



# THE SALEM VISIONARY

## September 2023

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

### Casting Vision

## Changing Seasons into Holiday Living

I love the change of the seasons and I love holiday celebrations no matter the time of the year. The Holidays are “Holy” days for me. They mark the seasons of our life in Christ and they mark the seasons of our lives as we go year by year forging impact and memories in our world.

It is a rhythm for me to take time away in July to envision what the coming change of season will be. The Fall brings with it a harvest of crops, a celebration of homecomings and the start of a new year in following the “Holy” days of life.

During the month of August, I cast a vision for where God is leading Salem as we end a year of celebrating our 175 th Anniversary. September and October are a celebration of our vision at Salem being a place with a “Small Church Feel and a Large Church Impact.” These two months we will hear messages that provide an in-depth look at how these two movements are expressed in our life as a community of faith.

November and December will be months that engage “Thanksgiving” and “Hope.” The expressions of these two words embody our vision at Salem. We are a place of worship and we are a place that empowers us for a greater work in the world.

The month of September will focus on the experience of God here at Salem. We have a small church feeling that is birthed out of the personal care that a family gives to its members. The feeling of experiencing God in a small church establishes memories that through life help to formulate a relationship with God. The small church helps each Christian believer to know the reality of a living God that longs to be in relationship with you.

So, in September we are focusing on what the “FEELING” is all about.

August – VISION  
September – FEELING  
October – IMPACT  
November – THANKSGIVING  
December – HOPE

Salem has a  
SMALL CHURCH FEELING / LARGE CHURCH IMPACT



Winning them to Jesus,  
Pastor Gil



We hope you had a fun filled summer! We are excited to celebrate the beginning of a new school year and jump into the fall season!

Our Salem Kids Night is continuing to grow! We are also learning about Paul, Queen Esther and Ruth while in children's church and Salem Kid's Night. During the month of August, we held a Back to School bash on August 27 during our children's church.

We hope you can join us this month as we settle into the new school year. Salem Kid's Night dates for the month of September are September 6th and 20th! Salem Kids Night is every other Wednesday night in the Upper Fellowship Hall starting at 6pm. We are excited to learn more about Samson and Samuel this month.

As the fall season is approaching, we are planning for our Fall Festival! This year our Fall Festival is October 28th from 5pm until 7pm. We will also be having our annual Trunk or Treat featuring a bounce house, face painting, and special guests too.

We can't have Fall Festival without candy! Salem is starting to collect candy! Donations can be dropped off in Caitlin's office located in the Lower Fellowship Hall.

Stay tuned for all things Salem Kids on our Facebook and Instagram!

Salem Methodist  
CHURCH



Sharing the Gospel  
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

**2023 Homecoming**  
Sharing the Gospel  
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Our yearlong celebration is culminating this month on Sunday, September 10 in our morning worship! This is the 175 th Year since Salem's Founding as a Church in Eastover. We have been celebrating all year long. Invitations have been mailed to over 300 families who once called Salem their church home. We anticipate a day of reconnecting with old friends. We will share stories of times long ago. There will be passionate worship to celebrate our Almighty God who has been faithful through the years. We will be inspired through God's WORD in a message timely for this celebration at Salem. And as all Methodists do well, we will eat from a table feast gloriously set to remind us of that heavenly banquet that we all will one day share. Our celebrations have made this 175 th anniversary to be a memorable one. From an Easter parade of hats to an old-fashioned day of period dress, Salem has put on some new clothes in celebration. We celebrated with over 100 children in VBS and we have welcomed 12 new families into membership this year. Homecoming will not be the last of our year long celebrations. There are many more to come. Campmeeting, Fall Festival, Maranatha Festival and many Christmas celebrations. One of those Christmas Celebrations was celebrated July 30. You can enjoy the Christmas Nativity Scenes all year round just by taking a stroll in the back hall where they are displayed in Cabinets. Come September 10 to be a part of the celebration and invite your friends!

