



THE SALEM VISIONARY

August 2023

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

Living the Christian Life

Dog Days of Summer

As the summer drags on, we approach the end of summer with typical unbearably hot days. August has a sense of an end on the way for our summer. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the Ancient Greeks and Romans believed the "dog day" to be a time of misfortune plagued by drought and unrest. People and animals were uncomfortable with the unbearably hot temperatures.

When we become uncomfortable, we tend to look for ways to return to a comfortable existence to escape the heat. For me being comfortable took on a new understanding when Christ became the focus of my life. I have found that the greatest way to comfort is in a life hid in Christ. My life of comfort is no longer subject to circumstances or situations. Christ is my Comfort.

Living a life with Jesus is one that adores all that Christ Jesus is as my Savior. I trust Jesus to care for me. A relationship with Him helps me to live into the truth found in Acts 17: 28, "in Christ we live and move and have our being." It is in our abiding with Christ that continually transforms our nature so that we are more like Christ. It is not about our action. It is about a relationship. You can act a certain way just out of discipline. If your nature is still the same then life will continue to be an up and down experience. Trying to be comfortable will always be driven by the moment.

When you abide with Christ it is about a relationship. It is from that relationship that your very nature changes. When your identity is in Christ then the ups and downs of life may still come, but Jesus will be your comfort. Jesus will be your stability.

As we go into the "dog days" of summer, rest in Jesus. Let Jesus be your constant companion. Let Jesus be the outpouring of the refreshing rains upon your head during the heat that comes from life. Prepare for the end of another season knowing that your future is set for good things with a Savior that loves you.

Winning them to Jesus,
Pastor Gil



Sharing the Gospel Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

175th Homecoming 2023

Preparations are well underway for the celebration of our 175th Homecoming here at Salem. Homecoming will be Sunday, September 10. We have been celebrating all year long. The ladies paraded hats on Easter. We shared old-fashioned games, sang our favorite hymns, drove old cars, and wore period outfits to church on Old Fashion Day. We celebrated Christmas in July. We are preparing to celebrate Sunday School with recognitions and another picnic in the park. Read more to find out the ways you can help us celebrate.

With such a long history the Historical Team is working with great strides to capture our past. This team needs your help. Rummage through your closets and your dresser drawers. Locate pictures and artifacts about Salem that you have kept over the years. Bring them to church so that we can share them with everyone. We need old photos. We need old bulletins. Anything Salem we are asking that you share with us.

Help us make sure everyone receives an invitation. If you know of someone who has moved away, share their address with the office so that we can mail them an invitation. If they once attended Salem and we have not seen them in a while, please share their addresses. Our invitation is to everyone. If you have a friend, we need their address. Help us get personal invitations out to everyone.

Our celebrations will continue after Homecoming as we continue to celebrate Salem. Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be on September 22. We plan to bury another Time Capsule and welcome suggestions of items to place in a time capsule that will be opened in 25 years. We will remember our members who passed this year at the All Saints Service on November 5. We also will host the annual Community Thanksgiving Service on November 21. Then we get to celebrate Christmas again.

Join the celebrations!

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.

August 27 - Celebrating Sunday School
Sunday School Picnic in the Park

**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

History Boards

Check out the historical presentation on the boards in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Take a moment to look at where we have been as we prepare for our future.



We had the best week of the summer during July!! Vacation Bible School was July 17-21, and it was a BLAST!!! This year we traveled to outer space to wonder more about our gifts, what makes us unique, and how we can share our story with others! This year we had 118 students learning more about God and singing His praises! During the week, we rotated between Imagination Crafts, All-Star Games, Galactic Music, Stellar Bible Adventures, and Cosmic Snacks. We had a challenge during VBS. It was a girls vs boys donation race for our local missions here at Salem! For the 2023 VBS, the BOYS won! Ms. Caitlin was slimed by green, goopy, and chunky slime on stage Friday.

We are so thankful that we raised \$2,195 for our local missions to help our community of Eastover and surrounding areas. Friday, July 21st was the celebration day for VBS where parents joined us for some fun too! Friday the students were able to show off their songs and memory verses they learned. We enjoyed Sunset Slush, face painting, cupcakes, and jumping on the bouncy houses. Sunday, July 23rd, was another special celebration for VBS. Our students and their families were welcome here at Salem to perform for our church family too. Afterward, our VBS Picnic in the Gym was a time of food and fellowship with one another.

A special thank you to all of our church members who volunteered to help during the week of VBS, along with our youth, middle school students, and SMASH caregivers. Another big shout out to Shelton, who was a huge help during VBS. He helped with our Stellar Bible Adventures and sound, and was our tech guy throughout the week as well. I could not have done it without all of the help and support from the church and my family. During the month of August, we are having Salem Kids on August 9th and 23rd in the Lower Fellowship Hall from 6 pm until 7 pm. We are also excited to kick off our back-to-school party on Sunday, Aug 27 during our children's church time! We can't wait to see you here at Salem!

