

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Inside This Issue	Pages
From the Pastor's Desk	2
From the Associate Pastor's Desk	3
Women on Mission / Library	4
Announcements & Thank You	5
Schedules/ Nursing Home Ministry	6
Deacon's Article Trustee's Report	7
Awana Schedule Seeking Scripture	8
Monthly Calendar April Birthdays	9
Information Page	10

Listen to Sunday Morning Services
WJBD 1350 AM 92.1 FM
or Facebook Live

- *Audio/ Video Sermons*
- *Up Coming Events*
- *Ministries*

On the Web!
Salemfbc.com



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST



Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church,

Do you pray? I know the answer—yes, you do! Are you satisfied with your prayer life? Assuming you are like the majority of Christians, your answer is no. Our prayers are often repeating the same types of words that we have used over and over. (You can tell when this is true when a person that's praying uses the well-worn, often repeated words.) We often learn to pray by listening to and imitating the prayers of others. And I'm sure you are aware of Paul's instruction to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

So why is it so hard to maintain a consistent prayer life? In a word it's discipline! It's hard because we are pulled away by other activities—watching TV, checking email, and using that time-robbing device—your smart phone. (Have you ever fallen asleep when you were trying to pray?) Understand this: To live as a Christian requires sacrifice. If you are unwilling to sacrifice, you will not live like the Christian that Jesus requires. *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it"* (Matthew 16:24-25).

I wish to shift to another aspect of prayer that you may not be aware of. Across from the office there is a room dedicated to prayer. Room 100 is our prayer room. You are welcome to use it. You can use it during the week when the office is open, it can be used before and after any service that we have and it is available during services. It is a place to be used for prayer.

In addition, we have acquired a Prayer Stand that will be in use during various opportunities. Many of you saw it in the auditorium when it was set up for a couple of weeks. Its first use is on April 8 during the solar eclipse. Our parking lots are available for free parking and we hope that some of those using it will want to receive prayer for their needs.

A third prayer opportunity is on the first Monday morning each month. We meet at 6 AM for prayer. I know that this is a challenging time; however, one must be committed to prayer to meet with others in the church auditorium to pray. J. H. Jowett wrote many decades ago a timeless truth: "Ministry that costs nothing, accomplishes nothing." Ministry, all types of ministries and service for God, requires sacrifice. It always does!

C. W. Renwick reminds us, "The only footprints on the sands of time, that will really last, are the ones made after knee-prints!"

Grace and peace,

Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

One of the most underrated virtues in the Bible is the practice of perseverance. We focus on the commands to love, obey, and serve, but perseverance is usually the key to all of them functioning well. If you've ever had to endure a long experience for your children or maybe even stick to an annoying diet, you'll know well how important perseverance is in accomplishing anything. This mindset is also extremely important when it comes to our church and how we grow it.

One of the best Biblical examples of perseverance is Nehemiah. This man was stuck in Persia serving as a cupbearer for the king of Persia. He was Jewish by birth and knew about his homeland, especially the city of Jerusalem, and would ask traders about it all the time. One day he heard very distressing news that the wall of Jerusalem was in shambles and the people who remained there were at the mercy of all of the enemies around them. Nehemiah did something very important after hearing the news. He prayed and asked God to intervene.

As usually happens when we pray to God asking Him to fix a problem, God gave Nehemiah himself the opportunity to fix it. God graciously laid on the King of Persia's heart to give Nehemiah all of the materials he needed to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and sent him back to work on it. Nehemiah may have thought the hard part was out of the way but it was only just beginning.

As soon as he arrived, he encountered opposition. Enemies of Israel tried to distract Nehemiah and keep him from completing work on the wall. They tried persuasion, raids, and even an assassination attempt on Nehemiah himself. At any point during this work, Nehemiah could have given up and likely returned to his cushy job as a cupbearer. However, he knew how important this work was for God and he was determined to persevere. Eventually the wall was finished and Jerusalem was restored to a place of safety for God's people.

How does God call us to persevere today? James tells us in chapter one of his book to "count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (James 1:2-3). He continues by saying, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12). We most often will need perseverance to endure in our faith through all sorts of trials set against us by a world that does not understand God or His will for the world. We are ridiculed for our faith and made to feel like fools for trusting in God. Perseverance is key in ensuring we do not fall away in these trying times.

One last thought on this topic comes from Hebrews 12: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2). Jesus is the perfect example of perseverance. He gave up everything in heaven to come and be our sacrifice, all out of love for us. As we go through our trials in this life, let us call to mind Jesus who went before us and gave us a pattern to follow.

Women on Mission/Library

We will meet Monday, April 1st at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and ministry opportunities. Our purpose at SFBC is to promote missions in Salem and to the Nations. Our aim is to minister to those around us and the world.

A huge thank you to those who continue to donate items monthly for Operation Christmas Child emphasis. The requested items for the month of April are combs, brushes and hair accessories for children ages 2-14

Thanks to the generosity of our church family for their continued support of our special offerings and ministries.