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.

**SEPTEMBER 10 - 175TH HOMECOMING  
(WORSHIP AT 10:00)**

September 22 - Spaghetti Fundraiser  
September 24 - Family Picnic in the Park  
October 8- Methodist Camp Meeting  
November 21 - Community Thanksgiving  
December 3 - Maranatha Festival  
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service



This past month has been a fun one as we had one last taste of Summer before we headed back to school. We had a lot of fun swimming, splashing, and just enjoying each other's company. What a joy it is to have a group of youth who truly just enjoy each other's company.

We have been studying through the story of Joshua as we realize how difficult it can be to keep great faith, even when everyone around you is pressuring you to give up. Teens today face an awful lot of pressure from the world. Modern society is on a faith decline, with less and less people following and trusting God. In times where faith seems low around you, it is important to be like Joshua and remain trusting in God. He has always prevailed thus far, and will continue to prevail. Our God already won the final victory, so we should trust and have faith in the battle as well. Even when what we face seems frightening, scary, or even embarrassing, we can remain calm because God is in control. Joshua probably thought the idea of marching around a wall to defeat a city seemed embarrassing and silly, but he had seen God split the sea, he had seen God form a pillar of fire, and he had seen God stop a rushing river. Because he was faithful, Joshua also saw God tear down the walls of Jericho. When we are faced with pressure to doubt God, remember all He has already done for you, and look forward to what else He will accomplish in your life.

A special thank you to Ron and Carolyn Hardin, and Gwen Gorman for their help with meals this past month, and a big thank you to Clyde Edwards for allowing the use of his pool for our back to school pool party. We could not have a thriving youth without all of your love and support!

## Sunday School

We are still looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School. Please contact Marie McCarroll

## Nursery

The Nursery is also in need of volunteers. Please contact Betty Ann Crawford



As summer has come to an end August was a fun month for the kiddos at SMASH. We went to the Movies, Bowling, Pirate Golf, Water Day, and the day they all look forward to every year is the Caregiver Bash!

We have started the school year off with 83 kids registered. We are still accepting applications for employment and once we are fully staffed, we plan to add more children.

Exciting news with our Preschool...We have expanded by two classrooms. We have moved our 4 year old graduating class and added a 3/4 year old class, both which are located down the hallway from the church office going towards the gym on the right hand side, in the two rooms we moved out of in the preschool we have made a larger classes of a 2/3 year old and a older 3 year old class. We had such an extensive waiting list we felt the need to expand. Please stop by and visit anytime. We have been blessed with some awesome employees and are super excited for this new journey. All classes will start their curriculum the first week of September.

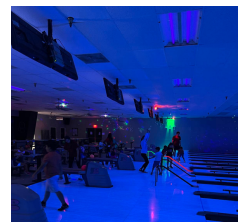
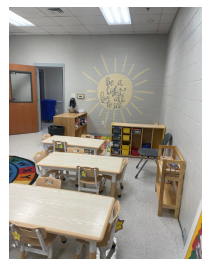
We recently had unannounced back to back State inspection and Food Program inspection and I am proud to say we had zero violations on both.

We have Fall pictures coming up on September 20th with Carter Groves photography.

Please continue to keep our childcare programs in your prayers as we embark on a new school year.

Blessings,

Denise



Salem's fall week of service to the families enrolled in Cumberland County Family Promise is Sept. 10-16. Salem provides funding for food, utilities at the early entry facility (for the week) & necessities such as hand soap, deodorant, laundry detergent etc. (for the week).

Fourteen folks (four families) is the maximum number we serve. Funds have been collected & delivered. Prayers are requested for the success of the families we are serving.

Please mark extra mile donations to: FAMILY PROMISE. Contact Debbie Moody for additional information.



If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.  
Booker T. Washington

Photo of gently used Crate & Barrel and Int'l Silver Co. (casserole serving/cooking dishes) our team creatively combined for folks setting up households.

