



THE SALEM VISIONARY

March 2023

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

Lenten Visions

In the Shadow of the Cross

The season of Lent places a focus for me on the incredible sacrifice Christ made for our lives that “sin shall not have dominion over us.” (Romans 6: 14) It is a season of shadows. There are the shadows of things that once were known to us. There are the shadows of the unknowns that we face in our futures. Shadows can sometimes bring us great discouragement or create anticipatory fear. But there is one shadow that gives me great peace and promise of which I make it a place of my abide. I am speaking about the **Shadow of the Cross**.

Salem is celebrating 175 years since the founding of this church on Flea Hill in Eastover. In the opportunities to provide remembrances through the year it becomes very apparent to me the responsibility of this witness. It needs to be told well. As I begin to hear the stories and read the records of history, I am reduced to humility in all that this community of faith has accomplished. The lives that gave expression to the Gospel stand as legends in my mind. They stood in that shadow of the cross in a way that gives witness to us today of that same sacrifice and love that Christ gave to us all.



One of the old hymns of the church, sung by many of these that have gone before us, captures their witness. The song “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” by Elizabeth C. Clephane. It contains these powerful words in its last verse:

I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss;
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

Overwhelmed by life? Take refuge in the shadow of the cross. Depressed with the cares of this world? Stand in the shadow of the cross and look upon the face of Christ who loved you so much He gave His life for you. Fearful of what tomorrow might bring? Find your abiding place in the shadow of the cross where the cares of this world have no place. If there is one thing Salem can teach us it is that we need to be with other believers. This community of faith at Salem contains people with faithful witnesses of standing in the Shadow of the Cross. Our Stephen Ministers are some of these people. They are here to be with you as some of these questions asked above take over your life. Reach out to them. Don't travel this road alone.

Rev. Dr. Otis McMillan told us at the Lenten Luncheon to “do right” and “do good.” Taking our stand in the Shadow of the Cross elicits both of these actions from our lives. The Cross reminds us that God has our past redeemed and our future promised. It is a fulfillment of Jeremiah 29:11, “God says, I know the plans I have for you, plans for a hope and a future.” When you take a stand in the shadow of the Cross, you are abiding in presence of the Almighty. Read Psalm 91 to encourage you when you seem to be embattled with the things of this world. Read Psalm 27 when fear grips your life and you don't know where to turn. Turn to the Lord with whom there is no shadow of turning.

Winning them to Jesus,
Pastor Gil Wise



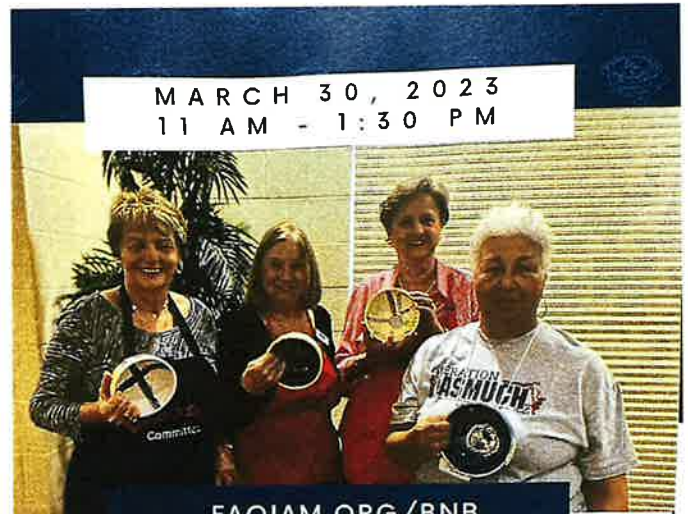
Things continue to go well in the preschool and SMASH programs. February has been good to us so far. We celebrated Ms. Sandy Rothwell's 25th work anniversary at the preschool. We had a Valentine's Day party. The kids brought in goodies and had such a great time. Our fours class is continuing strong with its curriculum. We will have 19 graduating on May 25th. We will begin Summer registration for SMASH for currently enrolled students on April 17th.



FAYETTEVILLE AREA OPERATION INASMUCH

Bread 'n Bowls Fundraiser
Thursday, March 30th
11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Snyder Memorial Baptist Church
701 Westmont Drive
Come enjoy some Creamy Potato Soup or Chili

See Betty Smith if you still need tickets.