Blessings,

Karen



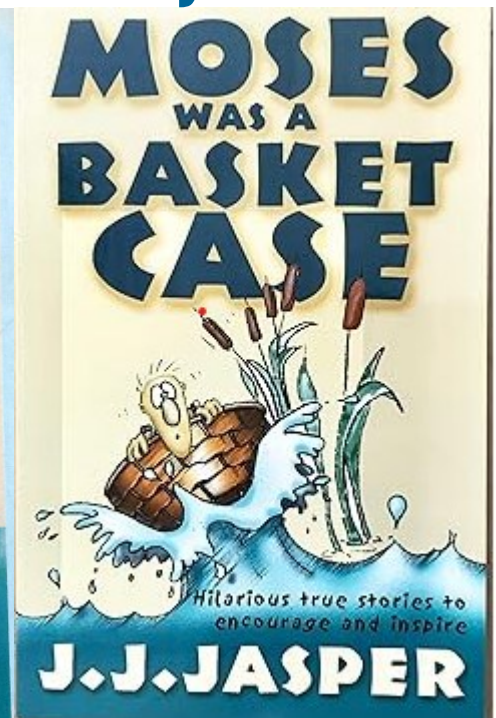
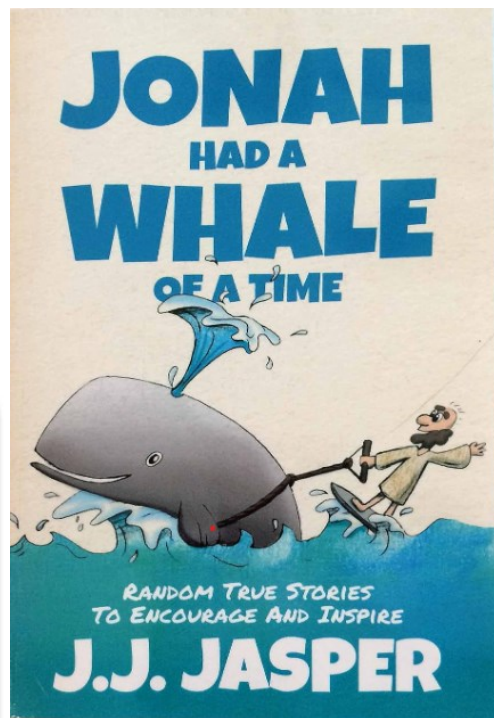
Women on Mission
Growing Closer To Christ

Meet J.J. Jasper

About the author
J.J. Jasper is a morning on-air radio personality with the American Family Radio network, speaker, and comedian. He is a committed Christian and a dedicated family man. He is the author of "Moses Was a Basket Case," and a children's book, "When I Grow Up". J.J. and his wife, Melanie, along with their four daughters live in Tupelo, Mississippi.



Check these out in the library!



Announcements/Poems



Neal & Betty forever would like to thank all the Church family that supported Betty's recent home going celebration on Feb. 17. Your cards, prayers meant so much during this difficult time and to the Church ladies for the delicious meal.

As you remember Betty in the days & weeks to follow . . . "Betty just stopped by, on her way home"



Thank you to our church family for your love and support, during this difficult time. I hope you know how important you have been to us recently.

Thank you also for the gift to the Childrens home.
God Bless You,
Gary & Pat Hampton



Baby Shower for
Ashley & Lucas Savage
Saturday, April 27th @1PM



Registered @
thebump.com
Please bring a book
and a pack of diapers.
It's A Boy!



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
April 07	Tom Reed	Gary Watson	Dallas Bundy
April 14	Mike Pugh	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt
April 21	Steve Smith	Gerald Purcell	Dale Helpingstine
April 28	Gerald Purcell	Greg Strother	Ronnie Donoho



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
April 07	Deanna Buerster	Crayons - Yellow
April 14	Deanna Buerster	Crayons - Red
April 21	Deanna Buerster	Crayons - Gold
April 28	Deanna Buerster	Family Worship—No Children's Church

Nursery Volunteers
(Call the church office if you would like to serve)



April 07	Dina Reed
April 14	Nancy Stallard
April 21	Paula Strother
April 28	Wheat Jackson



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
April 07	Mark Tabor	Kathy King
April 14	Karen Watson	Lynette Wiedle
April 21	Dale & Barb Helpingstine	Judy Bundy
April 28	Connie Seymour	Lynette Wiedle

MANOR AT SALEM WOODS - 441 HOTZE RD, SALEM:
Faye Wood #204

Centralia Manor - 1910 E McCord St.
Barbara Phillips #103

Twin Willows—1600 N Broadway:
Donna Shoemaker

Odin Health and Rehab Center— 300 Green St.
Suzanne Pollard

Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.
Melody Webb

Heritage Woods—2049 E. McCord, Centralia
Carrie Braden



Following Jesus' Example

Romans 15:1-7

- The strong are obligated to bear with the failings of the weak.
- Please others for their benefit and not seek to please ourselves.
- Jesus is the example: He didn't seek to please Himself.
- We are to receive encouragement from the Scripture.
- Live in harmony with one another.
- Together with one voice glorify God.
- Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us.

