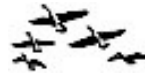


The



Newsletter of the Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

Mountain Shepherd

Volume 35

December 2017

Number 12



Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville



Sermon Series

“Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph”

Sundays Dec 3 thru 31

More details on pages 8 & 9

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Salem to be part of Country Churches Christmas Tour

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017 — 1:00-5:00 p.m.



Photo by Jody Brumage

The third annual **Country Churches Christmas Tour** will be held on Saturday, December 16, from 1-5 p.m.

The tour, sponsored by the Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society, will feature eleven churches from Harmony to Foxville, who will open their doors to share their history and holiday decorations.

The tour begins at Town Hall in Myersville, where brochures, maps,

refreshments and restrooms are available.

Guests are free to visit the churches of their choice at their own pace. Salem will be one of the churches on the tour.

If you would like to be a host for part of the day at Salem, contact Fonda Gormer.

Snow date for the tour is Sunday, December 17, from 1-5 p.m. To see if the snow date is in effect, check the website at myersville-wolfsville.weebly.com.

Celebrate the Christmas Season with us . . .

* **Sunday Worship Theme** “Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph” — 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

- Sun Dec 3 “A Carpenter Named Joseph”
- Sun Dec 10 “Whose Child is This”
- Sun Dec 17 “Raising a Child Not Your Own”
- Sun Dec 24 “The Journey to Bethlehem”
- Sun Dec 31 “The Rest of the Story”



* **Salem Christmas Party** — 5:30 p.m.

- Sat Dec 2 Party includes potluck dinner, visit from Santa, & caroling.
- All ages — Bring a wrapped gift under \$5 for the exchange game.

* **Country Church Christmas Tour** — 1:00-5:00 p.m.

- Sat Dec 16 Visit Salem as well as other area churches

* **Christmas Eve Program** — 7:00 p.m.

- Sun Dec 24 Celebrating the Birth of Jesus



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Chair, Church Council: Vernon Stottlemeyer
Outreach: Barbara Stottlemeyer
Worship: Mary Alice Shankle
Sun. School Leaders: Bobby Fogle & Kathy Laky
Chair, Board of Trustees: Gary Barkdoll
Church Treasurer: William Burrier
Sunday School Treasurer: Mary Fogle
Chair, Staff-Parish Relations: Dennis Draper
Food Pantry: Dawn Nelson

Salem Membership Statistics:
Current Membership: 243
2017 New Members: 4

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

Salem Website:
www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Colophon:
Produced using macOS Pages 6.3.1 and macOS 10.12.6 on an Apple iMac computer, HP LaserJet P3015 postscript laser printer, and Ricoh MP-3054 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.

2017 MISSION PROJECTS

| | | MONTHLY MINIMUM | PAID Jan-Oct |
|-----------|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer (Ethnos360, formerly New Tribes) | \$205 | \$2,050.00 |
| 2 | Operation Christmas Child (Postage paid in November) | ----- | \$0.00 |
| 3a | Salem Mission & Outreach (Local needs) | ----- | \$4,172.39 |
| 3b | Wolfsville School PTA (All Pro Families Breakfast) Pay Jan & Sept | ----- | \$900.00 |
| 4 | Salem Food Pantry (Open Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.) | ----- | \$2,062.38 |
| 5 | Mary E. (AIM - Europe) | \$85 | \$1,075.00 |
| 6 | United Methodist Board of Child Care (Auxiliary & Direct Support) | ----- | \$729.00 |
| 7 | Gideons (Frederick West Camp - Distributing Bibles) | \$50 | \$500.00 |
| 8 | Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, VA) | \$50 | \$500.00 |
| 9 | Middletown High School (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) | \$50 | \$500.00 |
| 10 | Ronnie & Angi Hopkins (TMS-Global, Nicaragua) | \$65 | \$650.00 |
| 11 | Care Net Pregnancy Center (Frederick, MD) | \$65 | \$650.00 |
| 12 | Compassion International (Sponsored child in Tanzania) | \$38 | \$266.00 |
| 13 | Hero’s Club After School Ministry (Kindergarten through Grade 5) | ----- | \$2,207.15 |
| 14 | World Vision (Sponsored child in Colombia) | \$35 | \$350.00 |

2017 Goal: **\$17,186** • Total Mission Offering for 2017: **\$15,325.14** • % of Goal: **89%**

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING — Each year, the entire offering received at Salem’s Christmas Eve program is given to the Board of Child Care. The Board of Child Care is an agency within the United Methodist Church that is dedicated to ministering to the needs of troubled children and their families. They take 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. Campuses are located near Baltimore and in Falling Waters, West Virginia.



