



# THE SALEM VISIONARY

## "STAYING CONNECTED"

July  
2021

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

### Gil's Call Story:

## **Coming Home to Jesus**

"Longing for home when I thought Godwin was my home and then discovering God is my home and in Christ is all my family".

42 years ago I began a journey answering a call upon my life to serve God as a United Methodist Pastor. Upon graduating from Cape Fear High School, I found myself on the Methodist College campus, majoring in Religion. I could not tell you how I arrived at this place, with this major. My intent in high school was to find a way to farm and so I spent much of my time in the Agricultural Shop along with participating in FFA.

I spent the next 8 years in school preparing to serve Christ and His Church. Underlying that time of study was a continual trying to figure out how I began this journey in the first place. It was in the last year of my seminary studies, sitting in Duke Hospital in the Clinical Pastoral Education program, that God revealed fully my call. As I sat in that class, God began to show a movie of my life in my "mind's eye." I realized that all my life God was present all along and each event in my life was preparing me for the ministry of a pastor in His Church.

The hardest thing I ever did was to leave home. When the Bishop sent me to Norlina in 1993, I left the only place and family I had known all my life. In my leaving, I left with a promise God had given to me.

Mark 10:29-30

New King James Version

29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother [a]or wife or children or [b]lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

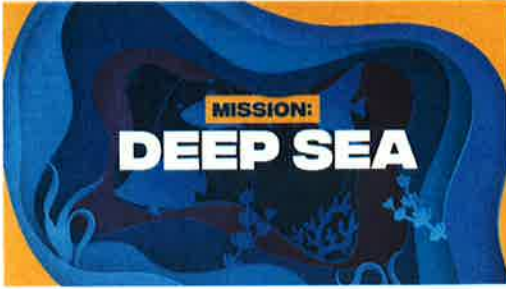
When I left home I discovered that my true home was not with anything in this earth. My true home I found was in Christ. Coming home took on a new meaning. Family with Christ meant that I was no longer limited to what I had always known. In Christ, family was restored and more so. My family and I have grown over the years. Linda and I have three children: Joel, who is a United Methodist Pastor, Benjamin, who is a Finance Officer with the State Employee's Credit Union and Elizabeth, who is a Physician Assistant at the Stedman/Wade Family Clinic in Wade. Joel has a Salem connection in that he is married to Ray Burkhart's daughter, Jessie.

The witness of the promise has been fulfilled time and again as we have gained more family in all the places I have been appointed. So we are coming home to Salem as we anticipate our new family in this new appointment. My one priority in all the places I have been is to introduce all I encounter to the love of God that I have found in Jesus Christ. There are so many broken places and broken people, but I know the one who can mend the impossible. He is the light that dispels the darkness like the bright morning star. He is the sweet fragrance like the lily of the valley. He is my HOME and the one who makes all things possible. There is no other like Christ and there is no other who can restore my relationship with God and all of creation. It is for this reason that I have set my life to this one thing and why I sign all my correspondence:

Winning them to Jesus,  
Gil

# Children and Youth Ministries

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June was a month full of VBS prep! We also celebrated dads and jump started VBS decorations during children's church!

July is going to be a big month for the children's program! July 4th we will be having a small Independence Day celebration during children's church! VBS will be July 19-23, and if you'd like to help I would love to have you!

The next VBS meeting is July 13 at 6 pm!

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August 7th we will be hosting our MESTIVAL – it's going to be a fun afternoon of games and a huge mess! Make sure you bring a change of clothes and a towel! We might even slime our youth director David Helbig!

We are also looking forward to our Fall kick-off in August. We have a lot of exciting events planned for this coming school year. If you have a student who is rising 6th grade through 12th grade we would love to have them join us as we begin our new school year Wednesday, August 18th at 6 pm.

#### Upcoming Events:

- 7/4 - No Youth
- 7/11 - Youth Night 5 - 7 pm
- 7/18 - No Youth
- 7/24 - Block Party - 10 am - 1 pm
- 7/25 Youth Night - 5 - 7 pm
- 8/7 Messtival – 1-4 pm
- 8/18 - Youth Fall Wednesday Night Kick off - 6 - 7 pm

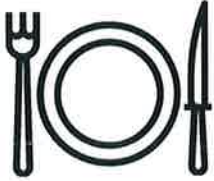


We are excited for our block party coming up on July 24th! Join us from 10 am – 1 pm in the Baywood neighborhood as we come together for fun, food, games, and more! We are really excited as we reach out to connect with the Eastover Community!