Caitlin Craven
children@salemfn.org



This summer can't be beat!! It has been one hot summer with plenty of activities for our youth to participate in before the school year starts! VBS this year was a BLAST! Caitlin and the Salem Kids travelled to outer space to wonder more about God and His love for us! We were so happy to help her run a few stations during the week of VBS! Four of the youth volunteered the week of VBS.

The BOYS won the donation race, which meant Ms. Caitlin was drenched in green gooey slime. We are proud of the donations that were collected for our Salem Mission fund!

July 28th was another eventful evening for the youth. The youth were able to go bowling and then have a lock in at Salem's gym! Thank you to Bryson for planning and scheduling such a successful evening and the volunteers who chaperoned and helped.

Another opportunity for our youth to be a part of outreach ministries here at Salem was our Summer Literacy Program. For three weeks of the summer, we had three youth, Raegan Beard, Maverick Cooper, and Aiden Rattan, who helped Ms. Caitlin during enrichment time. They were able to play activities and go on a field trip and create crafts with the SLI students. Thank you so much for your help during that time!

We are looking forward to the events we have planned this fall!

We can't wait to see you here at Salem!
Shelton Burkart





Smash kids have had a great summer so far. We have gone to the movies and park, and had a couple of water days, spirit week, and lots of fun game days at SMASH. We have begun School year registration and setting up rooms for the school year.

We are currently seeking employees who are available to work 1:30-6:00 M-F for SMASH. We are looking to hire in the preschool as well for toddler and 2-year-old teachers. If you know anyone seeking employment, please stop by SMASH or the Preschool for an application.

Our ABEKA Curriculum has been ordered for our graduating class and our 3-4 year-old class. We will be busy preparing for the school year and watching these kids grow and learn.

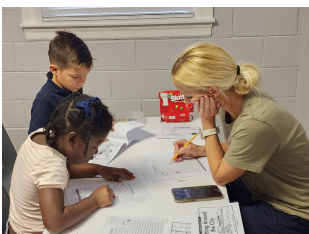
Our SMASH kids and our preschool 4- year-old class enjoyed a fun week of VBS. Thank you Caitlin Craven for leading these children of SALEM through space, learning about spending time with God and what makes them unique.

Summer Literacy Camp

We have completed our three-week Summer Literacy Camp. The Lower Fellowship Hall has been filled with 20 students reading, writing, listening to Bible Stories, and completing arts and crafts. We also enjoyed three dinners with our SLI families.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our program a success!

Sincerely,
The Summer Literacy Staff



Choir News

Salem choir is enjoying not rehearsing on Wednesday nights during June and July. We will start back our regular meetings in August to prepare for fall music, including homecoming.

I am featuring solos, duets, and trios during the summer months. Those participating are Amy Bowden, Richard Bowden, Frank Dawson, Gwen Gorman, Shelton Burkart, and of course Gary and Dave as accompanists.

I have instigated a new twist for the choir in that we will wear robes on the first service of each month. We continue to work on diction, pitch, and ensemble singing for the choir.

Anyone desiring to help us in the choir see me, Gary. Or just show up on Wednesday nights at 7 pm.!

Sunday School

Stay tuned for our August 27th Sunday School Celebration as a part of our 175th activities!

Nursery

We want to welcome Kendra Sessoms and Staci Chiomento to our wonderful list of volunteers in the nursery. This is a great ministry if you are looking for a place to help at Salem. You would only need to assist about once every 4-6 weeks. We work around your availability. If you have a desire to volunteer, please call me or Katie in the office.

Betty Ann Crawford
910-578-8139

Spaghetti Fundraiser September 22

It's almost time to cook up our delicious Salem spaghetti. We need volunteers for all types of jobs: Line Servers, Delivery Drivers, Kitchen Runners, Dining Room Attendants, Beverage Staff, and Bakers for the Bake Sale. Please call me or see me at church to volunteer for this great community ministry.

Great way to meet church friends!

Betty Ann Crawford
910-578-8139



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!

An Invitation from First Presbyterian



**"Coping Strategies
for a Smoother
Back-to-School"**
with special guest speaker,
Caroline Moses
hosted by Stephen Ministry

Sunday, August 13th at 3pm in the Chapel
Interested families & friends are welcome to join us!
Caroline Moses and her husband live in Raleigh where she has been an elementary school counselor for Wake County Public Schools for seven years. In her current position, she particularly enjoys one-on-one conversations with students and preparing classroom guidance lessons.

