



# THE SALEM VISIONARY

November  
2021

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

## Coming Home

Being appointed to Salem brought with it a wash of cautionary reminders that a “prophet is not welcome in his own hometown.” Luke 4:24. And even Thomas Wolfe, in his famous novel, chimes in with the title of, “You Can’t Go Home Again.” And I have acknowledged both with fear and trepidation. When I first received the call into ministry, I answered that call with a condition. I told God “Just don’t make me leave home.”

God’s answer to my condition came in the scripture recorded in Mark 10: 29-30 KJV

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

So, in 1993, I went where God sent. My family and I packed up to leave the comforts of an area in which we had lived and worked. We left the familiar surroundings of friends and family on a road that was unfamiliar. What lay in wait with places and people were these we did not know. After twenty-eight years of ministry, filled with more people and more places than we could have ever imagined, our journey has brought us back home. The one constant familiar presence and space in our journey was the Lord Jesus Christ, who walked with us the entire way.

Coming Home then was familiar, but not because all the places remained the same and not because all the people remained the same. In the book, “You Can’t Go Home Again,” the author makes this statement:

“You can’t go back home to your family, back home to your childhood ... back home to a young man’s dreams of glory and of fame back home to places in the country, back home to the old forms and systems of things which once seemed everlasting,

but which are changing all the time – back home to the escapes of Time and Memory.” – Thomas Wolfe

The reality is that all I left is not the same as I left it. Time does change things. The Familiarity that I came home to is the same Familiarity that I left. It is the same Familiarity that went with me. That Familiarity is the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ that surrounds me and surrounds us all with a constant reminder that we belong to Him and that we are His family.

This month of November is filled with opportunities to connect with a sense of Coming Home. Our Homecoming Celebration on November 7 will be filled with remembrances of Homecomings past and create memories on that day of things we will remember at Homecomings in the future. The celebrations of November will also hold Thanksgiving Dinners that will celebrate family and giving thanks to God for the abundance of blessings He has shared with us. We will honor and remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives that others might have life and freedom in our Veterans Day observances. All of these observances lend to encourage the ultimate homecoming which we all should find when we give ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ. Ultimately, our coming home is to go home to Jesus. Jesus welcomes us as the prodigal son was welcomed back into the home of his father. It is not about returning to a place of comfort. Rather it is returning home to the source of our identity and all that we are as a child of the King. Use the month of November and all of its celebrations to make a decision to Come Home. Come Home to Salem at Homecoming. Come Home to your family to celebrate the abundant bounty of God in celebrating Thanksgiving in this time of Harvest. Come Home to a season of rekindling your life in Christ. Coming Home is a journey of reconciliation. It is a celebration in that our God has welcomed us into the Family of Christ of which we are all members. Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Homecoming, Thank You Veterans,

Pastor Gil

# Children and Youth Ministries

October was a very fun and exciting month for the children's program! This month the kids participated in painting their own pumpkins to kick off the fall season! On October 23rd, close to four hundred people walked through Salem's doors to participate in our Fall Festival!

Fall Festival was a huge success! Thank you to all of you who donated, helped, and made it happen!

Salem Kids night is every other Wednesday from 6-7pm! We enjoy a homecooked meal, a Bible lesson, and of course lots of fun! The date for Salem Kids Night during the month of November will be November 10. We will NOT be having Salem Kids Night on November 24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday!

Our events coming up in November are ones you don't want to miss! November 7th is homecoming at Salem. November 14 we are having a paint party during children's church! November 21 is the Thanksgiving Potluck, so please bring a dish and a smile!

Contact Caitlin if you have any questions!





As we approach Thanksgiving we are reminded to be thankful. We are thankful for our leaders, students, parents, and church family. Throughout October we have held the envelope fundraiser. We are grateful to everyone who has donated and who has helped to change the lives of students in the coming year!

On November 19th we will be hosting a youth bonfire! We will be cooking hotdogs, roasting marshmallows, and having a great time. We will be meeting at the church at 6:00 pm.



