



THE SALEM VISIONARY

January/February 2023

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

A Limited Grace

“Aren’t we being a little too graceful?” was the comment made by one of the speakers from the floor of the Called Annual Conference last November. There is a problem with a grace that is limited. Grace is the spontaneous, unmerited gift of the divine favor by God upon those who of their own merit do not deserve that grace.

God in his mercy has extended grace to all of humanity. This grace comes not to leave us where we are, but rather opens the divine influence operating in individuals for their regeneration and sanctification. How abusive would God’s grace be if it would leave us still trapped in our sins? Limited grace is conditional grace. Limited grace without the power to transform one’s life is abusive grace.

God’s grace redeems and restores us into a relationship with the God of the universe. In Christ, we are transformed to live out our life with a witness of God’s love. God’s love not only restores relationship, it transforms us to live into our created being of an identity with God. Nothing of this world can define me. Nothing of my life can define me. My whole identity is in the one who created me.

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Acts 17:28
King James Version

It is an identity that can only be found in the purity of God my creator. There is no shadow of turning with God. God is the one true light and the one true way. When you have lost your way, look to Christ Jesus. When you don’t know who you are, turn to Jesus. When nothing makes sense, give yourself over to the one who brought order out of chaos. God is still extending grace and God is still transforming lives.

Winning them to Jesus,

Pastor Gil



Sunday School Launching New Classes

Sunday School was once the only educational system in the United States. It was from this structure that our modern-day education system was birthed. I remember as a child progressing through the years in Sunday School. Many times, I was in Sunday School more than I was in church. This happened because we did not have Sunday Worship every Sunday since the preacher itinerated with our sister church.

It was in Sunday School that my faith was formed. I remember each of my teachers. I remember the songs we sang in Sunday School. I remember the Bible Stories that we read. Sunday School makes a difference in the life of a child and it keeps adults connected with their faith in the relationships they make in Sunday School.

Sunday School at Salem is adding 8 new classes to the existing 5 classes that now meet. Marie McCarroll and Jonathan Johnson have been enlisted to support Superintendent Ron Williams in leading our Sunday School. Our goal is to increase the attendance of our Sunday School that averages 30 students each Sunday. We believe that with the growth that Salem is experiencing that our Sunday School will grow to 100 in attendance.

Marie will head up the Children's Division coordinating teachers and selecting curriculum. She has a background in Elementary Education and will bring her skills to help us implement a Sunday School program for children that will grow our kids' faith. She needs your help in teaching the new classes that will be added. The New Classes to be added are:

- Nursery
- Toddlers
- K-2nd Grades
- 3rd-5th Grades
- 6th-12th Grades

Shelton welcomes any who would support him in the overall youth ministry of the church. Shelton has grown our participation of youth to an average of 12 in attendance drawing from a pool of over 30 youth in our program. His goal is to see this number grow to over 50.

Jonathan will head up the Adult Division. If we have children, there must be adults. New families and younger adults are our targeted group to increase their attendance in our Sunday School. With a place given for the children it will open the door for Adults to become a part of our Sunday School.

The existing classes and the new classes to be added are:

- Henry Murphy – (Myra Roberts and Estelle McPhail, Class Leaders)
- Circle of Faith – (Jonathan Johnson and Larry McPhail, Class Leaders)
- Winston McDaniel - (Russell & Daphne Humphries, Class Leaders)
- Living by Faith – (John Crawford and Ruby Bullard, Class Leaders)
- Young Adults – Families with Children (New Class)
- Young Adults – College Age to under 30 (New Class)

We are exploring an opening session with a donuts and coffee time prior to our Sunday School class start time of 10:00. The Opening Session would be in the church sanctuary at 9:30 with a hymn, prayer and devotion. Time to grab a donut and coffee would be before and after this time beginning at 9 am.

We also would like to reinstate attendance award recognitions for individuals as well as classes. The accountability of the Global Methodist Church will support us in growing our program. We plan to post attendance each week on the boards in the sanctuary to encourage our participation. Sunday School can help build the relationships we share here at Salem.

