



THE SALEM VISIONARY

November 2023

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

Small Church Feel / Large Church Impact Multiple Genres - Witnessing Boldly

November is a month in which we are accustomed to sharing words of Thanksgiving. Of course, we should give thanks all year long and all the time because the scriptures encourage us to do so.

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

As a way of encouraging this very important expression of our lives, we commit a month to accentuating this activity. Let me first recapture our season in an overview of where we have been this year of celebrating Salem's 175th anniversary as a way of Thanksgiving. As we are moving toward the end of the year, I am recollecting the many times, places, and ways God has been in our "house" to amplify our celebration.

We began the year with Covenants in a new denomination and reclaiming our Wesleyan and Eastover roots as Salem Methodist Church, a name that was used 100 years ago. We continued by sowing seeds of revival in our worship services. We celebrated Easter with a "hat parade." We looked back at early years with a celebration of Old-Fashioned Day. We celebrated Christmas in July singing Christmas Carols, sharing Christmas goodies and celebrating the Nativity Scene Collection. Sunday School kicked off a new season in August with new classes and instructors.

In September, we celebrated Homecoming by lifting the importance of our small church roots. The DNA at Salem gives us a "small church feel" that should never be lost. It is the culture of a small church that embodies what it means to live as a Disciple connected with other believers forming a family of faith. The small church offers the best opportunity for accountability so that we may grow in the faith in

which Ephesians 4: 12-16 gives us the example. How are we offering ourselves to others so that we may faithfully care for one another through accountability?

In October, we celebrated how a small church can make a large church impact. The Global Methodist Church has used the facilities of Salem Methodist for over a year to organize the Convening Conference of the North Carolina Provisional Annual Conference (NCPAC). On October 5-7, the first Conference was held here in Fayetteville. Salem was the site for the first gathering of Clergy for the Executive Session, and the energy in the room was dynamic. Clergy worshiped, shouted and reconnected for a long prayed-and-hoped-for meeting that lifted Christ as Lord and Savior. In that one event, Salem impacted the state of North Carolina. We were instrumental in sparking a revival that now spreads in 500 churches across the state. By the conclusion of the Annual Conference, India and Ghana, Africa were identified as places where the GMC will be expanding to reach more people around the world. Salem Methodist had an impact that has global implications.

As I write this article, I have experienced a weekend that will be etched in my mind forever. The long weekend began with a clergy meeting that raised the roof at Salem. Songs of the church and over 400 clergy and spouses reconnected in spiritual celebration of unity within the Body of Christ. That evening the music continued with an old-time, soul-rousing service of testimonies and songs of the church. The Spirit-Filled genre of worship was full of THANKSGIVING. In Friday night's conference worship service, I experienced a southern gospel genre of worship that was full of THANKSGIVING.



On Saturday night I experienced a classical worship in a program with the Cumberland County Choral group that combined the voices of children with those of the adults that was full of THANKSGIVING. Sunday morning brought a bluegrass genre that fanned the flames of revival that continued into an afternoon service of CAMPMEETING. And then, Rev. Dr. Otis McMillan brought a message at Campmeeting that invigorated our lives here in Eastover. Mt. Zion and Salem shared worship with our own HOUSE Band leading in worship that carried us over the top. Our HOME Church service had its highest attendance to date. The space has welcomed over 200 worshipers to Salem for a fresh experience with God. For this and more, we give God all the Praise and Thanksgiving.

In our Month of Thanksgiving may we never cease to Give Thanks. We are still making HISTORY!!! Take advantage of all the opportunities this month to encounter God at Salem.

Winning them to Jesus,
Pastor Gil

Salem Choir

Everyone is welcome to join the choir. We are practicing for our Christmas Cantata. Practice is Wednesday nights from 7:00pm-8:00pm in our Choir room!



Casting Vision **Thanksgiving brings us Together**

During the fall season, the Lord gave me this vision for our fall months.