OFFICE HOURS for PASTOR BOB

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Sunday _____</p> <p>7am - 1 pm Prep, worship, Sunday School (at church)</p> <p>6 - 7 pm Bible Study (at church)</p> | <p>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</p> <p>6-7 am Devotions (at home)</p> <p>9 am - Noon Parsonage Office</p> <p>Noon - 1 pm Lunch</p> <p>1-5 pm Visitation, meetings, or parsonage office</p> |
| <p>Monday (day off) _____</p> <p>6-7 am Devotions (at home)</p> <p>9-11 am Planning Time (at home)</p> <p>5-6 pm Hero’s Club (at church)</p> | <p>Saturday _____</p> <p>7-9 am Final touches on Sunday’s sermon (at home)</p> |

Also, Pastor Bob will be at church or in homes to attend meetings or check-in on evening activities at the church. He will make hospital visits and other visits as situations arrive. He will be working at home in Myersville, at the parsonage office, or elsewhere, as needed.

Celebrating Jesus' Birth

Christmas *at* Salem



Salem Mission Projects Nos. 2 & 3

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD & SALVATION ARMY STOCKINGS

■ By Barbie Stottlemeyer

We delivered 28 shoe boxes to the collection center at Trinity United Methodist Church, in Frederick, for the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" Shoe Box Project.

Thank you to those who volunteered and wrapped numerous boxes; to all those who filled the shoe boxes; and to those who paid postage toward sending the boxes. This is a very worthy project that we have participated in for many years. Just think of the joy the children will experience as they open the shoe boxes we donated. If it wasn't for the generosity given from our church, 28 under-privileged children from somewhere around the world would not experience the joy of receiving a Christmas gift.

Also, thanks to Richard & Anita Harshman for delivering 30 stockings, filled by Salem members & friends, to the Salvation Army in Frederick.



United Methodist Women

Bee-lievers to Welcome the Christmas Season at Dec Meeting

■ By Fonda Gormer, President, UMW Bee-lievers

The Bee-lievers will meet on Thursday, December 7, at 7 p.m. in the church social area. For this meeting, attendees are asked to bring a holiday reading to share for devotions. They are also asked to bring a holiday food or beverage item, with recipe, to share. (This is in place of the previous Cookie Exchange that the group has held.)

The Bee-lievers will be planning activities for 2018, including a craft night, and their soup and sandwich sale.

All women of the congregation are invited to join us, and bring a reading and a refreshment to share with the group. If you have any questions, contact me at 301-293-2436 or fonda.gormer@comcast.net.

Salem Christmas Party set for Saturday, December 2, 5:30 p.m.

■ By Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer

You are invited to the annual Salem Christmas Party to be held at the church on Saturday, December 2, 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, weather permitting.



Salem Children's Choir to sing Christmas Eve

■ By Sara Weitzel

The Children's Choir will be rehearsing for the Christmas Eve Service, beginning Sunday, Nov. 26th, and continuing every Sunday through Dec. 24th. All children who are available that evening and interested in participating in the choir are invited to meet for practices in the Social Hall, by the piano, during the LAST 10 minutes of the Sunday School hour (approximately 10:50-11:00 a.m.). We are hoping that this rehearsal time will provide an opportunity for the children who normally attend the second service to be able to participate in the choir as well. If you have any questions, please contact me at 240-409-1241 (mobile) or srweitzel@hotmail.com.



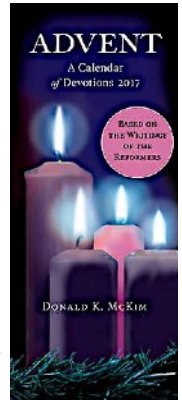
Advent Devotional

Salem is providing an Advent devotional to each family which includes a brief reading for each day in Advent, beginning December 3rd. Each day will include a suggested scripture, a short devotion, and a closing prayer.

Each devotion reflects the writings of the Protestant reformers, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The author, Donald K. McKim, served as academic dean and professor of theology at Memphis Theological Seminary, and as professor of theology at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

Salem will also be lighting Advent candles during Sunday worship services.