Proceeds benefit the ministry of
Fayetteville Area Operation Inasmuch

Bread Bowl Meal with
Choice of Chili or Cheesy
Potato Soup with Brownie
and Drink: only \$15

Hand-painted Pottery +
Meal: \$25

Snyder Memorial
Baptist Church
701 Westmont Dr.

Don't miss your chance to win a
BRAND NEW CAR, valued at \$50,000!

REENTRY HOUSE NEWS

Rev. Jesse Garner is in need of twin sheets, double sheets, towels and hygiene items. Salem has supported this mission in the past. This mission helps those being released from prison to get back into society. Sheets and towels do not need to be new, just clean and in good shape. Please let Betty Smith know if you are able to help.



Salem's youth is vibrant and growing, and it all started with an invitation. When Jesus got his disciples, did they just appear out of nowhere? Did Jesus wait until the disciples' parents decided to come to his sermons and leave their kids behind to follow Jesus? No! Jesus went out and sought out these people of peace, with whom he walked, dined, talked, and prayed, to help show and model what it truly means to be a follower of God. It is the same with discipleship today. If we are not actively seeking out those who need a deeper relationship with Christ, how will they come to know Him?

I spoke on the power of an invitation with the youth back in October of 2022, and they had their hearts open to hear what the Lord relayed to them. We have been consistently having twelve youth on Sunday nights and 5 on Wednesdays, with some rotating in and out on different weeks. We have grown tremendously, and it is all thanks to the youth reaching out to their friends at school, at scouts, at dance, or at sporting events, and simply inviting them to come and see what God is doing at Salem. None of this would be possible without the Holy Spirit working in the lives of our youth and youth that are willing to listen and be God's hands and feet in their schools.



Somebody Pinch Me! How is it already March? Thank you to everyone you helped out during the month of February! Our celebrations would not have happened without you! We are so excited for the activities happening this month!

Salem Kids Nights will be March 1, 15, and 29! We are continuing our adventure from A to Z in the Bible. We have learned about Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Bethlehem, Boaz, Caleb, David and Goliath, Elijah, Esther, and God. We will be learning about Hannah, Isaac, and Jesus in the month of March!

Don't forget on March 10th we're having our annual BBQ Fundraiser! Come out and enjoy some delicious BBQ!

We will be heading to Just Clayin' Around on March 26 to paint pottery together!

The announcement we all have been waiting for is **FINALLY HERE!!!** 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!

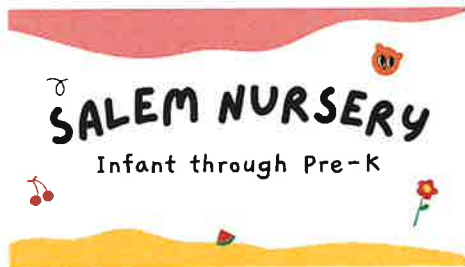
Contact Caitlin Craven if you have any questions.



CAMPUS LIFE

The Campus Life Clubs at Cape Fear and Mac Williams have been active and engaging! The club at Cape Fear High School continues to grow ever so slightly as a team of four fantastic volunteers focus on pouring life into these young men and women who have a passion for learning more about Christ. The club just finished its series on second chances and how much it means that God gives us a fresh start through His Son, Jesus Christ. We spent time learning about one of the biggest life changes in the Bible when Saul became Paul, but also talked about personal life-changing experiences all made possible through Christ's love for us.

Our Mac Williams Middle School club is even larger and averages over 40 kids per week! We have had over 60 kids in one week eager to learn and grow in Christ! We recently added new volunteers bringing us up to a total of one Youth for Christ employee and 7 volunteers! Our Mac Williams club is currently working through a series on emotions, recently focusing on stress, anxiety, anger, and of course joy! True joy is found in Christ, and it can overcome all of these negative emotions, that life throws our way. It is exciting to see these young people open up about their emotions, and learn how to seek out God when they are struggling, and asking Him to fill them with an unstoppable joy!



The littles are coloring, reading about Jesus and making friends. If you are looking for a place to volunteer at Salem, we would love to have you! You would be in a rotation of once every 4 weeks or so. This is a wonderful ministry for young families to come hear the word and worship knowing their kiddos are in a safe environment. Call the office or me, 910-578-8139.

Betty Ann Crawford

S/PPRC Employee Appreciation Event

On February 15th in recognition of the employees of the Pre-school and Smash Departments, cake and soft drinks were provided to all in appreciation of their care and service to the children and in support of Salem Methodist Church.