- September: Celebrate Salem and her “small church feel.”
- October: Celebrate Salem and her Large Church Impact
- November: Celebrate Salem with Thanksgiving
- December: Celebrate Salem with JOY

We are almost through the fall season, and we are amid November: Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for at Salem. One of those things is our Community of Eastover. The week before Thanksgiving the churches in the community gather on Tuesday for a Community Thanksgiving Service. This year it is Salem’s turn to host. Lebanon Baptist, Temple Baptist, Mt. Zion AMEZ and Integrity Kingdome Ministries are all joining us for our annual service.

The pastor from Mt. Zion AMEZ, the Rev. Dr. Carlton Brown will bring our evening message. This year’s service will feature a Mass Choir of individuals from all the churches. There will be 2 practice opportunities for all who would like to participate. We will practice on Sunday afternoon prior to Thanksgiving and again on Tuesday before the service. The selection is a song that has been sung by our choir which is titled “Every Praise.” Make plans to attend our annual Community Thanksgiving worship service on Tuesday, November 21 at 7 p.m. It will be a great way to accentuate Thanksgiving during this season.

Thank you!

On behalf of all the Church, Preschool and SMASH staff thank Staff Parish and all who helped with the staff appreciation dinner. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and time together!



Creating Family Structures

(The following message was delivered to our staff at their appreciation dinner held on November 2, 2023, by our Pastor Gil Wise)

Work is something more and different for those of us who are a part of these institutions of childcare and church at Salem Methodist. If we have not discovered it yet, there is an underlying agenda to touch and transform the heart for the greater good of us all and for the families we serve. This is important.

1. We are not serving people.
2. We are not serving institutions.
3. We are not serving a paycheck.

We are serving a family, the Family of God.

It is a family that brings their children for our care. It is a family that comes to discover the meaning of life. It is a family that is longing to be a unit that carries them through both the good and bad times of life.

To this end we are building a family in our workplace. For you to be a part of this family, remember that you were selected for here. You were, we believe, sent by God to be here as a part of our family at Salem Methodist. It is this family caring for one another that offers the best opportunity for a family to reach its highest potential. Jesus in his teachings alluded to the strength of the family.

- Honor thy father and thy mother. Exodus 20: 12
- Love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22: 39
 - Greater love hath no man than this,

that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15: 13

We are inviting you into a family that has a vision to change the world with the Love of Christ. We are a microcosm of that effort. It is that we are the experiment in the experience of developing this change for all we encounter. Our movement is contagious. Our movement is fueled with passion. We are here to

- Worship Passionately
- o Love Extravagantly
- * Witness Boldly

Happy THANKSGIVING

Built-Up and Sent Out

We are all hungry for a word from the Lord. We are constantly longing for more of what He has for us. We seek out His word, and it fills us, strengthens us, and builds us up. We are called to be poured into; that is a crucial part of our walk with Christ, but that is not where the story ends. We are also called to be sent out and serve, as Christ served us. We are called to give, as Christ gave everything for us.

That being said, it's pretty hard to serve someone when you are in the line to be served. Where are you being fed? Where are you feeding others? We are all beggars looking for food, but when we know where our food comes from, shouldn't we be finding the hungry and bringing them to the Lord? You may find it hard to find a place to serve during Sunday services because you are looking for God to pour into you.

If that is the case, think about volunteering during other times during the week! We have two services on Sunday, one at 11 AM and the other at 5 PM. Speak to one of our Pastors about how you can get involved at the service you don't typically attend.

Another way you can get involved is with Salem Kids or with Salem Youth. These children are the future of the church, and we need help supporting the ministry for them. If none of these feel like they fit where you need to serve, consider getting involved with our Stephen's Ministry, leading a Bible study, joining the choir, helping with our food pantry, joining our prayer team, or serving with Operation Inasmuch. Wherever you are in your faith walk, whether you are new to a relationship with Christ or have known Him all your life, you can make an impact today. When we work together, with God's help, we can make this small church feeling have a global impact!

