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I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.

Genesis 9:13

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

For many people, August is the month to begin gearing up for the Fall. This is especially the case for those with school-age children. The silent halls of schools will soon echo with the reverberating sounds of children's voices.

We, too, are gearing up for Fall, the next season of ministry. On Sunday evenings we are offering a series of sessions on evangelism. The title of this series of training sessions is, "Evangelism Made a Little Less Difficult." Those of you that attend will learn about many different methods of talking to others about the Lord Jesus that will fit every personality type. If you are outgoing, there will be a method that fits you. If you are shy, there are methods that will fit you. If you are somewhere in between, you guessed it, there are methods that will work for you, too. And if you don't know what to say, you will know from this training. The bottom line is there's something for everyone.

The following is from the ministry EvanTell:

God has designed each person differently. Although there might be shared experiences or passions, no one has your exact life story. It's no coincidence that God sends every person to the Church but also has gifted them differently. As non-believers see diversity in the church, the beauty of God's creation is displayed.

My pastor often reminds us that "*Unity is not the same as uniformity.*" While all are called to evangelize by God and empowered to evangelize through the Spirit, evangelism looks different for each of us. And that's a good thing.

Seek to leverage the way God has created you for the sake of evangelism. Do you speak multiple languages? Where do you like to spend your spare time?

Even if you feel like others are more gifted, you are equipped and empowered to evangelize because the Holy Spirit dwells inside of you. So whenever you feel the Holy Spirit inviting you to share with someone, boldly step out in confidence knowing that God is calling you, equipping you, and working through you (www.evantell.org/should-every-christian-evangelize/).

I urge as many of you as possible to take advantage of this training throughout August on Sunday evenings beginning at 6 PM. Even if you seldom have the opportunity to practice what you learn, you will be equipped to share Jesus when the opportunity does arise.

Have a blessed and godly day and remember what one evangelist said: "Evangelism is merely one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."

Grace and peace,
Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

One of the most famous biblical passages is found in the book of Mark in chapter ten, verses 13-16. The passage reads, "And they were bringing children to Him so that He would touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, 'Allow the children to come to Me; do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.' And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them." In this passage Jesus was teaching and some people brought their children to Jesus so he could lay hands on them and bless them. The disciples were initially upset about this, trying to shoo people away, but Jesus was described as actually becoming indignant at the disciples. He demanded that they allow the children to come to Him and used them as an example of a true believer.

Do we make it easy for the children to come to Jesus? It is something to consider. Most people in churches are content to stay out of the way when it comes to children. They do not actively dissuade people from bringing children of course but they do often want to stay away from actively ministering to them. I have heard from a lot of people, "I'm not good with kids." I can understand that. There are times when children become very difficult to handle, especially in today's society filled with broken homes and families. You may have heard that divorces are more and more common all over the country. What's interesting is that Illinois boasts one of the lowest divorce rates nationally, at only 6% of married couples choosing to divorce. What makes that figure interesting is that fewer couples are getting married at all. This means that children are being born into situations where their parents are likely not married and they may have more step-siblings compared to previous generations. All of this adds up to kids from broken homes with broken morals trying to survive in a broken world.

Children are difficult but they are essential to our faith. Jesus wanted to ensure He spent quality time with children. By doing so he encouraged parents to bring their children to meet Him. Jesus still wants to meet the children of the world. But the way He gets to them nowadays is primarily through us. We are to be reflecting His glory and giving children an image of what Jesus is like. We need to love them when they are unlovable but teach them to do better. Most importantly we need to ensure that they know Jesus as their Savior and be motivated by the scripture which says "not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near (Hebrews 10:25)."

I would encourage you this month to pray about how you can get involved in ministering to children in the church and in your own lives. There are so many children all around us who have no idea who Jesus is and want to know more about him. There are youths who are experiencing brokenness in a way many adults never have. Please pray for these members of our community and for our church as we work to reach them with the hope of the Gospel.