Preparing for Christmas Eve SALEM ADULT CHOIR

■ By Sandy Lewis

The Adult Choir will present the fun and festive Christmas musical, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year", during the Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. on December 24.

This musical created by Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldin combines classic songs and hymns with new songs of the season in a celebration of Christmas. We look forward to presenting this and hope it will help to make Christmas the "most wonderful time of the year" for you!



LUMINARIES are being made again this year and will be lighted and placed in front of the church for Christmas Eve and other events. Contact: Kathy Laky

Attendance Offerings

October 2017

| | | Worship* | Sunday School |
|--------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Oct 1 | - | 82 \$2,661.00 | 50 \$261.00 |
| Oct 8 | - | 95 1,969.80 | 53 88.00 |
| Oct 15 | - | 94 2,457.50 | 59 141.00 |
| Oct 22 | - | 88 2,296.00 | 66 221.00 |
| Oct 29 | - | 70 1,829.50 | 48 99.50 |

*Worship attendance & offerings include both worship services.

- Missions: \$1,982.14
 - Cemetery Endowment: \$225.00
 - Building Fund: \$325.00
 - Building Addition: \$125.00
- (Missions, Building Fund offerings, etc. are not included in Worship & Sunday School offerings above.)

| | Average Attendance | |
|------|--------------------|---------------|
| | Worship | Sunday School |
| Oct | 86 | 55 |
| Sept | 92 | 51 |
| Aug | 86 | 48 |
| July | 82 | 51 |
| June | 99 | 48 |

Average Attendance Jan-Oct 2017

Sunday Worship: 91
Sunday School: 52

United Methodist Women

Bee-lievers support Holiday Craft Sale at Wolfsville Elementary School

By Fonda Gormer

For several years, the Wolfsville Elementary School PTA has been holding a Holiday Craft Sale to give students an opportunity to purchase inexpensive gifts for their family members. The PTA depends on volunteers to make handcrafted gifts in the quantity needed.

As part of Salem's support of the local elementary school, the Bee-lievers made 55 reindeer ornaments, with candy



cane antlers, for the craft sale. The ornaments, pictured above, were delivered to the school on November 14.

Thanks to all the women who assisted in crafting these reindeer.

October 29, 2017

Harvest Festival "canceled" due to weather

By Kathy Laky

This year's Harvest Festival and Trunk or Treat was canceled due to weather concerns. While we were very disappointed, it proved to be the correct decision. The evening of October 29th was an awful mess. The good news is, we will be well prepared for next year's festival.

The Harvest Festival Committee would like to extend a thank you to everyone for their support and participation; including members from Garfield and Mt. Bethel churches and the Wolfsville community.

We would also like to extend a very



special thank you to Mike Burrier for the lovely informational handouts, Steve Leatherman for setting up the hay ride, and Mandy Mellott and Meadows Farms for the offer of a donation of a truck load of pumpkins so that the kids could take home a pumpkin and/or a gourd or two.

It is so much fun to see the Fall Festival grow. We are very excited for next year and hope to see you all there.

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, P. O. Box 94, 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.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen. —Robert Louis Stevenson





December

Calendar of Events



- Sat 2 **Christmas Party** - 5:30 p.m. at Salem
- Sun 3 **Holy Communion** - 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. worship
- Thu 7 **Board of Trustees Meeting** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
- Thu 7 **UMW "Bee-lievers"** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
- Thu 14 **Church Council** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
- Sat 16 **Country Churches Christmas Tour** - 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Sun 24 **Christmas Eve Program** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem

Recurring Events: Children's Choir every SUNDAY 10:50 a.m. in social room
 Hero's Club After School Ministry is held every MONDAY when school is in session
 Adult Choir every TUESDAY 7:30 p.m.
 Food Pantry is open every TUESDAY 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Salem
 Praise Band practices 1st WEDNESDAY & 2nd, 3rd & 4th THURSDAYS at 7:00 p.m. at Salem
 Youth Group meets every THURSDAY at 6:30 p.m. at Salem
 The church is cleaned FRIDAY or SATURDAY every week

Newsletter Distribution

1. **E-Mail** — We are currently notifying 204 of our readers via e-mail when our newsletter is posted online. 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 49 cents First Class postage rate.