Trustee Ministry

Your trustees meet monthly in order to provide and take care of this wonderful facility that belongs to God. This is our church home, where we can meet, grow in His Grace through Bible study, and worship with church family in order to better reach out to our community as we witness to the loss both inside and outside the church facility. 2023 saw many improvements, especially the Ladies first floor bathroom facilities. Our snow removal and lawn care providers are both new and doing a wonderful job. We are also planning for two "All Church Work Days" where we come together as family and offer extra cleaning assistance as we reach out in helping our church janitor with keeping this large facility "up to snuff"! We will also have 2 outdoor work days in the spring and fall. Dates are to be announced. We will provide lunch each time and we thank our Lord ahead of time for this wonderful ministry opportunity both within and outside our wonderful facility. If you notice something in particular needs attention, please let a Trustee know so we may access the request. We will sure make every effort to accommodate. Its an honor to serve in this capacity.



- April 07 . . . Bring a Friend
- April 14 . . . Baseball Team
Wiffleball Game Night
- April 21 . . . Final Book Night
- April 28 . . . Feed the Children of the
World

Sundays 5:00 - 7:00PM

Come join the fun!




April 2024

Date	Verses	Date	Verses
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/01/24	1 Samuel 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/17/24	1 Kings 15-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/02/24	1 Samuel 25-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/18/24	1 Kings 18-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/03/24	1 Samuel 28-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/19/24	1 Kings 21-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/04/24	2 Samuel 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/20/24	2 Kings 1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/05/24	2 Samuel 4-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/21/24	2 Kings 4-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/06/24	2 Samuel 8-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/22/24	2 Kings 6-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/07/24	2 Samuel 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/23/24	2 Kings 9-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/08/24	2 Samuel 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/24/24	2 Kings 12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/09/24	2 Samuel 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/25/24	2 Kings 15-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/10/24	2 Samuel 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/26/24	2 Kings 18-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/11/24	1 Kings 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/27/24	2 Kings 20-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/12/24	1 Kings 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/28/24	2 Kings 23-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/13/24	1 Kings 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/29/24	1 Chronicles 1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/14/24	1 Kings 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 04/30/24	1 Chronicles 3-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/15/24	1 Kings 10-11		
<input type="checkbox"/> 04/16/24	1 Kings 12-14		



2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1 Prayer Meeting 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	2	3 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	4 Fellowship Luncheon 11:30AM	5	6	
7 4PM Church Council 5PM Awana	8 Solar Eclipse	9	10 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	11	12	13 Trail Life Spaghetti Supper /Silent Auction Fund-raiser
14 VBS Meeting right after worshp 5PM Awana	15 AHG/TL 5:30PM	16	17 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 5PM Awana	22 AHG/TL 5:30PM	23	24 2 PM Manor @ Salem Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	25	26	27 Cars & Coffee 9-Noon Ashley Salvage Baby Shower
28 5PM Awana	29	30	“Being the Church in Salem and to the nations”			

Doug Cosby
 Jackson Lingafelter
 Bev Smith
 Terry Word
 Cheyenne Thompson
 Joseph Oziemkiewicz
 Clinton Baker
 Gena Farley
 Connie Smith
 Lisa Smith
 Kory Keele
 Ashley Savage
 Fred Hilger
 Kathy Meador

April 01
 April 01
 April 02
 April 04
 April 05
 April 06
 April 08
 April 09
 April 10
 April 13
 April 14
 April 15
 April 16
 April 16



Shiloh Dennis
 Frank Richards
 Melissa Spenner
 Jody Kuder
 Myron Lloyd
 Vivian Petrea
 Nancy Stallard
 Liz DeWitt
 Judy Bundy
 Steve Farley
 Al Simmons
 Shelly Becker
 Alaina Mcintosh

April 17
 April 18
 April 18
 April 19
 April 20
 April 21
 April 22
 April 23
 April 25
 April 26
 April 26
 April 27
 April 27



Phone: 618-548-4060
Website: Salemfbcc.com
Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church



OUR VISION
"BEING THE CHURCH IN SALEM
TO THE NATIONS"

Join Us . . .
Sundays
8:30 –9:20 AM
In the
Fellowship Hall
We serve bagels with
cream cheese, donuts,
fresh fruit, coffee, juice
and milk.

Wednesday Evening

5:30—6PM Media Center Open
6:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Youth Bible Study
Praise Team Rehearsal
Mission Journey Kids

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 to 4:00

Closed 12:00 to 1:00

for lunch

Friday 9:00—12:00

Sunday Morning

8:30—9:20 AM Café Agape - Donuts
& Coffee
9:00—9:30 AM Media Center Open
9:30 AM Life Groups for All Ages
10:45 AM Morning Worship
5:00 PM Awana Club