## Food Pantry

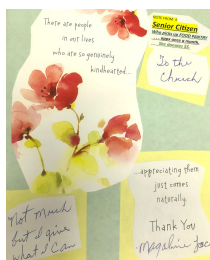
QUARTERLY VOLUNTEERS: Amy B., Henry B., Angie B., Russell H., Jonathan J., Pat L., John McC., Estelle McP, Jean O., SMASH 5th Graders & Staff,.

Salem Food Pantry continues serving the Cape Fear High School region each Thursday from 9 - 11 am and other times by prearrangement. Recently we have discovered how popular dry milk is enjoyed by folks receiving food and are happy to report that we are supplying!

The thank you card included with this article is a community lady who very much appreciates Salem volunteers delivering directly to her vehicle. She is always appreciative and donates financially to the food pantry.

Funds, peanut butter, and canned meats are always needed.

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.* Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



Come as you are to our worship service EVERY SUNDAY at 5:00 pm in the Salem Gym! We mean it when we say this new space is intentionally set aside for everyone who hasn't found a place yet. So many of us have so much going on in our lives that we don't have time, let alone the right dress. None of the rest of us are dressing up either, so bring what you've got. Jesus will meet you in all your stuff, and oh, what a day that will be!

Salem Methodist CHURCH  
A Global Methodist Church Community of Faith

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
Sept. 22  
11am - 7pm

**\$10 PER PLATE**  
Eat In or Take Out

**Desserts Available for Purchase**

**Delivery Available for 10 or More Plates**

2165 Middle Rd. • Eastover, NC 28312 910-483-8959

## Choir News

Salem Choir is back rehearsing on Wednesday nights at 7pm. It was nice to be off for most of the summer. We are now ready to start the fall and winter season with new music.

Richard Bowden and Gary sang a duet in August "no other name", accompanied by Dave and Amy and choir. Shelton and choir sang a lively rendition of " There's Joy in the House " on August 13th.

We welcome Linda Sheriff soprano, to the choir. Also Cathy McCall, Linda Wise, and Lisa Geddie are sitting in for the homecoming anthem.

I'm still recruiting as always., everyone is welcome. You don't have to read music, the main thing is your love of singing and contributing to the worship service each Sunday. I'm offering a variety of musical styles for the choir to sing. I am proud to say our Salem Methodist Choir members are enthusiastic and joyful. Gary

## Operation Christmas Child

As you begin to think about your Christmas shopping, start your list with supplies for an OCC shoebox. These can include such things as school supplies, personal care items, toys, and crafts and activities. Please do not include food, candy, gum or toothpaste. Of course, monetary donations are gladly accepted!

# Prayer Ministry

*“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.”*

— Max Lucado

And don't we have a lot to pray about! School has started back so we need to pray for students, teachers, bus drivers, school administrators, and school staff. In August, wildfires ravaged Maui, and lives were lost while others lost all their belongings. And we are still in the middle of hurricane season. Not to mention we have events at Salem to pray about - our 175th Homecoming and the Spaghetti dinner. We also have our family and friends on the prayer list to lift up. Not sure about you but I always have things in my life I need to pray about. And of course, we all need to pray for our Pastor. Phew!

The purpose of the Prayer Ministry is to encourage us to all support one another in prayer. We provide opportunities for you to pray in our beautiful Prayer Room each Sunday morning before Sunday School and on Mondays and Thursdays from 7 AM until 9 AM. You can pray in private or I can pray with you. It truly is an inspiring place to talk to our Lord and Savior. The Prayer Room is such a sacred place - you can just feel “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place”!

Just a reminder, please continue to fill out Prayer Request slips that are in the pews as needs arise. These are prayed over as they come in.

It has been in the bulletin that we are looking for volunteers to pray for Gil during his sermon each Sunday. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer. A big thank you to those of you who were in the Prayer Room during the sermons in August. I appreciate all of you.

And finally, September prayer hacks!

