



# THE SALEM VISIONARY

April 2023

*But be Doers of the Word, and not Hearers only. James 1:22*

## Easter is April 9, 2023

### Up from the Grave

Spring and Passover go hand in hand with their witness of life overcoming death. We are emerging from the cold, dark, death of winter and breaking forth with the new life, light and growth of Spring. This imagery helps us to see the new life that comes to us in Christ, not only in the now, but also in eternity.

We were lost in our sins and trespasses. The fear and avoidance of death consumed our daily lives. We were trapped by the dictates of our flesh. Death was consuming our lives. This is a very dark place that our world has no answer from which to escape. The imprisonment that the world experiences is very real.

Ephesians 2 tells us: We were dead in trespasses and sins, in which we once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Think about the cold of winter. It chills to the bone. There are times when it seems nothing you do can shield you from that cold. Along with the chill, the darkness that this life of sin and trespasses brings is very depressing. The cold and dark winter can give a semblance of what death is like. It is heart-wrenching just to think about this place where the world lives every day.

Jesus came to change all that. Jesus brings deliverance. Jesus brings light. Jesus brings freedom. Jesus brings a new day and new life. Spring has sprung!

Spring is like the beginning of a new day. It always seems darkest just before the break of the new day. Gradually the sun's light begins to break and likewise, we see the beginning signs of Spring. Then all at once, the sun breaks the horizon and all at once it seems everything is in bloom. God has made us alive, who were

once dead in our trespasses and sins. We have become new creatures in Christ. We have a new nature that seeks after the things of God. Why? Because God was rich in mercy.

Again, Ephesians 2 tells us: God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

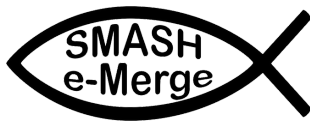
Every week we have Preschool Chapel in each of the classrooms. We sing songs and I share a memory verse with the Children. Recently in Chapel, I shared with the children a seashell, a pecan, and a feather. I asked the children, "what do all these things have in common?" Well, yes, all these were created by God. And then I told them that *they* were created by God too. This new life in Christ is not about what we have done, rather it is about what God has done and is doing.

Read Ephesians 2: 8-10.

(8) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

In this season of Easter, take a moment to realize that Up From The Grave, Christ Arose. Take a moment to recognize that because Christ is resurrected, you too will follow likewise and Up From the Grave you will rise. Take a moment to celebrate Spring. Take a moment to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. Then, determine yourself to live into the reality that God has created in Christ Jesus and walk in this newness of life.

Winning them to Jesus,  
Pastor Gil



Summer Registration Now Open for SMASH

Spring is officially here, and with it comes the start of our summer registration for SMASH. We're excited to offer a summer full of fun activities, learning opportunities, and new experiences for your child.

Our summer program is designed to keep your child engaged and entertained all summer long. From arts and crafts to sports and games, our program offers a wide range of activities that will keep your child excited and active throughout the summer.

In addition to our summer program, we also have some exciting events planned for spring break. Our afterschool program will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt, as well as a spirit week, to keep your child entertained and engaged during their time off from school.

Our Easter Egg hunt is always a big hit with the kids. We'll have a variety of eggs hidden around the playground, and the kids will have a blast searching for them. And during spirit week, we'll have themed dress-up days, fun activities, and games to keep the kids entertained.

We know that you want the best for your child, and that's why we're committed to providing a safe and fun environment for them to learn and grow. Our experienced and caring staff is dedicated to making sure that your child has the best summer possible.

So if you're looking for a summer program that will keep your child engaged and entertained all summer long, look no further than SMASH. Contact us today to register your child for our summer program and to learn more about our spring break activities. Let's make this summer one to remember!



The Leprechaun visits Salem (AKA Rev. Joel Wise)



We are excited to share with you our recent celebration of Dr. Seuss week! From March 13th-17th, our students and teachers participated in a variety of activities.

Our students dressed up as their favorite characters, from the mischievous Cat in the Hat to the loyal Horton the Elephant. In addition to dressing up, our students engaged in a variety of Seuss-themed activities, including reading his books, and enjoying green milk on Friday. Our teachers also incorporated Seuss's messages of kindness and acceptance into their lessons, helping our students learn valuable life lessons while having fun.

Overall, Dr. Seuss week was a huge success, and we are grateful to our staff for creating such a fun and engaging learning environment for our students. We hope that our celebration of Dr. Seuss's legacy inspires our students to develop a lifelong love of reading and creativity.