Pray about serving as a teacher. Pray about helping with the Donuts and Coffee each week. Invite others to become a part of Sunday School. We all have a responsibility to be a part of our Sunday School program to help it be a success.

2023 Vision Milestones Projected

- March 5 – Launching New Classes
- March 12 – Goal of 30 in attendance in Sunday School
- March 19 – Launching Opening Session
- April 2 – First Monthly Attendance Banner Awarded to a Class
- July 2 – First Quarterly Recognition of Individual Attendance Pins
- August 27 – Installation of Teachers
- September 17 – Goal of 50 in attendance in Sunday School
- December 31 – Goal of 100 in attendance in Sunday School



Things continue to go very well in the preschool and SMASH department. Our preschool kids had their Santa pictures made in the sanctuary on December 8th. Thank you to Mrs. Linda Wise for allowing us to use your backdrop for the "Candy Cane Lane" Christmas play! Our staff in both programs took a CPR & First-Aid certification course, and all passed. The preschool practiced for fire drill and intruder drills. Everyone did a great job!

On January 4th and February 1st, Sherry from "Read to Me" came and read to our twos, threes and fours. Pastor Gil has been visiting the preschool for chapel. The kids are loving the banana suit, pastor! A few of our preschool employees took the SIDS training on January 26th. The preschool and SMASH programs will be having a Valentine's Day party on February 14th. We are still seeking qualified teachers for our preschool program, so please continue to spread the word. We hope everyone has been having a Happy New Year!



Children's Sunday School at Salem

We are thrilled to continue our ministry to the young ones at Salem Methodist Church, by offering several new Sunday School classes. Children are a gift from the Lord (Ps 127:3), and it is our privilege as a body to lead them to Christ. Here is some important information regarding this upcoming ministry:

Start Date

This ministry will begin in March.

Age

We plan to have classes from birth to fifth grade. As the Lord grows this ministry, we will adjust and add more classes for specific age groups.

Director/Additional Volunteers

I will be leading this ministry as the Sunday School Children's Division Director. **Four to six volunteers will be needed every Sunday.** We encourage every member to help with this ministry. The plan is to engage one person (or a couple) once every two months to split the ministry load and allow each member to participate in this super-important ministry to our children.

Time/Curriculum

Sunday school will begin at 10:00 and end at 10:45. A structured curriculum with lessons will be provided to volunteers.

Contact

If you would like more information or if you are interested in volunteering please contact Marie McCarroll at mariemccarroll@gmail.com or contact the church office. Thanks in advance for your prayers and support of this ministry.

With love,
Marie McCarroll





December was a great way to cap off an exciting year full of change and adventure. I had the honor of hearing one of our youth, and quite a few of our campus life kids, perform in the Cape Fear High School and Mac Williams Middle School orchestra concert. What a blessing that was, to hear the wonderful Christmas music played by some brilliant musicians. We also had 3 youth who were heavily involved in the children's christmas program this year, helping tremendously whether through leading roles, assisting the director in various capacities, or monkeying around with the set pieces. It was great to see so many involved in helping the children have a successful musical. We also had our Christmas party, and I would like to specially thank Phil and Debbie Davis for allowing us to use their space for the party. As we begin this new year, we look forward to new adventures, new friendships, and new relationships with Jesus Christ. As fun as all the games and the parties can be, nothing makes me happier than seeing someone ask Jesus into their heart for the first time. 2023 brings new denominations, new members, new stories, but one story has stayed the same through all of history. God loves us so much that he sent his only son to die on a cross for us, and I am grateful that not only did Jesus die for us, but rose again to grant us victory over sin and death. I am looking forward to all the new events coming this year and invite all of you to reach out and see how you can get involved and help grow and prepare these youth for an ever changing world by helping them know a never changing God. Our youth are continuing to grow and understand more of who Christ is, and coming up in February we will be starting up our confirmation class and are looking forward to seeing these youth know what it means to be a Wesleyan Christian and commit their lives to Christ as they join the church.