In Christ, Christopher Spenner

Women on Mission/Library

We will resume our monthly meetings on Monday, August 7th at 9:30AM in the fellowship hall.

Our meeting will begin with refreshments and fellowship. We will be assembling back packs for students attending Hawthorn School who are in the need of school supplies. We will also be participating in other mission projects.

Our requested items for August to assist our Operation Christmas child packing party are Matchbox or Hot Wheels, balls that will fit in the boxes, dolls, coloring books, and stickers.

Thanks to all of our church family who donate in anyway to this ministry.

Blessings, Karen



Happy August!

2 Timothy 3:12 says "...all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Foxe's Book of Martyrs was donated to our library by John Erickson. (Thank you, John!) First published in 1563, Foxe wrote groundbreaking chronicles of Christian saints and martyrs put to death over the centuries.

Critics have attempted to discredit Foxe's work by claiming inaccuracies or falsehoods, but modern academics have reviewed his sources, closely analyzed his facts and concluded Foxe was a credible scholar whose writing was worthy and a valuable contribution to Christian literature.

I read the chapter on William Tyndale, enjoyed Foxe's 16th century vocabulary and will share a portion with you.

"William Tyndale was a special organ of the Lord appointed to shake the inward roots and foundations of the pope's proud prelac, so the great prince of darkness, with his impious imps, having a special malice against him, left no way unsought how to craftily entrap him, and falsely to betray him, and maliciously spill his life." Page 109

Along with Chapter 1 detailing Christ's disciples' deaths, Foxe covers the martyrdom of John Wickliffe, Martin Luther, William Tyndale, John Calvin, John Bunyan, John Wesley; as well as Christian persecutions in Persia, Italy, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland. Persecution details are shared which occurred under the papal, Queen Mary 1, King Henry VIII and the Massacre of 1641.

If any of those chapters sound interesting, please check it out! As Christ-followers, we have a rich heritage of those who came before us. May we be found faithful as the Lord found them.

Maranatha!

Dina



Announcements/Thank You



My Father Speaks

My Father speaks

I am his own

I've been set free
From the chains of sin

My belief is in Christ

He walks with me

Every step of every day
His cross speaks pure love

I'm watching and waiting

For your glorious return

Jesus died for me

Jesus died for you

I am filled with his peace

As I live each day assured

Eternity awaits

The choice is ours

One day I shall be released

Into the arms of my savior

At just the right time

Not too early, not too late, in God's time

By: Bev Smith

Hand - In - Hand

By Carrie Braden

*I have a friend, who always hears
Each prayer that I may pray,
And walks in silence with me
Each step along life's way.*

*He never fails to comfort me
When things don't turn out right,
And I can always count on Him
In day, or darkest night.*

*His hand is always there in mine
To guide me lest I stray,
To pick me up if I should fall,
And helps me find my way.*

*He quiets every aching,
Every sorrow in my breaths,
He takes each fear and hurt away
And tells me what is best.*

*And every day that dawns for me
I just the way He planned,
Down life's path together
With Jesus, Hand— In—Hand.*





DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
August 06	Mike Pugh	Ronnie Donoho	Tom Reed
August 13	Myron Lloyd	Dale Helpingstine	Dallas Bundy
August 20	Rick Meador	Jon Wieldt	Gary Watson
August 27	Gerald Purcell	Ken Smith	Greg Strother



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
August 06	Deanna Buerster	Paws & Tales—Stacli's Dilemma
August 13	Deanna Buerster	Paws & Tales—The Princey
August 20	Deanna Buerster	Paws & Tales—Snake Oil
August 27	Deanna Buerster	Family Worship—No Children's Church



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve)	
August 06	Barbara Helpingstine
August 13	Paula Strother
August 20	Wheat Jackson
August 27	Pat & Gary Hampton



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
August 06	Bev Smith	Kathy King
August 13	Karen Watson	Lynette Wiedle
August 20	Dale & Barbara Helpingstine	Judy Bundy
August 27	Ken Smith	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 Betty Canon Carrie Braden

Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.
Ila Westerman Melody Webb

Cedarhurst of Centralia—1827 E. McCord St.
Ruby Chapman

Heritage Woods—2049 E McCord St., Centralia
Mary Anne Rollinson



WHAT IS SMART?