In October The SMASH kids had a day off on the 18th and we had a Halloween Trick-or-Treating/ Carnival day. There were costumes, life size games, popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones, and a Halloween Movie.

Preschool children enjoyed wearing their costumes on October 29th and went Trick-or-Treating and had a Halloween party after naptime. We will be looking forward to Mr. Frank cooking a Thanksgiving meal for the kids and staff on November 18th.

SMASH will be open all day from 7:00-6:00 on November 2nd & 12th for Teacher Workdays.

SMASH and Preschool will be closed on November 11th for Veterans Day and November 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving.

We are currently hiring for both programs. We have long waiting lists in both programs, but need to hire more staff to open more classrooms and meet ratios. If you are seeking, or if you know anyone seeking, employment please contact us to schedule an interview.

# Mission and Outreach

## Food Pantry

THANK YOU BLACK'S CHAPEL UM CHURCH for your continued support to Salem's Food Pantry. Several carts of food & supplies were delivered to Salem mid month. Some of their donations are pictured here.

### ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:

SOUP : canned or in a bag.  
CANNED MEATS  
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY  
(No glass please.)

Several folks are working to provide a SPECIAL THANKSGIVING for a dozen families. Details will be in Dec. newsletter. BLESSED TO PROVIDE WE ARE !!!



## NC Conference Events

**-Disaster Ministries Sanford Floods:** Volunteers are needed to help repair flooring and cabinets in a parsonage in the Sanford Circuit. If you are interested in volunteering for a day, please contact 888-440-9167 or [disaster@nccumc.org](mailto:disaster@nccumc.org).

**-Disaster Ministries Western NC Floods:** Tropical Storm Fred impacted the Western NC Conference of The UMC in August. The Western NC Conference is in need of volunteers and licensed electricians to help make homes habitable for families to return home before winter. If you are interested in volunteering in Western NC, please contact Ann Huffman at 888-440-9167 or [disaster@nccumc.org](mailto:disaster@nccumc.org).

**-Lay Servant Ministries Training:** Advanced: God's Mission.... Our Journey is offered by the Corridor District Lay Servant Ministries Team on November 6th. It will be held virtually (via ZOOM) from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm that day. This session will be facilitated by Ann Huffman. Link for sign-up is God's Mission... Our Journey: November 6th - Corridor District - NCCUMC ([corridordistrictnc.org](http://corridordistrictnc.org)).

## Family Promise

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

Salem Church Fall Week of service for homeless families of Cumberland County's FAMILY PROMISE was October 10-17.

Here are the family details :

Family 1: daughter 5 son 3  
Family 2: daughters 17 & 12  
Family 3: daughter 13  
Family 4: daughter 10 sons 15 & 13

Five total parents; 13 folks in all.  
For 7 days (each quarter) Salem provides food (they cook meals), and a week of living supplies (toilet paper, cleaning supplies & hand soap). If a baby is in family, we provide formula & diapers. THANKS to those who donated funds toward this ministry. Our efforts are greatly appreciated and needed in our community.

Salem's Winter Week of Service is Jan 9-15, 2022.

Debbie Moody

Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Romans 12:11 (NLT)

## Eastover LOVES our First Responders

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SALEM CHURCH donated THE MAJORITY of meals and gift cards to Eastover First Responders Appreciation events in September & October at Eastover Volunteer Fire Dept.

The events were planned to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of 9-11-01 and to thank the First Responders who serve our community 24 hours a day/365 days a year! All First Responders extend a BIG THANK YOU to the Salem Families who provided meals and gift cards.