She grew up in an Army family, courtesy of her parents Steve and Andrea Horosko. She was born in Germany, and had lived on three continents by the time she was five years old. Notably, she attended kindergarten through second grade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her family moved to Fayetteville, NC in 2001, and she joined First Presbyterian Church with her parents. She graduated from Jack Britt High School, and subsequently received a B.A. in Psychology and M.Ed. in Counseling from NC State (Go Wolfpack!). Prior to working in the public school system, she was an Assistant Director at a Boys and Girls Club in Raleigh.

Operation Christmas Child

Merry Christmas Salem Family! I certainly do miss you. I had so many plans for OCC this year, none that included me wearing a life vest and dragging around a battery pack!

Please remember what an important program this is as we are spreading the gospel far and wide. You may donate money or items for our 200 shoeboxes! See you at the packing party.

God's blessings on you all, Del



Shelton gift-wrapped



Operation InAsMuch

Every worshiper at Salem must also have a place where they give what they have received. Without a place to be in ministry, you become spiritually unhealthy. OIAM is a great place to give what you have received.

The next opportunity will be on Tuesday, August 22 at 7:00 am. Contact Ron Williams for more information, and sign up to participate on the sign-up sheet outside the church office on the bulletin board.

Family Promise

Salem's Mission to Homeless Families

Salem's Fall week of service to Family Promise is Sept. 10-16. Extra mile giving money is requested for food (they cook), essentials (soap, laundry detergent etc.) & a week's portion of utilities/insurance. "Keeping the doors open" is our commitment to the families we serve, which is four families - 14 total folks. Memo contributions: Family Promise. Contact "the lady with the clipboard" - Debbie M. for info.

Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

Food Pantry

THE LODGE - Operation InAsMuch received on July 1 an 8 lb ham, 5 lbs ground round, 3 packs of hotdogs, 6 packs of buns, baked beans, ketchup, mustard, mayo., relish, hot sauce, BBQ sauce, onions, cheese, several types of chips, and peanut butter & jelly.

Thanks Food Pantry team for organizing and delivering. SPECIAL THANKS to all donors!

CAMP ROCKFISH SALT (Servant And Leadership Training) students visited Salem several morning hours on July 13. Following an orientation of Salem's food pantry, teens were organized into four groups and worked cleaning, stocking & recycling boxes in the food pantry, as well as loading gifts into folks' cars who receive food on Thursdays. Additionally, they cleaned tables & chairs throughout the church and learned about Salem's SMASH & preschool programs & employment opportunities. Rounding out their time in Eastover, the Fire Dept. hosted the students for a tour and review of career opportunities.



Evangelism

Faith Sharing Training

Evangelism is at the heart of Salem Methodist Church. In July our worshipers received a gift at the Christmas in July service. The gift was a Faith Sharing New Testament. The gift was given as an invitation for everyone to join us for a joint training experience with our sister church, Mt. Zion AMEZ. Pastors of both churches and Rev. Dr. Otis McMillan will be training our members from some best practices known in the Methodist Church.

The practices will be shared in a training held on Wednesday nights, August 9, 16, 23, and 30. Prayerfully consider learning more about how you share your faith with others. It will be a very practical training event. You will meet new people and renew old friendships as we share in this training. All of the GMC churches in the District are also invited to this event.

Evangelism grabs at the heart of what we have experienced in Christ. It was that someone else shared with us their witness that brought us to Christ. We have good news to share. Often we do not realize how good it really is with this relationship with Christ that we share.

We have been positioned as a body of believers to empower our community of faith to be that witness that transforms lives and changes the world. With this timely training, Salem will come into agreement with the calling of God on our lives to be those witnesses. The training equips us to welcome and witness at our 175th Homecoming. It supplies the needed understanding to reach our friends, relatives, neighbors, and acquaintances with the Good News of Jesus Christ. This training has the potential to change the world. Make it a point to mark this training on your calendar. Attend the training and invite others to come with you. Take advantage of this upcoming opportunity. Bring your Faith Sharing New Testament and find out how to use it to change the world.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer is not an action—it is an interaction—and that interaction takes place in and through the Holy Spirit.

3 Principles of Prayer

Keep it Simple

God is not looking for people who come to Him with big, eloquent words, and He is not looking for performance. God wants us to simply come to Him with whatever we have.

Keep it Real

Luke 18:9-14; Psalm 139: 23-24

God knows every part of our hearts and all our secrets. He can see everything. We can't hide things from Him. So we should be real, be honest, bring what we have, and come as we are.

Keep it Up

Luke 18:1-8

Although prayer does not have to be complex, it needs to be constant. Prayer should become a lifestyle, an opportunity to just 'chat' with God.