We are getting ready for our Easter Egg hunt on Tuesday, April 4th. Thank you to all the parents for their contribution of eggs and candy. Carter Groves will be doing our spring pictures on April 11th.





APRIL 23 @ 12PM - AFTER CHURCH  
IN THE SALEM DINING HALL

March was a great month for the youth of our church. We saw youth we had not seen in months make a return to church, we saw youth we had never met before come set foot in our church, and we had seventeen different youth come and attend our Lock-In! We had a ton of fun playing games, watching movies, and staying up late.

I would like to issue a special shout out to Bryson Dexter and Elizabeth Wise for being willing to give up their beds for a night to come spend it with the future of the church. This fun event would not have been possible without their help and willingness to serve. I would also like to recognize the Methodist Men's Group and their serving us breakfast the following morning. It was delicious, as always, and very much appreciated. Last but not least I would like to thank Becka Spiece who made the most amazing churros, which lasted about 10 minutes before being devoured by hungry teenagers. It was a fun-filled night, and I am thankful for all who pitched in to make it possible.

You may be sitting home wondering how you can get involved with our youth as well. It is simple! This month we are hosting our chili cook-off April 23rd. Submit your chili into the contest, and bring your wallet to vote on which chili will win the fan vote! We are excited to bring this fundraiser back and look forward to seeing you all there as we enjoy some warm chili together.



We are so egg-cited about this spring weather and all the activities happening in April!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped out during the month of March!! Our St. Patrick's Day Party was so much fun! The Salem Kids were able to decorate their own cookies with green icing and green sprinkles. We made a St. Patrick's Day craft and sipped on green Sprite. Our celebrations would not have been as fun without you!! We also painted pottery at Just Claying Around! We can't wait to show you the final pieces that the kids painted.

We are kicking off the month of April with an Easter Egg Hunt and the Palm Sunday Parade of Palms on April 2. Our Easter Celebration will be April 9 during children's church time. I hope all of our Salem Kids have an amazing and safe spring break!

Salem Kids will be on April 19, when we will be learning about King Nebuchadnezzar and Lazarus.

Don't forget to register for VBS this summer!! VBS 2023 is July 17-21 this year! Our theme is "I wonder..." We will be traveling to outer space to discover God's love and how we can use our gifts to honor and serve the Lord. You can find the registration link on our website and facebook page!

Contact Caitlin Craven if you have any questions.



Don't forget to register!!!

We are traveling to outer space for one week to discover God's love and the gifts we have to honor God!!! You don't want to miss it!!!

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## BBQ 2023 Recap

Thanks to all who volunteered to make the barbecue fundraiser a BIG success, selling tickets, baking goods, serving meals and beverages, cleaning up, etc.! It is always so rewarding to see our church congregation come together to make this event a success. Over 1300 plates were served and over \$13,000 was raised. Again thanks to Salem for their dedication and service for our Lord.



## Sunday School

We are still looking for volunteers to assist with Sunday School for our children. Please contact Marie McCarroll or the church office if you are interested.



Sunday School teacher Amiee Newman shows off the new curriculum for our children's Sunday School.

## Seen at Salem



Dr. Carlton Brown, Mt. Zion AMEZ Church, speaking at Lenten Luncheon



Tuesday night Bible Study

## Re-entry House

Thank you so much to my Salem Family for supplying sheets, blankets, and towels for this mission. This will be a great help for those seeking a second chance at life. They always need shampoo, soap, shaving cream, toothbrush and toothpaste. If you are doing any traveling please save the small bottles from your hotel. They will be greatly appreciated. I delivered two car loads to Rev. Garner. He was overwhelmed with the generosity from Salem.



## Operation Christmas Child

Hello Salem Family, I'm back! I told you I'd give you a break till March and here I am.

Exciting things have been happening at OCC. In 2022 NC/SC packed 971,363 shoeboxes! That means 971,363 children and their families had an opportunity to hear the Good News that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

This past year the 200 millionth shoebox gift was given to an 8-year-old girl in the Ukraine (see photo). Natalie immediately clung to the yellow flashlight inside her box. She said that she is so excited to have a light to help her not be afraid when she has to run to the basement during air raids.

That gave me an idea. How about for the month of April we collect hand crank flashlights for our 200 shoeboxes?! They can easily be purchased on Amazon in quantities of 8 for \$15 or 24 for \$30. If you're not comfortable ordering from Amazon, we will gladly accept donations and purchase them for you! Do whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to do.