November 10, 2017

"Salem Slam" Ping-Pong Tournament Results

Photos by Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer



PING-PONG PLAYERS Chris Leatherman (left) and George Stottlemeyer battle for the championship. Congratulations to George Stottlemeyer, the winner.



PING-PONG TOURNAMENT ADULT DIVISION WINNERS
 George Stottlemeyer (center) 1st place.
 Chris Leatherman (left) 2nd place.
 Denny Leatherman (right) 3rd place.



YOUTH PLAYERS — From left, Nevaeh, Loralli, Adalee, and Delilah

Who's Doing What, When?

DECEMBER

9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Lay Readers 3 - Brenda Freysz 10 - Gary Barkdoll 17 - Robin Haupt 24 - Donald Stottlemeyer 31 - Mary Cline | Ushers 3 - Dick Kline & Steve Leatherman 10 - Vernon Stottlemeyer & Robin Haupt 17 - Donald Stottlemeyer & Meredith Harshman 24 - Philip Koons & Brandon Leatherman 31 - Robin Haupt & Donald Stottlemeyer | Music 3 - Sara Weitzel 10 - Praise Band 17 - Sara Weitzel 24 - Susan Koons 31 - Sara Weitzel |
|--|--|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| Greeters 3 - Donald & Susie Stottlemeyer 10 - Fonda Gormer 17 - George, Barbie & Matt Stottlemeyer 24 - Richard & Anita Harshman 31 - Vernon & Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer | Acolytes 3 - Paul McCormick 10 - Noah Taveras 17 - Kenslie Buhrman 24 - Joshua Koons 31 - 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 10 - Works in Progress Praise Band Dec 17 - 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
- 8 - Sara Weitzel
- 9 - Theresa Haupt
- 9 - Mark Koons
- 11 - Amber Breneman
- 12 - Laura Colbert
- 17 - Holly Rippeon
- 18 - Holly Brashears
- 23 - Bill Burrier
- 25 - Stuart Tolland
- 28 - Lavena Jenkins
- 29 - Jackson Haddock
- 30 - Keagan Mellott

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

MY REGULAR CHURCH OFFERING

For Church Expenses..... \$ _____

For Missions \$ _____

For Building Fund \$ _____

Name _____

Offering Envelopes for 2018

If anyone wishes to start or stop their offering envelopes for the new year, please email Lora McGraw, Salem Financial Secretary, at kre8ive4u@yahoo.com or call and leave a message at 301-824-3322. Anyone who has started online giving does not have to notify Lora to cancel.

Offering Cards for Electronic Givers

If you are taking advantage of the convenience of electronic giving, Salem has offering cards available for you to place in the offering plate.

The card is printed with these words: "I give online. I support Salem Church and its ministry by giving electronically. I place this card in the offering as a way of participating in this act of worship."

Equipment Purchased for Youth

Salem recently purchased a 39" LED TV and a Blu-Ray Player for the youth room in the parsonage. The TV will be an additional teaching tool to facilitate youth group activities. Salem's Faith Builders Youth Group (Middle & High School) meets every Thursday 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Holy Communion

Sunday, December 3
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 240-818-0126. Orders can be placed at any time and can be picked up after services on Sunday.

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the wisdom of the wise men.



Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman





The Wonder of Christmas

By Marian L. Moore

The year swiftly draws to its close,
Autumn is winter once more
And Christmas returns to the world
As it has done centuries before.

We pause for a moment or two,
Remembering all that it means
To hear the old story again . . .
More lovely than ever it seems.

The wonder of Bethlehem's star
And shepherds who stood in its light;
Three wise men who came from the East
To welcome the Christ Child that night.

The church bells melodious chime
Ring their message of peace on earth,
The wonderful love God has given
To all through that heavenly birth.

May that love overflow your heart
And the ones of those you hold dear,
To bring you its peace and good will
Each day of the forthcoming year.



The Story of Christmas

By Marian L. Moore

The beautiful story of Christmas
Again is retold upon earth,
A story of peace and good will to men
Through the wonderful gift of Christ's birth.

The weary world pauses to listen
Once more, as the story is told,
And songs of the angels re-echo
Again, as in ages of old.

Trouble and cares are forgotten
Just now, in this moment of time;
God's grace and the care of His children
Are a part of that gift, most divine.