If any of you have any "prayer hacks", I'd love for you to send them to me by text at 910-818-0793 or by email to sealyons1209@aol.com. (And no judgments about my old AOL account - I'm just lazy and don't want to change everything to a new one!) Please let me know if I can share them in the next Newsletter!

Here are a few to get you started. These are things I picked up along the way and are not my original thoughts, but I do try to put them into practice:

- When I hear sirens, I pray for the first responders and the people involved in the situation they are responding to.
- When sitting on my front porch or at a stop light and see cars on the road, I pray for them: nothing specific since I don't know them, but I pray for God to get them to their destinations safely and that they feel His presence and for God to bless them.
- When I see coins on the ground, I'll pick them up and pray for blessings for the next person that might find them and then put them back on the ground.

The Prayer Room continues to be open in the usual times of Sunday mornings before Sunday School, Mondays and Thursdays from 7 AM until 9 AM, and now on Wednesday afternoons from 1 PM until 3 PM for those of you who are not early birds!

There is a new prayer opportunity I'd love you to have your help with. According to someone who was at Salem when our beautiful prayer room was originally set up, the purpose was to have members pray for the Pastor each Sunday during the sermon. We can pray that the message is what the Holy Spirit needs us to hear and pray for the eyes, ears and minds of those of us that hear it will be open to what the Lord needs us to receive. And of course, you can pray about anything else you feel led to include as well. I thank all the volunteers that did this during the Sundays in July and would love to add you to a list of people that are willing to commit to a Sunday. Again, please contact me by cell or email if you feel led to lift our Pastor up in prayer each week!

Let us continue to lift each other up in prayer,
Pat Lyons



Stephen Ministers will resume monthly Continuing Education meetings in August. Our topic for this month is "Ministering to People Experiencing Challenges Relating to Aging". Topics previously covered were "Ministering to Those Who Are Dying and Their Family and Friends" and "Caring for People Experiencing a Major Medical Crisis". We look forward to this time of learning and growing this ministry. We are praying for our own Del Peluso and Nancy Dorman-Honeycutt who are recovering from surgeries.

The Stephen Ministry organization has a new book entitled "The Gift of Empathy". Empathy is a skill anyone can learn, and this book lays out principles and practices that empower you to better understand, connect with, and care for family, friends, coworkers, and others to whom you may relate. The organization is currently piloting discussion groups using this new resource. If you are interested in participating in a book study, please contact Carol Hudson.

Finally, Salem has experienced a lot of sickness and loss in the last few months. These experiences are very stressful. Please know that your Stephen Ministers are here to walk with you through these difficult times. If you would like more information, contact Pastor Gil or Carol Hudson.

"We are the Caregivers, God is the Caregiver"

Prayer Requests

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

Church Members

Kenneth Sykes, Sr., Sandy McDaniel, Karen Culbreth Odom, Jimmy Crabtree, Maxie Roberts, 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

Larry Davis, Elizabeth Monroe Smith, Hazel Parker, Phyllis Culbreth Steadman, Mac Howl, J.M. Butler, 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, Becky Peele, Maria House, Karolyn Palush, Garland Slate, Laurie Barnes, Emily Dickson, Marc Gastaldo, 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. Travis & Sheila Wages, Bruce Raynor, Larry Smith, Meredith Steihl, Kenan Steihl, 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, Rev. Robert Flynn, 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

Sallie Darden

Helen Smith, Pat Lyons, Ed and Ruby Bullard, Buck and Betty Smith, Linwood and Marcia House, Ron and Carolyn Hardin

Gwen Edwards

Larry and Kim McPhail, Irene Everett, Harmon Kivett, Buck and Betty Smith, Linwood and Marcia House, Frank and Debbie Moody, The Parker Family, David and Lisa Geddie, Ron and Carolyn Hardin, Karen Culbreth-Odom, Larry and Vicki Keen

Lloyd Caulder

Michael and Jean Outlaw, Helen Smith, Kenneth and Claire Lynn Sykes, Jimmy and Bonnie Crabtree, Linwood and Marcia House, Buck and Betty Smith, Ron and Carolyn Hardin

Charlie Williams

Jimmy and Bonnie Crabtree

Financial Health

Budget Needed Monthly

\$ 44,166.00

Total July Offering & Tithes

\$ 32,957.00

July Building Fund Deposits

\$ 1,425.00

YTD Budget Needed

\$ 309,166.69

Year to Date Offering & Tithes

\$ 275,665.42

Year to Date Building Fund Deposits

\$ 7,580.00

Methodist Men

The Methodist Men's breakfast will be held on Sunday, August 20th at 8:00 am in the Dining Hall. All are welcome!