We have seven months to collect goodies for our shoe boxes.

Thank you and God Bless You!  
Del Peluso



Franklin Graham and Natalie

# Mission and Outreach

## Food Pantry

Every Thursday we serve folks in the Cape Fear High School area from 9 am – 11 am. We do make provision for other times. Folks may come every two weeks for food. We are grateful for our SMASH student volunteers who pack bags. We have plans to provide hams and other special Easter provisions on April 6.

Current NEEDS ( \$\$ is always an option)

Canned meats (especially chicken)

Ravioli/spaghetti O's-type canned meats

Canned fruit

Pasta Sauce

White wooden collection container is in the hall near the office.

### ACTUAL NOTE FROM A LADY WHO RECEIVES FOOD PANTRY

*To the church and the food pantry,  
I thank you all for what you do for all of us.*

*May God keep on Blessing You All.*

*We love you all!*

(note is on bulletin board by office).

***Give, and it will be given to you. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return***

LUKE 6:38

## Family Promise

Salem's Mission to Homeless Families

Salem's "Winter Week of Service" was March 5-11. We provided for 15 total folks: four families & five parents. The boys were ages 2, 4, 8, 10 and 13. The girls were ages 3, 10, 15, 16 & 17. One mother and one daughter (two different families) celebrated birthdays this week & we provided each with a \$ 50.00 Walmart gift card which was donated- MANY THANKS!

THIS REPORT'S SAVY SHOPPER:

A queen-size plush blanket, which was "buy one get one" (@ Dol Gen), with the Saturday coupon, cost only \$6.00 each!! Gently used including towels are always needed. THIS SAVY SHOPPER enjoys buying NEW washcloths for each towel folks receive!

***"It's not about how much you do but how much love you put into what you do that counts."***

Mother Theresa

## Choir News

The ensemble has been very busy this past month as we look forward to Easter. We had a table set up at the ministry fair during our annual barbecue, and we are very appreciative of all who stopped by the table to inquire about using their talents to glorify God. A special thank you to Barbara Roberts for her hard work decorating our ministry table and making sure we would catch the eye of anyone wandering by.

We are still recruiting, as always, and would love to have you come bless the church with a joyful noise. As a reminder, we meet every Wednesday from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Come on by and give us a try! Join us for a month during this Easter season and find out if this is the ministry to which God is calling you.

Happy Easter from your choir family!

Salem Methodist  
CHURCH



Sharing the Gospel

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

This is the 175th Year since Salem's Founding as a church in Eastover. We are celebrating all year long. Mark your calendar so that you can join in the celebrations.

April 9 - Easter Parade of Bonnets

May 13 - Telling the Story of Salem

June 11 - Old Fashioned Day

July 30 - Christmas in July

August 27 - Celebrating Sunday School

September 10 - Homecoming

October 8- Camp Meeting

November 21 - Community Thanksgiving

December 3 - Maranatha Festival

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

## Prayer Ministry

This is a reminder to everyone that the Prayer Room is open every Sunday morning at 9 AM. This is a great way to prepare our hearts for Sunday School and the church service by asking God to help us worship with an undistracted heart, thanking Him for our Sunday School teachers that have prepared the day's lessons, and asking for a special anointing on Pastor Gil as he delivers his message.

The Prayer Room and the sanctuary are open Mondays and Thursdays from 7 AM until 9 AM. During these times you can pray in private or, if you'd like, I can pray with you. Please know that all prayer request slips are brought into the Prayer Room and prayed over, so please fill one out if you have needs, concerns, praise, and/or requests.

And a few final thoughts about prayer are contained in these quotes:

**"It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without heart."**  
- Mahatma Gandhi

**"Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of himself."**  
- Mother Theresa

*Let us support one another in prayer,  
Pat Lyons*



So what does a Stephen Minister really do? In a few words, they provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people. The care provided by a Stephen Minister is defined by a number of essential qualities. Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, confidential care. For the most part, this caring takes two forms: emotional and spiritual support. This may be provided through crisis or long-term care. Men work with men and women work with women. In addition to grief, other situations that might be appropriate for care include divorce, job loss, illness, and spiritual crisis.

What don't Stephen Ministers do? There are three main forms of support that Stephen Ministers do not provide. These include financial, social, and professional. In these cases, the Stephen Minister will help the care receiver connect with the resources to meet those needs. Stephen Ministers also do not work with minors, couples, or families. Stephen Ministers are trained to recognize and refer those who might need professional care.