Additionally, those employees whose birthdays were within the time frame of Jan 1st-March 31st were recognized as well.

The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee provided the snacks for their enjoyment. The members of the S/PPRC are Lisa Geddie, Austin Heine, Wayne Beard, Denise Sykes, Phil Davis, Betty Smith, and Ron Hardin.

It appeared a good time was had by all.

Respectfully,
Ron Hardin



Mission and Outreach

Food Pantry

Thursday mornings from 9-11 am community folks arrive & request to receive staple foods.

Presently the majority of the folks are senior citizens. They receive four bags. One is canned foods. 2nd is dry goods. 3rd is a few packs of frozen meats, and the 4th is "odds" which generally include toilet tissue and items we have LOTS of which (presently) are green beans & ramen noodles.

ALWAYS NEED: Peanut Butter, Jelly
Canned meats (including Ravoli)
Pasta Sauce NO glass- please

Give and it shall be given unto you. Luke 6:38



These are the folks who worked the 5-6 weeks to MAKE ALL THE holiday & trimmings meals happen! (in addition to the school donation pickups, sorting etc. . . .)

Family Promise

Salem's Mission to Homeless Families

Salem's winter week of service is March 5-11, 2023. We supply funds for food (they cook), essentials (soap, detergent, etc.), & utilities/insurance for this week four times a year. Staff assists families with goals (employment & educational), finances and overall family wellness. Folks are housed in a facility where they share kitchen, bath & laundry space. Each family has its own bedroom.

Extra mile giving is needed to support this ministry; please mark your donation FAMILY PROMISE.

Contact Debbie Moody for additional information.



Most gently used (or new) household items needed for families.

Choir News

The choir is still singing every week, and we are always looking for new members! We practice every Wednesday at 7 PM, and we do not make you get on stage and audition! Don't try to say you can't sing either, because all voices are needed!

Salem Singers were featured this month in the Methodist Men's Valentine's Banquet performing Down to the River to pray. They put a lot of time and effort into this performance and are very appreciative of all the men of Salem who host this event each year.

February was Black History Month, and our choir sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" which is an old hymn written by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother J. Rosamond Johnson. It is a beautiful song that is often used in reference to the hope and longing for liberty the African American community yearned for which and was often used during civil rights protests in the 50s and 60s. You may recognize the hymn from where Sheryl L Ralph's performance of it before the Super Bowl this year.



Prayer Focused



Lent is a solemn season of self-reflection, repentance and preparation. It's a time for us to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter, for remembering Jesus's sacrifice on the cross for our sins and celebrating His resurrection. What better way to observe Lent than through prayer, fasting and self denial. To help you grow and strengthen your prayer life, the Prayer Room and sanctuary are open Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM and on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 AM until 9:00 AM. You can pray in private or we can pray together. The Prayer Room is such a blessing for us at Salem so if there are other times that would be more convenient for it to be open, please let me know. These days and times can be altered if there is enough feedback indicating more people would take advantage of the opportunity to pray in God's house at other times.

And don't forget there are Prayer Request slips in each pew. Fill these out and give them to the ushers, put them in the offering plate or you can hand them to me after the service if needed. These prayer requests get prayed over each week and are such a blessing not only for the individual mentioned on the request but also for the person with the faith in the power of prayer that fills them out. They also bless me as it gives me the opportunity to go to our Father on behalf of others. Spending time in prayer with God is such a privilege!



Members of Salem's Stephen Ministry Team attended Black's Chapel Methodist Church's Commissioning Service for class members Nancy Dorman Honeycutt and Chuck Griffin on Sunday, February 26th. The Salem group gathered and took one of our vans to the service. Ron Hardin was the driver with passengers Frank Dawson, Carolyn Hardin, Del Peluso, Pat Lyons, Cindy Whetzel, Bonnie and Jimmy Crabtree, and Carol Hudson. Gil and Linda Wise joined us at Black's Chapel.

Black's Chapel Pastor Marv Gordner dedicated the entire service to the commissioning, with hymns, scripture and sermon. It was a very special tribute to Nancy and Chuck and the entire team.

Afterward, everyone went to Mamma B's Southern Kitchen for the Sunday buffet. The group was filled with good southern food and fellowship.