So, then let the story of Christmas
Its wonderful message impart,
And the year ahead filled with gladness
Bring God's love and peace to your heart.

Enjoy peace, hope, and love at Christmas.



RECIPE



Cranberry & Vanilla Chip Cookies

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup margarine or butter, softened | 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour |
| 1 1/3 cups sugar | 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats |
| 1/2 cup refrigerated or frozen fat-free egg product, thawed, or 2 eggs | 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda |
| 1 teaspoon imitation butter flavor | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| | 1 cup sweetened dried cranberries |
| | 2/3 cup white vanilla chips |

Directions

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray cookie sheets with non-stick cooking spray. In large bowl, combine margarine and sugar; beat until light and fluffy. Add egg product and butter flavor; mix well. Add flour, oats, baking soda and salt; mix well. Stir in cranberries and vanilla chips. Drop dough by tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart onto sprayed cookie sheets.
2. Bake at 350 degrees for 9 to 11 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets. Cool on wire racks 15 minutes or until completely cooled.

Yield: 4 dozen cookies.

Notes: You may substitute raisins, currants or chopped dried apricots for the dried cranberries. Also, fat-free egg product is actually real egg whites with a bit of coloring and flavoring to compensate for the lack of a yolk. It's available frozen or in the dairy section of the supermarket.

Barbie Stottlemeyer made these cookies for last year's Bee-lievers cookie exchange.



In Sympathy

Phoebe Sparks

Jan 6, 1931-Oct 28, 2017

The Salem congregation expresses sincere sympathy to the Sparks family, upon the death of Phoebe Sparks, 86, on October 28, 2017.

Mrs. Sparks was the wife of Rev. Hayden L. Sparks, former pastor of the Wolfsville United Methodist Charge. The Sparks lived in Salem's parsonage and ministered in the Wolfsville community for 7 years, from 1989 to 1996, until Rev. Sparks retired from ministry.

The Sparks served three churches on the Wolfsville Charge— Salem, Garfield, and Pleasant Walk, presenting sermons at all three

It's a Girl

Congratulations to Jamie & Richard Freysz on the birth of a daughter, Makinley Grace Freysz, born Tuesday, October 31, 2017. Makinley weighed 8 pounds 15 ounces. Proud grandparents are Randy & Brenda Freysz.

churches every Sunday morning.

Phoebe was active in ministry along side Rev. Sparks; she had a gift for music and participated in the church's ministries and activities.

A memorial service was held on November 4, 2017, at the Fredericktowne Baptist Church, Walkersville. Burial was in Blair Memorial Park, Altoona, PA.

For You at Christmas — For you we wish many good things at Christmas, and most especially these: time to pause and, for a little while, recapture the magic of your childhood Christmases . . . someone to care and share with you Christ's birthday . . . the supreme joy of making happy someone who is less fortunate than you . . . and, best of all, the deep heart-wonder of finding anew the stable and the star. —*Esther Baldwin York*



Message from the Pastor and Worship in December

■ By PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER

Advent and Christmas— I love these seasons, and I know they are special to you also. My favorite Christmas Hymn is actually more an Advent Hymn, “Emmanuel.” The tune is beautiful, the words “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” express our deepest longing, and the hymn’s title tells how God answers that desire.

Translated, Emmanuel means “God is with us.” That God— King of kings, Lord of lords, creator-savior-present helper— decided to come and live among us and remains present now to be our best friend through life, brings great hope and joy to my soul.

Maybe life is smooth sailing for you right now. Maybe you’re grief-stricken or struggling in some other way. Maybe you’re a great saint or maybe a great sinner. Maybe you believe in Jesus or maybe you don’t or maybe you’re not sure what you believe.

Wherever you find yourself on life’s journey this Christmas, please know that you are welcome here to be with us as we experience God this Advent and Christmas. “Come find me Lord Jesus!” Praying you have a blessed Advent and Christmas. —Pastor Bob

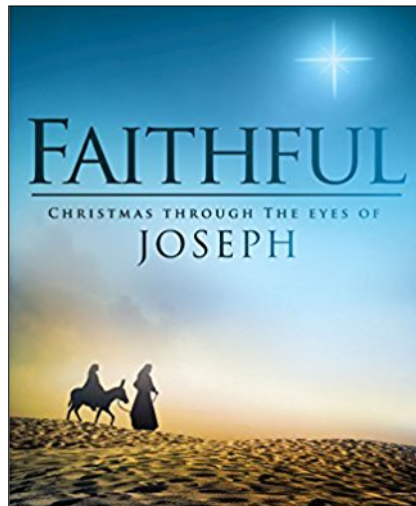
December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Sermon Series: Faithful – Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph ¹
“A Carpenter Named Joseph”

Our Advent and Christmas Sermon Series, “Faithful – Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph,” is based on Adam Hamilton’s book of the same title.