Shelton Burkart



Fall Festival had an amazing turnout on Saturday, October 28! We were honored to host Princess Cinderella and Princess Belle who traveled far from their castles to be with us. We also were so happy to see that Spiderman was able to swing by and hang out for a while too! The games were filled with prizes, and the candy ran out, of course! Our trunk or treat was a spooky spectacular, and one lucky winner went home with a gift card to Texas Roadhouse!

We are so thankful for all who donated candy, volunteered, decorated their trunk, baked goodies for the cake walk, and so much more! I could not have done this amazing community event without you.

During the month of November, we are celebrating Thanksgiving and also learning how to show gratefulness and to be thankful for our many blessings! We will also continue learning about our A to Z Bible Characters. We are currently on the letters T, U and V. We will be going over these during Sunday School and Children's Church. Be sure to mark your calendars because you don't want to miss these exciting events coming up!

November 1st and 29th will be our Salem Kids Night dates! We will be celebrating Thanksgiving and all things Fall during our Sunday time together! We are thankful for Salem and all of your support of the Salem Kids Program!



Food Pantry

Recently a lady who comes somewhat regularly to Salem Food Pantry said the following: "This morning I needed to get up & get to the church to receive the food I needed. I thought of the grits (which I received from Salem) and I enjoyed the grits along with my medicine & thanked GOD for the nourishment I received from Salem". She thanks Salem Church for the food and the service of delivering to her truck as she has mobility issues. She planned to enjoy a can of soup & six pack of crackers for lunch provided by her Salem friends!

Planning & shopping for Thanksgiving Food Boxes are underway; the gift-a-way dates are Nov 9 & Nov 16. Turkey, trimmings (including a 48 oz bottle of veg oil), love and prayers are all included. Every Thursday this mission field is serving from 9 - 11 am. Canned meats, canned fruits, and cash are items most needed.

SPECIAL THANKS to craftsman HENRY BOWDEN for fixing up two old tables in the sorting/staging room.

THANK YOU FOOD LION

for a WONDERFUL DONATION of gift cards to support Salem's Food Pantry for the 2nd year in a row. The food pantry team applied for & received a grant for Food Lion gift cards & the request was renewed for 2023!

WE NEED YOU ALL SHOPPING AT FOOD LION when those Thanksgiving turkeys are appx .39 a pound (generally two+ weeks prior to Thanksgiving). Contact Estelle or Deb M. for reminders & updates.

Commit your work to the Lord, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to our committed, fearless leader of Operation Christmas Child, Del Peluso, we exceeded our goal of 200 shoeboxes this year. Del refused to let illness and major heart surgery get in the way of her love for God and his children across the world. Also, thanks to the many volunteers who gave time, money, gifts, and prayers to make this a huge success.

Merry Christmas, Del!





October was pretty exciting for the Preschool kiddos. The Eastover Fire Department visited for Fire Safety Week, they painted pumpkins, had a great time at our carnival, and went Trick-or-Treating.

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. for our SMASH and Preschool "Not So Silent Night Kids Program." There will be singing by the SMASH and Preschool Kiddos, cookies and a special visitor from Santa.

We are still actively seeking employees for both SMASH and Preschool, so if you know anyone interested please send them our way.



October was a great month! We had amazing turnout at many of our regular meetings, on top of everyone having a blast at our events. We had as many as 13 youth at a single meeting and had Sunday School classes as large as 7 youth. With all the growth our church and our youth have had, it is nice to be reminded of our small church feeling sometimes.

We had the perfect opportunity to do that when the Beard, Notto, and Davis families hosted our youth for a cookout on the 14th of October. We had a blast playing volleyball, football, and kickball, all while enjoying some delicious food and drinks. I want to give a big thank you to all who helped make that a successful event. There were smiles on the faces of everyone there, whether they were 8 or 80; it was fun all around.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family who loves and supports our youth like this. Thank you, Salem for having the small church feel in the middle of the global impact we have had this same month.