# Children and Youth Ministries

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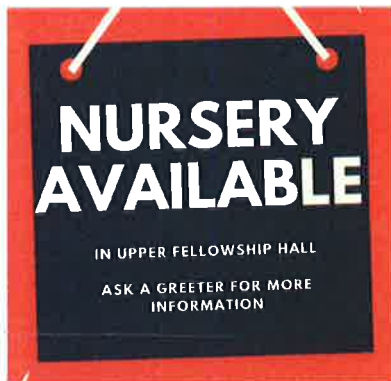
## Welcome Luncheon



There will be a welcome luncheon for the new Pastor Gil and his wife Linda on Sunday, July 11th immediately following service. We have the main course and dessert already but are asking for everyone to bring homecoming style sides. Please bring them to the church kitchen the morning of the event and we will put them in warmers or the walk-in. There will be someone in the kitchen to assist with collecting the food items. We are looking forward to fellowship and welcoming Gil and his family to Salem!



We will continue to offer our small group training for the entire church on Wednesday nights in July on the 14th, 21st, and 28th at 7:00 pm. We will continue to discuss how to build strong small groups and how we can develop into great small group leaders. We would love to have you join us.



Our Nursery is open during the 11am service. If you are able to help volunteer in the rotation please contact the church office or Betty Ann Crawford.

## Thank You

### Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for and make the farewell luncheon a success for Pastor Francis!

## MUSIC

Thank you to all of you who participate and help with the choir every Sunday. Choir practice is on Tuesdays at 7pm. If you are interested please contact Gary.

## Silver Sneakers

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10am-11am in the Dining Hall

If you have any questions please contact Melodie Malcolm at malcolmm0216@gmail.com

# Mission and Outreach

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## Food Pantry

Black's Chapel UM Church in Godwin delivered yet another impressive load of food to Salem's food pantry in June.  
**THANK YOU BLACK'S CHAPEL – MANY are served by your donation & kindness !!**

The Farmers Sykes donated several bags of cucumbers which were given out at Thursday's food pantry. Folks were excited to receive fresh veggies in addition to frozen meats & staple foods for their families.

**PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY** and canned meats are presently needed.



## Family Promise

*“ Salem's Mission to Homeless Families in Cumberland County ”*

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**OUR NEXT SERVICE OPPORTUNITY is Aug 1-8**

Extra Mile Money is needed for food, utility support & general household needs. Please mark your donation: **FAMILY PROMISE**

These two small lamps (gently used) were received & gifted in June. Such household items are **“NOT ON THE LIST”** of what folks need, but they are so appreciated. There is an overhead light in the rooms.

Do you have an extra small (NON GLASS) lamp ?  
Call Debbie Moody for info & details.

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



# Preschool and SMASH Ministries

On Thursday, May 27th, 9 Pre-K students from our 4 year old class graduated and will begin Kindergarten in the fall. Each child received a Bible, framed picture, diploma and a t-shirt. Everyone had a great time. A huge THANK-YOU to Caitlin Craven for painting several murals on the hallway walls of the Preschool, They are beautiful; the children and parents have made many compliments. Your talent is so much appreciated. I am so happy to announce that the Preschool is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant through South River EMC. We will be replacing the existing deck in the front playground and the ramp entering the storage room.



SMASH has been very busy this summer, We have gone to the movies, sunset slush, the NC Zoo, and the Dinosaur World at Sweet Valley Ranch. We have a few more trips planned this summer to include the Aquarium in July. As the school year is approaching quickly the balance in the scholarship fund is getting low. We currently have one student who has been referred from the principal of our community schools using the scholarship fund. Thank you for your continued support of our childcare programs.



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Budget Needed Monthly  
\$ 44,166.67

Total June Offering & Tithes  
\$ 27,144.98

June Building Fund Deposits  
\$ 775.00



Year to date June 2021

Budget needed to date  
\$ 265,000.00

Tithes & Offerings  
\$ 187,601.56

Total Monies Received  
\$ 209,189.00

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## NC Conference Events

- Lay Servant Ministries Training: Living Our United Methodist Beliefs is offered by the Beacon District Lay Servant Ministries Team on August 14th, 2021. It will be held virtually (via ZOOM) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm that day. This session will be facilitated by Ginny Crocker, Beacon District LSM Co-Director, and Tom Santa, Beacon District Lay Leader. Please register online at [Living Our United Methodist Beliefs Offered - Beacon District - NCCUMC](#).