Matthew 13:54-55 - “Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in the synagogue, and they were amazed. ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?’ they asked. ‘Isn’t he the carpenter’s son?’”



We detect sarcasm in these words. “How could this man, with these powers, come from a mere carpenter?”

But that was exactly God’s intention. So many times God uses the ordinary to accomplish his purposes.

Joseph was everything God needed to raise up Jesus to be our Savior. You and I, ordinary ourselves, are exactly who God desires to raise up the next generation to be sons and daughters of God.

December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Series: Faithful – Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph ¹
“Whose Child Is This?”

Matthew 1:18-19 - “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”

The angel who would later come to reassure Joseph had not yet arrived. At this point, Joseph felt only brokenness and betrayal. Nevertheless, he reached out to Mary with grace, mercy, and forgiveness. We see these same qualities in Jesus. He learned them from Joseph.

As we learn to extend grace, mercy and forgiveness to others, we find more and more of the fullness of life.

December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon Series: Faithful – Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph ¹
“Raising a Child Not Your Own”

Matthew 20-21 - “As he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’”

This third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as “Joy Sunday,” shown by the rose-colored advent candle. An angel came to Joseph bringing comfort and courage.

Angels come into our lives also, and we are angels to others as God’s comfort and courage are given and received.

Through our angels, God calls us to go beyond our comfort zones to grow and serve. God calls all of us to help raise a child, not our own, as a stepfather or adoptive parent or as a Sunday school teacher or other servant.

Responding to God’s call to step out in faith brings joy into our lives.

December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon Series: Faithful – Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph ¹
“The Journey to Bethlehem”

Luke 2:3-5 - “Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.”

The journey to Bethlehem was not a journey Joseph wanted to take. The

—continued on page 9

Worship in December

—continued from page 8

Roman authorities had ordered it, so Joseph had to go. He took Mary with him because he felt compelled to remain close to Mary and their child to protect them.

Like all of us, I'm sure Joseph took other journeys in life he didn't want to take and in doing so he modeled for Jesus the importance of trusting that God is with us and takes care of us in such times.

Learning this from Joseph must have helped Jesus on the journey he didn't want to take – the one to his death on the cross.

On those journeys we don't want to take, God reassures us, "Give me your worries and cares, I will walk with you. Trust in me, I will not let you fail."

December 24

Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.

Experience our Lord as the simple wonder of the Christmas Story is told through Scripture readings and Christmas hymns; Children's Choir, nativity scene, and recitations; and a presentation by the Adult Choir.



We'll end the service singing "Silent Night" by candlelight, and walk to our cars along candlelit sidewalks treasuring in our hearts, "The light of our world has come! God is with us!"

December 31

First Sunday after Christmas Sermon Series: Faithful – Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph¹ "The Rest of the Story"

Luke 2:21 – "On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him when he was conceived."

Joseph and Mary were practicing their faith when they had Jesus circumcised,

similar to our practice of baptism. They passed their faith onto Jesus.

Joseph hosted both the lowliest shepherds and the loftiest wise men who came to worship the new born Jesus. He must have taught Jesus that God's love takes in all people.

Jesus' own family became refugees when they escaped to Egypt. Perhaps it was the gifts from the wise men that paid their expenses during those hard times.

Joseph remained faithful, built relationships with people unlike himself, and experienced being a refugee.

Joseph must have learned much that he passed on to his son about these life experiences in which God seeks to find us and care for us.

This is the promise we're reminded of at Christmas – that God is on a mission to search for us, find us, and love and care for us.

¹ Adam Hamilton, *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2017)

Salem Mission Project No. 14



Yurley Paola Paul

Del Sueño a la Realidad, Colombia
Salem's sponsored child through World Vision

Thank you for your support in helping to improve my community, so I can have a better life and future. I am now 14 years old. Currently, I am in secondary school studying grade 9.

