would ever happen?" She has found, however, that she is not alone. There are as many as 100 other Mary Christmases in the United States. "The last name of Christmas has its origin in Wales," she said.

Service or Not?

It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of winter after a heavy fall of snow and only Farmer Evans and the Reverend Joseph Lancaster managed to arrive at the church for the morning service.

"Well," said the pastor laconically, "I guess there's no point in having a service today."

"Well that's not how I see it," said Farmer Evans. "If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it."

Some thoughts to ponder . . .

The birth of Christ brought God to man; the cross of Christ brings man to God.

May you know the peace of Christmas every day of the year.

When Christ forgives us our hearts are as clean as new-fallen snow.

God made His home with us so that we might make our home with Him.

The Mountain Shepherd

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

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Address Services Requested

TWO WORSHIP SERVICES

— Every Sunday —

9:00 a.m. Traditional

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Contemporary

Place Stamp Here