Salem Global Methodist Church Introducing Our New Pastors

In this transition year into the Global Methodist Church (GMC), Salem has been blessed with the addition of 3 pastors into the pastoral care of our congregation. Pastors are called of God, affirmed by the Church and sent for a time and season in the life of a congregation. Salem has been growing and God has sent pastoral leadership to support the growth we are experiencing.

Praise be to God who provides for the continued growth of our congregation with leadership to support our ministry. Pray for all of our pastors and their capacities to help us grow as a community of faith.

Pastor Joel Wise was recognized by the GMC as a Transitional Local Pastor having served in the UMC as a Local Pastor. He is a 2012 graduate of Methodist University with a degree in Religion. His gifting is in worship leadership, and he serves as the Worship Leader for our afternoon HOME Church service. Before coming to Salem he had served as the pastor for Trinity United Methodist Church in Fayetteville and at Parkton United Methodist Church in Parkton. He also works as maintenance at Camp Rockfish during the week. Joel is a self-taught musician in drums, guitar and piano. He is a member of the Carolina Country Music Award-recognized band Driskill that plays across the Carolinas. His wife, Jessie and daughter Enid attend with him in worship at Salem.



Pastor Mike Bass was ordained at this year's GMC Annual Conference as an Elder. Mike is gifted in Biblical Studies and will be serving in this capacity at Salem. He has a calling to those outside the church. An avid biker, Mike is not your typical pastor. With the grounding of the Holy Scriptures, Mike reaches across all the lines of society to bring a scriptural witness into the lives of others. He is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and previously served as the Associate Pastor of the 5 Campuses of Solid Rock with our Pastor Gil Wise. Together Mike and Gil gave witness to the rise of a new church plant in Harnett County that had a budget of over 2 Million dollars, 2 childcare centers, 5 afterschool programs and a Food Pantry that fed over 4,000 people every month. Mike will bring a new Bible Study in January for Salem.



Our newest Pastor is the Rev. Shelton Burkart. Our wonderfully acclaimed youth minister has been recognized this month by the GMC as a Supply Pastor and Candidate for Ordained Ministry. Shelton has risen from Scout and Member at Salem to youth director to now our Youth Pastor. Shelton brings a host of ministry to our body that goes beyond just ministry with our youth. A 2016 Graduate of Liberty University, Shelton has recently acted on a call to ministry by presenting himself to the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee. Upon their review he was recommended to a Called Charge Conference of Salem Methodist on November 5, 2023 where he was affirmed as a Candidate for Ministry in the GMC.



Nursery

Come see our new addition to our nursery space in the downstairs Fellowship Wing. It is set up for those littles who aren't quite mobile yet. Also thanks to Ryan McPhail and Woodmen of the World for funding some of the furnishings. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know.

Betty Ann Crawford

Juanita Warren Group

The members of the Juanita Warren Women's Group at Salem will be collecting school supplies for students at our local elementary schools through January, 2024. We did not have a school supply drive at the beginning of the year; with many community giveaways and low prices for supplies at that time, we felt there would be a greater need during the second half of the year. We would really appreciate your generosity in this worthwhile effort. Please bring donations of school supplies to the church office, or you can make a monetary donation, designating your gift for 'School Supplies'. We will purchase items needed and deliver them to the schools! We thank you so much for your generosity! If you have any questions, please see Bonnie Crabtree.



What Salem Means To Me

My experience with Salem Methodist Church has been very good, and I knew this was the place God wanted me to be from the first visit. One of the first things that comes to mind is how friendly and welcoming the people of Salem are. It was very comforting to me coming from a church where I have known most of the congregation for many years to be included in the family.

It isn't possible to talk about Salem without mentioning the music. What a blessing it is each and every Sunday morning to hear the choir sing. It was another reason Salem has meant so much to me, as I saw how much Becky liked the choir. I don't sing or play an instrument, but I love music. Gary Wages does an excellent job, and Salem is blessed by his dedication.