\*When texting or calling someone, ask God to bless them while you wait for an answer.

\*Lose something? Ask God to help you find it. Don't forget to thank Him once you do.

\*While brushing your teeth in the morning, pray for three things you need help with during the day. (Taken from the book, “Say a Little Prayer” by Joanne Redmond)

We'd love to read some of yours, so feel free to share them with me. Let us continue to support one another in prayer, Pat Lyons



Happy New Year!!

After our wonderful celebration of Christmas in July on Sunday, July 30th, the Stephen Ministers resumed their monthly continuing education sessions on Monday, August 7th with a New Year's celebration. It was the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the 2023 group.

We took this time to reflect upon our journey over the past year. What a year it has been! Sara Piland approached me about taking the leader training and after much prayerful consideration, I did. I knew Bonnie Crabtree, Marie McCarroll, Ruby Bullard, and Ray Burkart had completed the Minister training and would be there to support me. We worked together to recruit members of the congregation to attend the training.

No one was more surprised than me when we had six people attend the training the first night and then our class grew to nine. These included Gil and Linda Wise, Frank Dawson, Chuck Griffin, Nancy Dorman-Honeycutt, Ron Hardin, Pat Lyons, Del Peluso, and Cindy Whetzel. Bonnie Crabtree, who had already completed the training, attended regularly as well.

There's something spiritual that happens when a group of people spend 50 hours together learning about how to help people who are hurting. I was in a wheelchair waiting for hip replacement surgery while teaching the class. Leading Stephen Ministry gave me a focus at that time which was truly a blessing. As we met each week and discussed such topics as relating assertively, the art of listening, and distinctively Christian caring, we shared our own experiences and developed genuine caring and trust for one another.

Of course with a new year comes resolutions. Here are some of ours:

- To assist Pastor Gil in providing one-to-one Christian care to hurting people
- To give back as much we got from the training
- To recruit an additional Stephen Leader
- To begin a new Stephen Minister class in January once a new Leader is commissioned
- To share our experiences of the Stephen Ministry training with others through the monthly newsletter
- To participate as a group in a continuing education session with First Presbyterian Church and other churches in the area

I invite you to prayerfully consider your potential involvement with Stephen Ministry. Feel free to talk with any of us involved. I firmly believe you too, will be blessed. Carol Hudson, Stephen Ministry Leader

## Watch Us Grow July 25, 2023

Children at Crossroads Global Methodist Church in Washington, Illinois, celebrate Vacation Bible School.

By Keith Boyette

Fifteen months from its launch, the Global Methodist Church continues to grow and mature. Much has occurred in this 15-month period, fueled by an army of dedicated, passionate, committed Christ followers. And we are only just beginning! The numbers only tell part of the story. We now have 3,100 congregations and 3,400 clergy aligned with the GM Church with more added weekly.

In the past fifteen months, we have organized regional bodies in Alabama-Emerald Coast, Allegheny West, Bulgaria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eastern Texas, the Great Lakes, Mid-Texas, North Alabama, North Carolina, the Philippines, Slovakia, South Carolina, South Georgia, Spain, and West Plains. Soon additional regional bodies will begin operating in Florida, the Heartland, the Mid-South, Mississippi-West Tennessee, the Northeast, the Upper Midwest, Virginia, and the West. Discussions and organizing efforts are underway in a number of countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Mexico, and South America.

A key missional priority for the GM Church is a commitment to multiplication. We celebrate the more than 100 new GM churches that are being planted around the world. Most are entirely new churches while a few have occurred as the result of local churches not reaching the required vote to disaffiliate. New churches have been planted in the Middle East, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Canada, the Philippines and throughout the United States. Plans are underway to plant new congregations in Chicago and Los Angeles as well as in countless communities across the U.S. Some of these new churches have received assessment, training, and coaching through our partnership with The River Network.