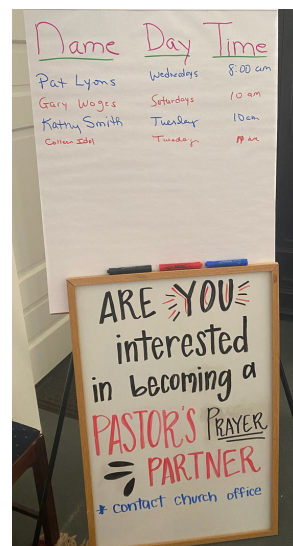
The ultimate goal of Stephen Ministry is for hurting people to receive the best care possible. Our current Stephen Ministers have been commissioned by you, the congregation, and are ready to serve. Pray for this group of committed lay leaders as they share their gifts of caring with others. Contact Pastor Gil or Carol Hudson for more information.

**"We are the Caregivers, God is the Caregiver."**

### PASTOR PRAYER PARTNERS

The Prayer Team invites you to sign up on the poster board by the church office with your name and a time of the week you will commit to pray for the pastor and for Salem Church.

Join us in covering our ministries with prayer.



## Prayer Requests

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**Pray for:** Our Pastor, Our Military, Our Shut-Ins, Our Schools, Our Church, Our Country, Ukraine

### Church Members

Charlie Williams (CFVH), Steve Dawson, JR Sevine, Brenda Johnson, Rachel Dawson (Betsy Johnson Hospital), Kenneth Sykes, Bruce Sykes, Betty Register, Kevin Register, Rosine Dexter, Denise Rhodes, Joyce Costin, Eula Snow, Thelma Bullard, Derotha Fink, Bruce & Lorraine Kirkwood, Mickey Kimbell, Colton Honeycutt, Trillma Pribbenow, Darvin Edwards, Rachel Dawson, Weldon Hudson, Sallie Darden, Paula Johnson, Jean Lugar, Gilda Horne, Mary Patterson, Bill Roberts, Daniel and Nancy West.

### Family and Friends

Bruce Raynor, Family of Bud Budzinski, Larry Smith, Sam Holt, Pam Taylor, Meredith Steihl, Kenan Steihl, Grayson Marsh, Tre Turpin, Judah Turpin, Sam Williams, Patricia McLemore, Jonathan Lenore, Janet Collier, Sheila Wages, Maria Gonzales, Dominique Martinez, Janet Campbell, Family of Marie Beasley, Margaret Ann Heine, Margaret Saccareccia, Jennifer Partney, Aaron Griffith, Brian Moxey, Chloe Creech, Helen Scoggins, Rev. Robert Flynn, Stacey Wiseman, Anderson Stewart, Russell Varner, Clifton Faircloth, Mike Butler, Sue Grissom, Jean Brown, Carrie Jones, Carolyn Ortero, Cale Johnson, Nick Wilson, Anthony Bethea, Angie Baker, Sheila Minschew, Eddie Bowen, John Sange, Will Nash, Leslie Horne, Jason & Brittany Ray, Lin Wheeler, Angela Renfrow, Nelly Johnson, Laurie McLaurin, Vanessa Cuestas (cancer), Tabetha Priest, Ron Hardy, Randy West (cancer), Marilyn Parkin, Melinda Craven, Grant Singletary, Rev. Jan (Poland Methodist Pastor), Matthew Johnson, Gary Page, J.M. Butler, Jr., Del Gray, Vickie Knoch, Sandra Jones, Bill Smith, Daniel Knox (cancer) and Abraham Beniquin.

## Memorials

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### Elizabeth Sykes

Kenneth and Claire Lynn Sykes

### Dan Raynor

Mike McLaurin

## Financial Health

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### Budget Needed Monthly

**\$ 44,000.00**

### Total March Offering & Tithes

**\$ 24,098.00**

### March Building Fund Deposits

**\$ 1,000.00**

### YTD Budget Needed

**\$132,000.00**

### Year to Date Offering & Tithes

**\$ 73,678.00**

### Year to Date Building Fund Deposits

**\$ 3,150.00**

## Methodist Men- College Scholarship

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Salem Methodist Men encourage all high school seniors graduating this year to apply for a college scholarship by May 1st, 2023. Application forms and rules may be located at salemfnc.org under Ministries: Salem Methodist Men.