Last, but not least, is you, Pastor Gil Wise. You have taken me into your flock and cared for Becky and me as your own. Your support and love were so heart-warming in the recent deaths of my brother-in-law and our good friend, Alice Blanton. Your weekly sermons come from your heart and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and I am fed each week.

So, thank you, Salem Methodist Church—you mean a lot to me.
Ron Jones

Family Promise

Salem's Mission to Homeless Families

At least once a week our church office receives a call asking for money for housing (rent and/or hotel) for a family, and sometimes for food, which we provide. The money we invest in Family Promise is less than hotel for a week and includes food, accountability, and coaching/teaching. Our next week of service (for the 4th qtr.) begins Dec. 24. Please mark your extra mile donations FAMILY PROMISE. Contact Deb M. for details.

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

Prayer Ministry

"Prayer - the greatest wireless connection."

Anonymous

Prayer is a way for us to express our thoughts, feelings, and desires to the Lord. While the ways in which He responds to prayer remain a mystery, the act of praying itself demonstrates our faith, devotion and humility. Come experience the power of prayer in our beautiful Prayer Room. It is open Sundays before Sunday school and on Mondays and Thursdays from 7 AM until 9 AM.

The daily 'Pray for our Pastor' prayer guides have been assembled and will be given out to shut-ins by the Stephen Ministers during their upcoming visits. A BIG thank you to Larry Howell for all his help in creating these guides. They probably would not be ready yet without his help! And a thank you to Katie and Shelton for their patience with me as they were edited, copied and put together. It took all of us working together for this to happen, and I know we will see God's blessings through these prayers!

The Prayer Ministry team has made Prayer Request forms available to parents in the Preschool area. Please pray with me that God will work through this in the lives of parents and their children.

We also continue to have volunteers pray in the Prayer Room during the Sunday sermons. We need volunteers for Sundays in November. Please contact me if you'd like to be part of this ministry.

And finally, a prayer hack: "In the shower, don't just clean your outside, cleanse your soul as well. Ask God to search your heart - see if there's anything for which you need to ask His forgiveness." (Taken from the book, [say a little prayer](#), by Joanne Redmond). If you have any simple ways you include prayer in your daily life, please let me know so it can be shared with others!

Let's continue to support one another in prayer,
Pat Lyons



I admit that when asked to attend the Stephen ministry training, I was reluctant. Fifty hours of training, studying, sharing, working through different scenarios - I wasn't sure that was for me. How wrong I was! My nature is to be a caregiver, and that is what a Stephen Minister is. We are the caregiver, and God is the cure giver.

As Christians we are commanded to comfort one another as we have been comforted (2nd Corinthians 1:4). Stephen ministry training gives us the necessary tools to provide one-to-one Christ-centered care. Trainees learn how to listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times. This care is entirely confidential - no one knows the identity of the care receiver except for their Stephen Minister and the Stephen Minister leader who paired them together.

We all come with "baggage" and need help from time to time. There is no shame or disgrace; it just means we are human. We accept help when we need it and help others when we can.

I encourage you to consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Trust God to place you with the right group as he did with us. As we went through the training praying, loving and accepting each other we were blessed and with God's guidance we will be a blessing to others.

Del Peluso

"We are the Caregivers; God is the Curegiver."

Cafe Zion

Prayer ministry with Mt. Zion
and Salem at Armstrong
Elementary



Spaghetti Fundraiser Finale

Whew! What a great day of community outreach and fellowship! We served 1315 plates of delicious spaghetti. We delivered over 500 plates in this total. The Bake Sale made over \$3000. Thanks to everyone who bought and sold tickets. We had many new volunteers, and that was wonderful. We had a fraternity from Methodist University that came to help as well. I can't tell you how thankful I am for the volunteers always stepping up to make this such a success. Thanks again for another great event. See you in the Spring for BBQ! Betty Ann Crawford

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.