Grants for some of the new GM Church plants are now available through the GM Church's partnership with Asbury Theological Seminary. Asbury made a \$500,000 matching gift to fund such grants, and donors to the GM Church have contributed \$280,000 thus far in matching funds. Additionally, a fourth group of church multipliers will begin a journey as a Multipliers Learning Community (MLC) cohort in partnership with Exponential this fall designed to equip persons to fulfill our missional priority of being a multiplying movement. There is still room for additional participants in the MLC cohort. Email me if you are interested.

Multiplication does not happen without visionary, spirit-filled leadership. The GM Church has partnered with the International Leadership Institute to provide training in eight core values that are at the heart of being a multiplying movement – intimacy with God, passion for the harvest, visionary leadership, culturally relevant evangelism, multiplication of leaders, family priority, faithful stewardship, and integrity. The GM Church's Transitional Leadership Council and most of the presidents pro tem of our provisional annual conference will participate in a week of training addressing these core values in September. Our goal is to see such training offered in each of our regional bodies. Allegheny West and North Alabama have already committed to offer such training in their areas.

Our commitment to enhanced biblical teaching and preaching has resulted in the release of our Catechism which has already sold over 16,000 copies as many congregations are using it in transformational small groups, bible studies, and new member classes.

For the Rest of the Story visit:

<https://globalmethodist.org/watch-us-grow/>

The Rev. Keith Boyette is the Transitional Connectional Officer for the Global Methodist Church, its chief executive and administrative officer.



# First Things First: Part One of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline

August 16, 2023  
By Walter B. Fenton

In just 16 pages, near the very front of its Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the Global Methodist Church states those things that are of first order to its very being. GM Church members and friends will find there what the Church considers are its core confessions and its distinctive Wesleyan expression of the Christian faith. These are matters all members should read, study, and regularly discuss with their sisters and brothers in the faith. They are intended to teach us who we are as God's people, and shape the way we live and bear witness to the transforming power of God's grace and love in our lives. It is no exaggeration to state that the health and vitality of the GM Church, indeed its very existence, depends on its people knowing and proclaiming what is contained in Part One of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

Today, we live in a world with thousands of Christian denominations; Global Methodists must know the basics of their history and be able to winsomely articulate it to others. In less than 750 words, the Book of Doctrines and Discipline succinctly summarizes our history in a section entitled "Our Heritage of Faith." It clarifies our rootedness in the New Testament Church's claim that Jesus Christ is the Son of the God who is revealed in the Old Testament, and that Jesus is our Savior, and is the one Lord of the Church universal. The section teaches that we confess the Christian faith stated in the great creeds of the church catholic (or universal), the confessions Christians have proclaimed for nearly 2,000 years. From there, the opening section closes with a summation of Christian history and our place in it.

Since its founding, the Methodist movement emphasized that the gift of God's grace is available to all people. And the movement's founders, John and Charles Wesley, clarified how God's grace works in our lives. So moved by God's grace, the former preached thousands of sermons, and the latter penned as many hymns testifying to the unfolding of that grace in a Christian's life. Their profound exposition of grace is commonly called the "Wesleyan Way of Salvation." A brief section warmly captures this essential teaching of our faith.

Under the heading, "Principles of Our Life Together," Part One also sets forth eight markers of what it means to be the Church in the world. Among other things, we are to be "rooted and grounded in the scriptures and the historic teachings of the Christian faith," be "committed to carry out the Great Commission . . . to make disciples of Christ teaching and baptizing in His name," to "model the love of God . . . with our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves," and to "display a 'catholic spirit' to the church universal, cherishing our place within the greater Body of Christ." Knowing ourselves as sinners in need of God's redeeming, we live out our faith together, guided by these and other principles.