- Lay Servant Ministries Training: Leading Public Prayer, a required course to achieve Certified Lay Speaker, will be offered by the Gateway District Saturday June 5th, 2021 between 0900 AM and 5:30 PM virtually on ZOOM. Reverend Vermel H. Taylor, pastor of Galilee United Methodist Church in Laurinburg, NC will be facilitating the class. Please register online at [Leading Public Prayer - June 5th - Gateway District - NCCUMC](#).

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## Salem United Methodist Men

### Salem Methodist Men Scholarship

We congratulate Hadley Jackson on being awarded a 2021 scholarship to attend UNC Chapel Hill!!!



The Salem Men's Breakfast will be on Sunday July 18th, 2021 at 8 AM. Please join us for a wonderful country style breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, cheese grits, hot coffee and some excellent camaraderie!!!

# Prayer Requests

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Prayer Line:  
(910) 446-3415

Call and leave a voicemail or text your prayer request.

## Church Members

Darvin Edwards      Conrad Kurtz  
Lorraine Kirkwood      Jean Lugar  
Lisa Johnson      Gilda Horne  
Derotha Fink      Bill Roberts  
Sandra Williams      Della Patterson  
Jennifer Partney      Ann Hobbs  
Carolyn Hardin

Jerry McLaurin-Highland House  
Sallie Darden-Heritage Place  
Paula Johnson-Haymount Rehab  
Lynn Baker-Fayetteville Manor  
Shirley McLaurin- Bethesda

**\*\*If you know of someone that needs to be removed from the prayer list please let the office know. Thank you!**

## Family and Friends

Evelyn Moore, Jennifer Billings, Janice Belden, Victor Hottel, Leon Horne, Bobby House, Barry Lane, Patsy Jackson, James Chambers, Raul Santiago, Nevis Ruffin, Mary Stevens, Diane Fuller, Linda Carter, Josh Powell, Stacey Faircloth, Jim Blanton, Kenneth Adams, Laura Leach, Martha Enzor, Vernata Cherry-Britt, Nicole McGuinness, Kay Edwards, Bob Jones, Marilyn House Parkins, J. M. Butler, Jr., Erica Sutton, Eddy Clark, Brian Ramage, Ada Milagroski, Jeffrey Phillips, Denise Rhodes, Brian Wallum, Betty Parks, Betty Thompson, Camrin Hales, Cora & Sam Presley, Angie Baker, J'mair Bronson, Cici Shaw, Sammy Williams, Darla Clark, Mika Martin, Thomas Hoffler, Holly Midgette, Shenee Ruffin, Priscilla Sellers, Sandra Jones, Sharon Dunn, Jonah Nelson, Tommy Sexton, Tiffany Mullins, Giridhar Sadhu, Julia Sessoms, Wayne O'Neil, Carol LeToile, Drew Smith, Gary and Brenda Wilson, Vickie Knoch, Leslie Jackson, Bobbie Gray, Kathy Smith, LB Faircloth, Nathan Gainey, Larry Hall, Charlie Williams, Tim Kinlaw, Dana Kelly, Lauren Albright, Ted Heine, Doug Maars, Melvin Arthur Haire Jr, Gary Ivey and Family, Ruth Heidinger, Andy Nichols and Family, Linda Disbrow, Gloria Schultz, Ginny Podorski, Haley Tyndall, John Butler, Kelsey and Justin Smith, The Family of J.B, DeVane and Tony Malinski

## Memorials

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### Robert Warren

Mary Barbara Raynor, Helen Smith, Russell and Daphne Humphries, Paul and Edna Edwards, Jimmy and Bonnie Crabtree, Jill Godwin, Dorothy Best, James and Carol Stewart

### Bob Boughman

Peggy Allen, Betty and Buck Smith, Jimmy and Bonnie Crabtree

### Dan Raynor

Mary Barbara Raynor

### Vance and Dorothy Melvin

Mary Barbara Raynor

### Joan Lovick

Ron and Carolyn Hardin