November 12 - Veterans Day Service
November 22 - Community Thanksgiving Service at Salem

December 3 - Maranatha Festival
December 8 - Cookies with Santa - Salem Childcare Programs

December 10 - Children's Program 11 am Worship
December 17 - Choir Cantata
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 5 pm & 6 pm

Reentry House

The reentry house was so happy to receive these goodies from our Salem family. Thank you so much for your help with this mission. Please keep these children of God in your prayers as they are given a second chance at a good life.



Prayer Requests

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

Church Members

Pat Lawrence, Family of Sue Melvin, Denise Rhodes,
Del Peluso, Dave Black, Cindy Gilliam White, Brenda
Johnson, Tre Turpin, Judah Turpin, Peggy Allen, Thelma
Bullard, John Butler, J.M. Butler, Rosine Dexter, Darwin
& Edna Edwards, Derotha Fink, Wilma Gamble, Gilda
Horne, Darlene Hovis, Weldon & Jeannette Hudson,
Paula Johnson, Bruce & Lorraine Kirkwood, Mickey
Kimbel, Lynn Kennedy, Jean Lugar, Sandy McDaniel,
Jerry McLaurin, Mary Patterson, Trillma Pribbenow,
Bill Roberts, Eula Snow, Norma Stackley, Ila Ruth Wise,
Daniel and Nancy West

Family and Friends

Oswaldo Romas, Family of Wanda Jo Benson, Kaitlin Godwin,
Ryan Godwin, Lawrence Deal, Curtis Matthew, Ponce
McDonald, Mike Butler, Johnny Butler, Kim Gordner, Keith
Gain, Sam Holt, Cecil Palmer, Sammy West, Delanoy Eva
Hill, Ron Harding, Herbert Bowden, Sarah Williamson,
Lauren Creech, David Edwards, Clyde Salmon, Larry
Johnson, Todd Reaves, Moises Soto, Larry Davis, Neil
Ballentine, Jake Cole, Kristen Thomas, Erika Brigman,
Phyllis Culbreth Steadman, Mac Howell, Berrae & Donna
Meixsell, Wendy Caldwell, Kim Burrell, Selena Hurt, Patricia
McLemore, Jorge Alvarez, Luz Aguilar, Bobby Coley, Sue
Grissom, Karolyn Palush, Garland Slate, Laurie Barnes,
Emily Dickson, Rebecca Hardin, Susan Jernigan, Kelly
Stephens, Tim Lease, Jackson Woodcock, Kyle Powers,
Charles Bullard, Frank Harris, Charlie Marpol, Nick and
Jamie Smith, Deanna Tallon, Everna Worthen. Bruce Raynor,
Larry Smith, 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, Jean Brown, Carrie Jones, Carolyn
Ortero, Gale 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,
Marilyn Parkin, Rev. Jan (Poland Methodist Pastor),
Matthew Johnson, Jr., Del Gray, Vickie Knoch, Sandra Jones,
and Daniel Knox (cancer)

Memorials

Rachel Dawson

Pat Smith, Marcia and Rufus House

Ryan Sheppard

Elena Godwin-Baker

Patricia Horne

Jimmy and Bonnie Crabtree

Alice Blanton

Blanton Family

Honor

Fred McDaniel

Larry and Vicki Keen, Frank and
Debbie Moody

Financial Health

Budget Needed Monthly

\$ 44,166.00

Total October Offering & Tithes

\$ 37,497.00

September Building Fund Deposits

\$ 2,600.00

YTD Budget Needed

\$441,666.70

Year to Date Offering & Tithes

\$ 404,991.30

Year to Date Building Fund Deposits

\$ 13,055.00

Methodist Men

The Methodist Men's breakfast will be held on Sunday,
November 19th at 8:00 am in the Dining Hall. All are
welcome!