Let me tell you, we are so excited for the 2023 year here at Salem! Our Salem Kids program has awesome activities planned for this year. They started the new year off right by going bowling together after church in January and had a blast! Salem Kids night has been so successful so far this year!

We are starting our A to Z in the Bible curriculum that gets back to the basics by introducing the important people in the Bible starting with A and going all the way to Z. The students have been learning so much! We started with Adam and Eve, learned about Abraham and Sarah and then moved to Bethlehem and Boaz. We got to the letter C and moved straight to D with David and Goliath. Letter E was Elijah and the story of Esther. We are currently exploring letters F and G in Sunday School and Salem Kids Night. We are excited to see how much we will have learned by the end of the year!

For February, Salem Kids will be February 1st and 15th ! Our Valentine's Celebration will be February 12th during Children's Church. During Salem's Valentine's Dinner, I will be providing childcare and throwing another Valentine's Celebration where we will be having dinner, exchanging valentine's cards, and so much more! Stay caught up with all of our activities on Facebook and Instagram!

Caitlin Craven
Salem Methodist Church Children's Director



Mission and Outreach

Food Pantry

THANKS to Mac Williams Middle School for a THREE truck/van load of food donations mid Dec. Students, parents & staff collected (& boxed) for a week!

Pick up morning was chilly but only care & love were delivered for the many community folks who need our help.

ANOTHER HUGE THANK YOU to the team who organized TWO HOLIDAY meals & trimming boxes within FOUR WEEKS!! The team picked up donations from three schools (two of which required 3 vehicles) in addition to the regular Thursday food gift-away days. Tasks include loading, unloading, sorting & stocking. Add shopping, boxing and moving to the above tasks, and it equals a HUGE IMPACT to the community folks who need food.

THANKS TO: Russell Humphries, John McCarroll, Debbie Moody, Estelle McPhail, Jean Outlaw, and Charleen Wallace for their months of hard work. Special THANKS to Shelton who always helps when needed! Thanks to Salem congregation who bought & delivered turkeys & donated money to provide this much-needed food for folks in our community. FOLKS WHO RECEIVED SEND A BIG THANK YOU to SALEM.

We are always needing folks to help with this mission; many tasks are light lifting (grocery bags). Contact Debbie Moody for info.

"For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love for him by caring for other believers as you still do."
HEBREWS 6:10



Family Promise

Salem's Mission to Homeless Families

Dec. 18-24 we provided our winter rotation to four families, fourteen total people- four girls, five boys and five parents. We provide money for food (they cook) and money for utilities/insurance (for the week) and essentials (like soap, washing detergent and personal items). The youngest child in this group was six, thus we did not provide diapers.

Family Promise staff provides support services & assistance. Please pray for the success of these families' as they learn new tools for their families success.

Salem spring rotation is March 5-11.

CLEANING CREW TREAT TRAYS Christmas Gifts

Salem's cleaning crew (four) was gifted an assortment of baked goods/treats in appreciation of all their fine efforts in cleaning.

THANKS to: Angie Britt, Bonnie Crabtree, Gwen Edwards, Catherine Grosshaeuser, Daphne Humphries, Debbie Moody, Denise Sykes & Charleen Wallace who donated an excellent variety of items which were greatly appreciated by the "CC" (cleaning crew).



Mission and Outreach

Choir News

The Salem Chancel Choir ended 2022 with the presentation of "Hope", a gospel Music cantata. In spite of COVID, colds, flu and other ailments, we managed to sing every Sunday. We performed our "sister act" revue for the valentine banquet in February. The choir sang for revival at Black's Chapel church and at the joint Thanksgiving service at Mt. Zion.

Salem Choir is open to everyone; no audition is needed! Come and help us minister in song each Sunday.