I was looking in my Bible Concordance for the word smart. In alphabetical order there is nothing between the word "slumber" and the word "snake". Well, how do we find out who was the smartest person in the Bible, how do we get smarter now? In our search, this has been found.

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy, and a priest were on a Sunday afternoon flight in a small plane. Suddenly the plane developed engine trouble. The pilot gave his best effort, but the plane started going down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers they had best jump out, then he jumped. Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes left. The doctor grabbed one saying "I'm a doctor, I save lives, I must live." and he jumped. The lawyer said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world, I deserve to live." He grabbed a parachute and jumped out. The priest looked at the little boy and said, "my son, I've lived a long, good life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take this last parachute and live your full life." The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Don't worry Father, the "smartest man in the world" just jumped off with my backpack."

Folks, think about it now. Maybe there are good reasons my Bible hasn't anything to say about "smart".

God's Blessings to you all!

Deacon Greg



**Sisters
in Christ**

THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

Save the Date: August 26, 2023
First Christian Church, Salem

Donna Linville
Guest Speaker

The Goodness of the Lord
Lady Bug Promise
Impossible Made Possible
Surely Goodness & Mercy



Sisters In Christ
(Southern Illinois)





JOHN PART II
SEPTEMBER 14TH
SAVE THE DATE!



LOOK WHO'S
COMING SOON!



2023 Throwback Thursday Cruise Nights

Celebrating All Types of Classic Cars and Trucks

Salem
First Baptist Church
721 West Main St.
Salem, IL

August
17th

RAIN
CANCELS

Times: 6:00-8:00 PM



Sunday, August 13th @ 12:30

New Members Class

A light lunch will be provided

Please call the office

548-4060 to RSVP



Also, for anyone who is interested in membership.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make VBS a great success! A Special Thanks to Deanna Buerster!



August

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal	3	4	5
6 5PM Church Council Mtg.	7 Prayer Mtg. 6AM- Women on Mis- sion 9:30AM	8	9 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg	10	11	12
13 New Members Class @ 12:30	14 American Herit- age Girls 5:30- 7:30PM	15	16 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal	17 Throwback Thursday Cruise-In 6-8PM	18	19
20	21 Awana Training 6:30-8:00PM	22	23 2PM Manor @ Salem Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal	24	25	26
27	28 American Herit- age Girls 5:30- 7:30PM	29	30 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal Open House for Wee Learn & Play	31		

Mary Alice Dice
Danelle Sands
Ruth Ann Wilkerson
Dora Tate
Jordan DeWitt
Neal Canon
Janet Smith
Kayla Huffhine
Wren Jackson
Nick Bowerman
Karen Dobbs
Frank Harris
Shawnee McDanel

August 03
August 03
August 03
August 04
August 07
August 08
August 08
August 10
August 10
August 11
August 12
August 13
August 14



Sharon Brown
Debbie Dodd
Judy Propes
Deric Rice
Angela Brooks
Bill Wells
Mike Holzhausen
Dina Reed
Cara Stallard
Suzanne Pollard
Brian Tate
Jane Spence

August 16
August 21
August 21
August 23
August 24
August 27
August 28
August 29
August 29
August 29
August 30
August 30
August 31



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Fax: 618-548-6039

Website: Salemfbcc.com

Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church



Our Vision

The vision of Salem First Baptist Church is to become a growing family of committed believers with an increasing

- Passion for God
- Passion for People
- Passion to Serve

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.

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 to 4:00

Closed 12:00 to 1:00

for lunch

Friday 9:00—12:00

Wednesday Evening

- 4:45 PM Women’s Chronological Bible Study
- 5:30—6PM Media Center Open
- 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Youth Bible Study
Praise Team Rehearsal

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