Salem Mission Project No. 4

Salem Food Pantry Distributes Turkey Meals

■ By Dawn Nelson

On Tuesday evening, November 21, Salem's Food Pantry volunteers gave 13 turkeys and all the fixings to our Food Pantry families. We also provided 3 turkey meals to 3 needy families from Wolfsville Elementary School.

This year, we included a roasting pan, instructions on how to safely thaw a turkey, along with our postcard listing our church activities.

Since Salem's Food Pantry is a partner with the Maryland Food Bank, we were able to purchase these 16 meals for only \$10 each, turkey and all!

Upon hearing the families express their appreciation for this gift, it made our Thanksgiving very special.



Photo by Dawn Nelson

Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph

From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity. Join us at Salem during the Advent season to learn how Joseph humbly obeyed God even when he didn't understand.

Missions is the Mission of the Church

Salem Mission Projects



Salem Mission Project No. 5

Mary is Redirecting her Mission Work from Chad to France

October 26, 2017

FRANCE —

Mary is redirecting her mission work to Europe, but she first needed to return to Chad to say goodbye.

Goodbyes in Chad

I'm writing this newsletter in France, just an hour's train ride from Paris. When I last wrote, I was on my way to Chad to say goodbye. It was a significant time for me. Over the course of that week, I was able to spend time with friends, both foreigners and locals.

I arrived in the capital on the night of September 5, and the next morning traveled out to D'town, where I spent the next four days. Thank the Lord, the bit of language I had learned came back after the first day – not entirely, but enough to be able to communicate with those around me.

I was able to spend significant time with several friends, both locals and teammates. I hadn't realized the extent to which I had struggled before, until I was back in my house, sitting at the kitchen table and suddenly realized "I'm at peace!" I had been asking the Lord to show me if I was wrong in deciding to not return to Chad, and instead the whole week was a confirmation that this was, indeed, the right step.

It was special to sit with local friends and explain why I was leaving, and to say a proper goodbye. I had asked the Father for opportunities to speak His name, and there were a couple times when I was able to share a Bible verse that I had memorized, and two conversations in French with two believing friends.

It was also important to be able to have significant time with my housemate and other teammates, as well as with other friends in the capital. My time in D'town included a Sunday, so I was also

able to visit an elder on Saturday to inform him of this change in direction, and then to say goodbye to the church on Sunday morning. It was hard to say goodbye, because several people had quickly become very special to me, but I was encouraged by how the Lord surrounded me with His peace and confirmed that this season of living in Africa has come to a close. It was also healing and confirming to talk through this journey with my teammates and my Africa Inland Mission (AIM) leadership.

On To France

A week and a half after I returned from Chad, I boarded a plane for Athens, Greece, where I attended a conference on reaching out to non-Europeans in Europe (the diaspora). I made a lot of connections, and learned a lot!

On September 30, I arrived in France where I began my own "Tour de France" (but instead of by bike, I've been traveling by train, bus, city bus, tram, metro, and car).

I started in Albertville, where I went to language school, and was able to reconnect with several close friends and the church I attended last year.

From there I visited Chambéry, Marseille, Lyon, and Colmar, before arriving in Paris. Tomorrow I leave for Strasbourg.

The purpose of this month-long tour is to explore ministry opportunities in France that would allow me to stay with Africa Inland Mission, while partnering with other organizations and local churches to reach out to African migrants and refugees, as well as communities of African-origin who have been established in France for years, but who have little Gospel witness.

After Strasbourg I will return to Athens, Greece, to look at one further



Mary E.
Africa Inland Mission

opportunity, reaching out to a French-speaking African community.

Please pray that God would give me clear direction as I meet with people, explore ministry possibilities, and process all I've seen, heard, and done.

Pray for renewed strength as well, as this month of travel has been wearying, and I'm starting to get sick.

Most of all, please pray that God would open my eyes to opportunities this week for Gospel-focused conversations.

I'll be back in the United States on November 7, and hopefully not too long after that, I'll have news to share on what's next!

All I can say at this point is that I'm so thankful to be back in France, and I'm excited to see where and how God leads me in this next step.