CONGRATULATIONS COLLEGE GRADUATE

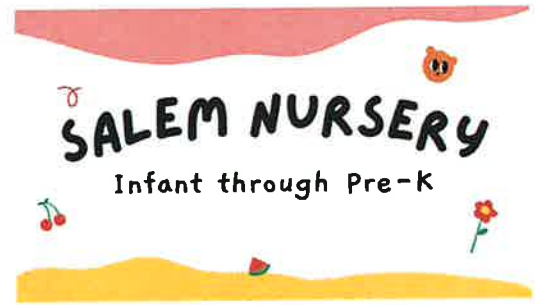
Daniel Moody earned his Bachelor of Business Admin. Degree from UNC Charlotte in Dec.

He is employed by iSolved (human resources tech company) and lives in Charlotte.

Daniel is the son of Debbie and Frank Moody. He was baptized as an infant at Salem and graduated from Salem Preschool in 2005.

He thanks his Salem family for cards, gifts & encouragement along this journey-especially The Juanita Warren Group - Methodist Women.

CONGRATULATIONS



Happy New Year from the nursery!

I am so grateful for all my volunteers and my "last minute" fill-ins. This mission has gone from 2 littles to a full house of 7-8 at times! It lets the parents focus on their worship time. What a blessing! Having said that, please pray about joining our wonderful group. We schedule as you are available; usually it is once a month or every other month depending on availability of volunteers. Please let Katie or me (Betty Ann Crawford) know if you would like to join us. Shout out to these wonderful volunteers:

- Heather Kurtz
- Donna Drake
- Kim McPhail
- Rita Sears
- Lauren & Ben Wise
- Jenae Notto
- Jennifer Lewinski
- Pam Wooten
- Ruby Bullard
- John Crawford
- Elizabeth Wise
- Linda Wise
- Lisa Geddie
- Logan Heine
- Marie McCarroll

Prayer Focused



The mission of the Salem Prayer Ministry is to encourage members of Salem to grow their prayer life, to encourage us to pray for each other, to pray for the church and our missions, to lift the Pastor up with our prayers, to pray for our military, to pray for our fed, state & local governments and to pray for our Eastover neighbors.

Prayer should not be thought of as an obligation, something to do before we eat or a box to check in our list of spiritual to-do's. Prayer is a gift from God; it is a privilege. Imagine - the Creator of the world and everything in it wants us to talk to Him! God is our Father in heaven, and just as parents want their children to come to them with anything and everything, so God waits for us to come to Him through prayer. Nothing is too big - or too small - for our God to care about.

And we can pray any way and any time that works for us. It does not have to be in church, on our knees with heads bowed and hands folded. Prayer is simply communication with our Father, so it can be done no matter where we are or what we are doing. At times we don't know what to say but we feel the need to talk to God. That is ok too because the Holy Spirit knows what is in our hearts and can intercede for us. Sometimes my prayer is "Jesus, I need you," and that is enough.

The Prayer Room and the sanctuary are open each Monday and Thursday from 7:00 AM until 9:00 AM. Please stop by and pray in private, or we can pray together. Spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors. We have a beautiful church facility and it needs to be used, and not only on Sunday mornings! I would like to possibly expand the hours to include an afternoon at some point, so stay tuned. And if you'd like to join the Prayer Ministry, please contact Pat Lyons or the church office.



Stephen Ministry at Salem is growing. Stephen Ministers are members who have received special training to provide one-to-one Christian care to people who are hurting. This includes those in our congregation who are experiencing challenges in life such as grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, and job loss, among other things.

This ministry was implemented at Salem in 2017 by Sara Piland, who trained the first Stephen Ministers: Bonnie Crabtree, Marie McCarroll, Ruby Bullard, and Ray Burkhart. Since August 2022, seven additional members of Salem, including Pastor Gill Wise, and two members of Black's Chapel, have participated in intensive, two-hour weekly training sessions under the leadership of Carol Hudson. On Sunday, January 29th, these ministers were commissioned by you, the congregation.