### During SIX WEEKS CELEBRATION:

Family Food Truck Saturday on 9-11-21 (for 100 folks)  
Four Thursday night training meals (for 35 folks)  
One breakfast for "8"  
Two lunches for "8"  
Variety of fruit, granola bars & cracker baskets  
( in kitchen for general use)

Each staff & volunteer received: 42 total

1. Appreciation card w/ prayer
2. Thank You Card from Salem After School Student
3. Gift Card (variety of restaurants & several VISA cards donated) \$ 25.00
4. 10 staff/volunteers have children under the age of 10.  
They received a FAMILY PASS to Fayetteville Children's Museum, FASCINATE U (children's play place)

Debbie Moody, Chairperson  
Friends of Eastover Volunteer Fire Dept. & Salem Church member

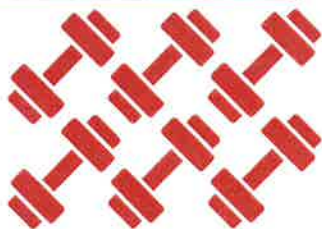
If you are interested in providing meals (both purchasing food & cooking/grilling) and/or funds, please contact Debbie. Plans are under way for quarterly and holiday meals.

## Silver Sneakers

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

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



## Important Upcoming Dates

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### November -December 2021

**November 7 Homecoming Sunday /All Saints Day/ Bishop Leonard Fairley, guest preacher**

**November 9 Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee**

**November 17 Last Wednesday Family Dinner for this year (Break for the Holidays) Thanksgiving Menu & Inviting Childcare/SMASH Staff, Children & Parents**

**November 19 Youth Bonfire - 6-9pm**

**November 21 Christ the King Sunday  
Children's Thanksgiving Potluck Service**

**November 23 Community Thanksgiving Service Held at Lebanon- Pastor Gil Preacher**

**November 25 Thanksgiving**

**November 28 1st Sunday of Advent**

**December 5 Communion Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**December 5 Maranatha Festival**

**December 9 Staff Appreciation Christmas Dinner (Church/Childcare/SMASH)**

**December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent Finance/Council Meeting**

**December 19 4th Sunday of Advent Children's Sunday Morning Christmas Party**

**December 19 Parsonage Open House**

**December 19 (Not So) Silent Night 5-7pm**

**December 24 Christmas Eve Services at Salem**

**December 25 Christmas**

**December 26 First Sunday of Christmas**

Budget Needed Monthly

\$ 44,166.67

Total October Offering & Tithes

\$ 35,925.21

October Building Fund Deposits

\$ 1450.00

Year to date October 2021

Budget needed to date

\$ 441,666.70

Tithes & Offerings

\$ 338,665.57

Total Monies Received

\$ 373,228.16

## Volunteers needed in the Nursery

The nursery has moved! Please contact Betty Ann Crawford if interested!



Please join us Sunday November 21st, 2021 at 0800 for country style breakfast. Guest Speaker will be Fred Kaytaire to speak of Christian ministry in Rwanda.



## BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA Troop/Pack 745

Are sponsored by Salem UM Church  
United Methodist Men.

Cub Scouts Pack 745 meet on Sundays at 4 pm  
at the playground/gym .

Boy Scouts Troop 745 meet on Tuesdays at 7 pm  
In the gym.

Call: Frank Moody for info. 910-892-5746 x 1



# Prayer Requests

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

## Church Members

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

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

## 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, 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, Tony Malinski, The Family of Jo Ann Kurtz**

# Memorials

## Kenneth Culbreth

Marcia and Linwood House, Robert E. Cooper, Kenneth and Claire Lynn Sykes, Sue Godwin Baker

## Dan Raynor

Mary Barbara Raynor

## Wayne Smith

Helen Smith

## Patrick Williford

Betty G. Russell

## Rad Rich

Ruth Rich

## Robert Warren

Sandy McDaniel

## Shirley McLaurin

Kenneth and Claire Lynn Sykes,  
Kenneth and Denise Sykes

## Joan Lovick

Sandy McDaniel

## Jimmy & Doris Webb

Sandy McDaniel

## Delores Hedges

Sandy McDaniel

## Lexie Owen

Sandy McDaniel

## Jennie McLaurin

Sandy McDaniel

## Clayton House

Sandy McDaniel

## Alton & Myrtle McDaniel

Sandy McDaniel

## Honor

## Clyde Edwards

Jimmy and Bonnie Crabtree

## John and Betty Ann Crawford

Ruby and Ed Bullard

## Ed Bullard

Ruby Bullard