Thank you for joining me on this journey!
Blessings,
—Mary

The Things You Cannot Buy

The best and sweetest things in life are things you cannot buy; the music of the birds at dawn, the rainbow in the sky. The dazzling magic of the stars, the miracle of light. The precious gifts of health and strength, of hearing speech and sight. The peace of mind that crowns a busy life of work well done. A faith in God that deepens as you face the setting sun. The boon of love, the joy of friendship. As the years go by, you find the greatest blessings are the things you cannot buy.

Salem Mission Project No. 13

HERO'S CLUB After School Ministry

TOUCHING CHILDREN'S LIVES *with the LOVE of CHRIST*



Liz Waite, Hero's Club Director

It's like "Sunday School" on "Monday"

Children enjoy Pumpkin Carving

THE FALL SEMESTER of Hero's Club has gotten off to a great start. The Hero's Club newsletter, produced by Hero's Club Director Liz Waite, keeps parents informed about the activities in which their children are involved.

In the November issue, Liz states, "Every week our Heroes will bring home projects to help reinforce the message they are learning with us. Be sure to ask them what they learned; kids love telling what they learn about Jesus!"

As of this writing, 31 students are now attending— 10 of them are new this fall semester.

Along with projects and activities, students learn about the Bible. In November, Bible study topics included "God gives Heroes a Second Chance: the Story of Jonah," "Heroes give Thanks: a Lesson on Giving Thanks to God and Our Families," and "Mary was a Hero! The Story of Mary, and Why God chose Her to be Jesus' Mother!" The children also made luminaria lanterns for upcoming Christmas activities.

Liz describes Hero's Club in this way: "Every child at Hero's Club has the



Photos by Liz Waite



unique opportunity to learn about the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through games, story lessons, crafts, prayer, and worship time. The short two hours we meet on Monday can have a profound impact on your child, and leave them with fun, lasting memories of the church experience. We invite all family members

who want to volunteer during our meetings, or on our field trips, to join us."

Liz also appreciates the assistance of her faithful adult and student volunteers.

We also want to say a big thank you to Ivy Hill Farms for donating apple cider, and supplying our pumpkins for our pumpkin carving night!

Ladies "Bible Study" Forming: To Begin in January

■ By Heather O'Connor

Calling all LADIES.... are you looking for a chance to lay down your cares, enter God's presence, and hear Him speak through His Word?

We will take some time in silence, studying a passage of scripture, and then share our insights and hear what others discovered. We'll also get to discuss excerpts from the "Jesus Calling" devotional that relate to the themes of the Bible passages. In this way, we will learn how to better make space in our life for the Spirit of God to speak to us through the Word of God and the people of God.

Our lives are often too hectic, our minds too distracted, for us to take in, what God offers. This "Jesus Calling" Bible study is designed to help us meditate on words of Scripture and hear them not as, just words said to people long ago but as words said to us today in the here and now.

The writer of Hebrews, in Chapter 1, said, "In the

past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets, many times and in various ways, but in these last days, He has spoken to us by his Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word."

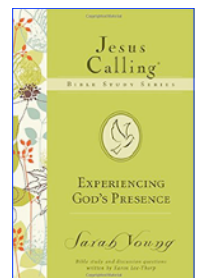
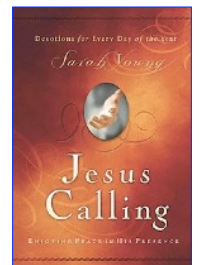
—Hebrews 1:1-3

Join me and other Ladies for this 8-Week Bible Study, using one of our favorite devotionals, "Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young.

We will begin on Wednesday, January 10th from 7:00-8:30 at Salem United Methodist Church.

You will need a copy of "Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young and the "Jesus Calling Bible Study Series, Experiencing God's Presence" by Sarah Young.

Please RSVP to me, at 240-344-8851 or heatherboconnor@gmail.com.



Sunday School Classes

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



Children, Infant to 4 years

Teacher: *Caroline Buhrman*

Children, Grades K to 2

Teachers: *Michael & Jennifer Burrier*

Children, Grades 3 to 5

Teachers: *Kathy Laky, Melissa Thornton, Patrick Boyton*

Youth, Grades 6 to 12

Teacher: *Fonda Gormer*

Young Adult Class

Teacher: *Denny 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)

Heavenly Humor



Some thoughts to ponder . . .

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil: no point.

A moment's insight is sometimes worth a life's experience.

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. —*Norman Vincent Peale*

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

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