Pictured above is Carol Hudson, Cindy Whetzel, Linda Wise, Gil Wise, Del Peluso, Ron Hardin, Chuck Griffin, Pat Lyons, Nancy Dorman-Honeycutt, and Frank Dawson. Nancy Dorman-Honeycutt and Chuck Griffin are members of Black's Chapel. Please congratulate our new ministers.

If you feel in need of a Stephen Minister, you may contact Gil Wise or Carol Hudson. Also prayerfully consider how you might become a member of this ministry.

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

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 to meet 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 or 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,

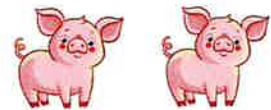
Please join us in supporting our Church Barbeque that is scheduled for Friday, March 10th. We are excited about hosting our fundraiser this year. We are asking for your support by assisting with the purchase of the pigs. We are grateful for the contributions which have become a great tradition with many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



FAYETTEVILLE AREA OPERATION INASMUCH

Because of a conflict with Cape Fear Kiwanis pancake breakfast, OIAM has chosen a new date for Bread 'n Bowls.

NEW DATE - Thursday, March 30, 2023
Snyder Memorial Baptist Church
701 Westmont Drive
11:00 AM - 1:30PM

Bread and bowl meal with choice of Chili or Cheesy Potato Soup with Brownie and Drink. - \$15. Meal with hand-painted pottery bowl - \$25. See Betty Smith for your tickets.

Also there will be a car raffle. - buy a car raffle ticket for \$125 and you will have a chance to win a Brand New Car valued at \$50,000. Get car raffle tickets online or at OIAM office or see Betty Smith.

Prayer Requests

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

Church Members

Family of Bill Campbell, Tammy Bullock, Ken Sykes, Del Peluso, Jennifer Lewinski, Oliva Culbreth, Marcel & Zack (Traveling Mercies), Dawn Dean (new job), 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, Pat Baker, Weldon Hudson, Sallie Darden, Paula Johnson, Jean Lugar, Gilda Horne, Betty Register, Mary Patterson, Bill Roberts Daniel and Nancy West.

Family and Friends

Janet Campbell, Family of Larry Chasson, Family of Alan Porter, Toni Norris, Jim Heine, Jessie, Joel & Enid Wise, Margaret Saccareccia, Selena Hurt, CFHS Students, Joan Jackson, Jennifer Parlrey, C.H. Parker (heart surgery), Courtney Watson, Sam Holt, Thelma Smith (Heather Kurtz's mom), 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, David and Hannah Helbig, Jean Brown, Carrie Jones, Carolyn Ortero, Liam Dixon, Cale Johnson, Nick Wilson, Anthony Bethea, Angie Baker, Sheila Minschew, Eddie Bowen, John Sange, Will Nash, Leslie Horne, Jason & Brittany Ray, Liam Dixon, 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 & Honors

Lisa Johnson

Henry and Amy Bowden, Betty and Buck Smith, Mary Barbara Raynor, Helen Smith, Kenneth and Claire Lynn Sykes, Jimmy and Bonnie Crabtree, Chris and Pat Lyons, Cathy Starnes, Melinda and Carl Creech, Marcia and Linwood House, Ruby and Ed Bullard, Perry Davis, Jean and Michael Outlaw, Kenneth and Susan Daniels, Lawrence and Ann Buffaloe, PMS, Larry and Vicki Keen,

Ann Hobbs

Ken and Sharmon Herring

Della Patterson

Larry and Vicki Keen

Steve Fussell

Larry and Vicki Keen

In Memory of Becky Kivett and in Honor of Harmon Kivett

Phyllis Kivett Howard

Financial Health

Budget Needed Monthly
\$ 44,000.00

Total January Offering & Tithes
\$ 25,728.00

January Building Fund Deposits
\$ 1,450.00

Methodist Men

Join us for the Annual Sweetheart Valentine Dinner! Saturday, February 18th at 6:00pm! Men are \$25 and women are free. Contact Larry McPhail or the church office to get your tickets.