Upon leaving, however, the van did not cooperate. Once we were loaded and ready to go, the van side door would not close. Apparently, a coin had gotten stuck in the mechanism. This created a bit of a challenge. Thankfully, Gil and Linda came to our rescue! Linda removed Bethany's baby seat and other items to allow the women of the group to ride with her, while the men rode back to Salem with the door open.

It was quite an adventure.

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

ALL THINGS BBQ

All hands on deck on March 10! To make this a success, we need lots of volunteers. We have all types of jobs for everyone and every age: set up, servers, delivery drivers, kitchen help, dining room attendants, etc. This is a great time for fellowship and meeting people in the church. Come join us!



Salem
METHODIST CHURCH
2165 Middle Rd • Eastover NC
BBQ
FRIDAY **March 10, 23**
11AM-6:30PM Tickets \$10
BBQ Pork or Chicken Breast
Slaw • Green Beans • Hush Puppies
Desserts Available for Sale
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT
Delivery Available on 10 plates or more
info@salemfnc.org
910-483-8959

CALLING ALL BAKERS

Please plan to bake and prepare some of your favorite goodies to sell at the bake sale in conjunction with our BBQ fundraiser on March 10th. Cakes, pies, cupcakes, brownies, breads, cookies, whole desserts or individually wrapped treats ...all are welcome! Our bake sale is only as successful as the amount of items to sell. Items can be dropped off at the church office, brought to the FLEC Thursday night, March 9th from 5:00-7:00, or Friday morning, March 10th.

Contact Kim McPhail (kim4heels@gmail.com) with any questions.

Thank you so much for all your help!



Dear Salem Family and Friends,

Please join us in supporting our Church Barbeque that is scheduled for Friday, March 10th. We are excited about hosting our fundraiser this year. We are asking for your support by assisting with the purchase of the pigs. We are grateful for the contributions which have become a great tradition with many of our members. It is our hope that we can count on your support this year.

Over the past couple of years, the price of pork has increased. The cost to sponsor a whole pig is \$100.00, a half-pig is \$50.00, and ham is \$25.00. If anyone feels compelled to increase their contribution, it would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help with sponsorship (it is tax deductible), you can mail your check made out to the church, bring it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Please put "Pigs" on the memo line.

Thank you again for your continued support of our important fundraiser. Oink! Oink!

Sincerely,
The Big Pig
Larry McPhail



WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

The Juanita Warren Group of Salem Methodist Church will hold a "White Elephant Sale" in conjunction with the Salem BBQ fundraiser on Friday, March 10. Come to the gym, look for Neva Stallings and some of the other ladies from the group, and browse the items being offered at this special sale! You might find a treasure that you've been looking for, and you might even find some things you didn't even know you needed!

All the proceeds from this sale will go to the Juanita Warren Group. At this time, the group is making plans to hold a Women's Conference at Salem in the near future, and we need your support to make this a reality!

Thank you for helping us!



Prayer Requests

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

Church Members

Bruce Sykes, Steve Dawson (CFVH), Wiley Snow (Duke Hospital), Betty Ann Crawford, Betty Register, Kevin Register, Tammy Bullock, Ken Sykes, Del Peluso, Jennifer Lewinski, Oliva Culbreth, Jan Holmes, Rosine Dexter, Denise Rhodes, Joyce Costin, Eula Snow, Thelma Bullard, Derotha Fink, Bruce & Lorraine Kirkwood, Charlie Williams, 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

Janet Collier, Sheila Wages, Maria Gonzales, Dominique Martinez, Janet Campbell, Marie Beasley, Margaret Ann Heine, Margaret Saccareccia, Selena Hurt, Jennifer Parlrey, C.H. Parker (heart surgery), Courtney Watson, Sam Holt, Aaron Griffith, Brian Moxey, Faye Riddle, Chloe Creech, Helen Scoggins, Ann Eller, Kelly, 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, Jen Partney, 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), Brooke Autry's mother, Abraham Beniquin and Jennifer Johnson.

Memorials

Wayne Worthen

Carol Hudson, Kenneth and Claire Lynn Sykes

Dan Raynor and Judy McLaurin

Mary Barbara Raynor

Financial Health

Budget Needed Monthly

\$ 44,000.00

Total February Offering & Tithes

\$ 23,852.00

February Building Fund Deposits

\$ 700.00

YTD Budget Needed

\$ 88,333.00

Year to Date Offering & Tithes

\$ 449,580.00

Year to Date Building Fund Deposits

\$ 2,150.00

Methodist Men

The Methodist Men's breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 19th. All are invited!