For the Rest of the Story visit:

<https://globalmethodist.org/first-things-first-part-one-of-the-transitional-book-of-doctrines-and-discipline/>



## Prayer Requests

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

### Church Members

Tessa Lewinski, Neva Stallings, Betty Register, Joel Wise, Alice Blanton, Otis Collier, Kim Burrell, Kenneth Sykes, Sr., Cindy Gilliam White, Del Peluso, Bruce Sykes, Elizabeth Varner, Gilda Horne, Brenda Johnson, Rachel Dawson, Rosine Dexter, Denise Rhodes, Joyce Costin, Eula Snow, Thelma Bullard, Derotha Fink, Bruce & Lorraine Kirkwood, Mickey Kimbell, Colton Honeycutt, Trillma Pribbenow, Darvin Edwards, Weldon Hudson, Paula Johnson, Jean Lugar, Mary Patterson, Bill Roberts, Daniel and Nancy West

### Family and Friends

Lauren Creech, David Edwards, Clyde Salmon, Family of Misty Snipes, David Williams, Larry Johnson, Todd Reaves, Moises Soto, J.M. Butler, Larry Davis, Neil Ballentine, Jake Cole, Kristen Thomas, Erika Brigman, Phyllis Culbreth Steadman, Mac Howll, Berrrae & Donna Meixsell, Wendy Caldwell, Kim Burrell, Nancy Dorman-Honeycutt, Selena Hurt, Jessica Crabtree, Silas Crabtree, Kim Gordner, Patricia McLemore, Jorge Alvarez, Luz Aguilar, Karen Larrimorea, Bobby Coley, Sue Grissom, Karolyn Palush, Garland Slate, Laurie Barnes, Emily Dickson, Rebecca Hardin, Mike Butler, Johnny Butler, Susan Jernigan, Kelly Stephens, Tim Lease, Jackson Woodcock, Kyle Powers, Grayson Marsh, Sam Holt, Charles Bullard, Frank Harris, Charlie Marpol, Nick and Jamie Smith, Deanna Tallon, Everna Worthen, Bruce Raynor, Larry Smith, Tre Turpin, Judah Turpin, Jonathan Lenore, Maria Gonzales, Janet Campbell, Margaret Ann Heine, Margaret Saccareccia, Jennifer Partney, Aaron Griffith, Brian Moxey, Chloe Creech, Helen Scoggins, Kelly, Anderson Stewart, Russell Varner, Clifton Faircloth, Sue Grissom, Jean Brown, Carrie Jones, Carolyn Ortero, Cale Johnson, Nick Wilson, Anthony Bethea, Sheila Minschew, Eddie Bowen, John Sange, Leslie Horne, Jason & Brittany Ray, Lin Wheeler, Angela Renfrow, Nelly Johnson, Vanessa Cuestas (cancer), Tabetha Priest, Ron Hardy, Randy West (cancer), Marilyn Parkin, Rev. Jan (Poland Methodist Pastor), Matthew Johnson, Jr., Del Gray, Vickie Knoch, Sandra Jones, and Daniel Knox (cancer)

## Memorials

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### Sallie Darden

Amy and Henry Bowden,  
Mary Barbara Raynor

### Gwen Edwards

Mary Barbara Raynor,  
Sandy McDaniel,

### Gary Page

Mary Barbara Raynor

### Lloyd Caulder

Mary Barbara Raynor

### Charlie Williams

Kenneth and Claire Lynn  
Sykes, Mary Barbara  
Raynor, Buck and Betty  
Smith,

### Robert Earl Cooper

Kenneth and Claire Lynn  
Sykes, Mary Barbara  
Raynor

## Honors

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### Del Peluso

Ruby and Ed Bullard

### Fred McDaniel

Amy and Henry Bowden

## Financial Health

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### Budget Needed Monthly

**\$ 44,166.00**

### Total August Offering & Tithes

**\$ 30,846.00**

### August Building Fund Deposits

**\$ 1,775.00**

### YTD Budget Needed

**\$ 353,333.36**

### Year to Date Offering & Tithes

**\$ 310,092.42**

### Year to Date Building Fund Deposits

**\$ 9,980.00**

## Methodist Men

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The Methodist Men's breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 17th at 8:00 am in the Dining Hall. All are welcome!

