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“... And he called His name Jesus.”
Matthew 1:25

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- *Ministries*

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Salemfbc.org



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST



Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

Christmas is upon us! It doesn't seem possible--July 4 was a couple of weeks ago, right? Well, no it wasn't even though it may seem like it. Time does pass rather quickly the older one becomes.

I recall setting in a college classroom during the spring daydreaming about being outside during Professor Courtney Furman's philosophy class. Philosophy, at that time, was not my thing. Some of the material we were covering seemed like a waste of my time. But Furman recaptured my attention on that warm spring afternoon when he mentioned the birth of Jesus. I hardly can remember what I had for lunch yesterday, but I remember what the professor said. Furman stated: "The resurrection of Jesus is child's play compared to the incarnation (Jesus' birth). How did God become a human baby?" I don't suppose that I had ever thought about that before. How does God Almighty become a baby?

The Apostle John writes it this way: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created (John 1:1-3, HCSB).

Paul adds: 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:15-17, HCSB).

Think about it! The Almighty wrapped in swaddling cloth. The creator of all depending on a couple of teenagers. If you allow your imagination loose a bit, it's true what professor Furman said. "The resurrection is child's play compared to the incarnation."

Singer Michael Card captures the essence of this mystery when he wrote:

*That is the Mystery
More than you can see
Give up on your pondering
And fall on your knees
A fiction as fantastic and wild
A mother made by her own child
A hopeless babe who cried
Was God Incarnate and man deified*

Card is correct--"give up on your pondering and fall down on your knees!" The Almighty entered human history as a baby--who could have imagined. In the rapid pace and hectic schedules that you probably have--take time to ponder the Christ entering human history--"He became like us so that we might become like Him."

Grace and peace,

Andy

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER

A Christmas Story



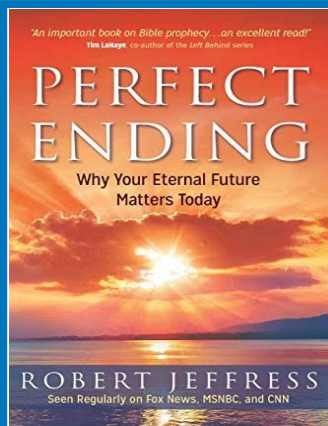
- Day 1: Micah 5:2
- Day 2: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 3: Psalm 72:9-11
- Day 4: Jeremiah 31:15
- Day 5: Numbers 24:17
- Day 6: Isaiah 11:1-2
- Day 7: Luke 1:26-28
- Day 8: Luke 1:29-31
- Day 9: Luke 1:32-33
- Day 10: Luke 1:34-35
- Day 11: Luke 1:37-38
- Day 12: Luke 1:46-48
- Day 13: Luke 1:49-50
- Day 14: Luke 1:51-52
- Day 15: Luke 1:53-55
- Day 16: Luke 1:67-69
- Day 17: Luke 2:7
- Day 18: Luke 2:8-9
- Day 19: Luke 2:10-11
- Day 20: Luke 2:13-14
- Day 21: Luke 2:29-32
- Day 22: Luke 2:33-35
- Day 23: Matthew 2:1-2
- Day 24: Matthew 2:10-11
- Day 25: Matthew 2:16-18
- Day 26: John 1:1
- Day 27: John 1:4-5
- Day 28: John 1:14
- Day 29: John 1:15-16
- Day 30: 1 John 5:1
- Day 31: Romans 8:2-3



Library News/Trustees

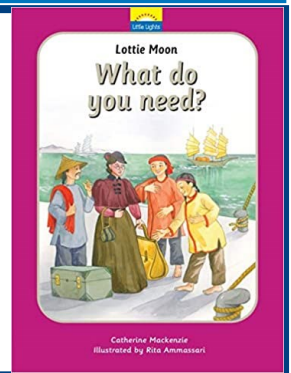


Your Librarian
Sharon Dennis



As popular teacher Dr. Robert Jeffress shows in Perfect Ending, we may not know when Christ will return, but the Bible offers many details about what the end times look like. Strengthen your biblical knowledge and your spiritual life through this powerful look at the future God promises for every follower of Christ. As popular teacher Dr. Robert Jeffress shows in Perfect Ending, we may not know when Christ will return, but the Bible offers many details about what the end times look like. Strengthen your biblical knowledge and your spiritual life through this powerful look at the future God promises for every follower of Christ.

Lottie Moon had little to occupy her mind beyond school lessons, dresses and pranks (oh, and skipping church whenever she could). However, one day things change for Lottie. Find out how the naughty little rich girl gives her life to mission work in China. Today she is one of the best remembered missionaries in America with millions of dollars having been raised by her memorial Christmas offering.



Trustees' Report for December 2022

At the November church business meeting the church approved purchasing LED fluorescent lights to replace all existing fluorescent lights in the church building. For your information, there are 1,004 fluorescent lights. The church will be responsible for removing the ballasts in the present lighting and rewiring the fixtures to accept the new lighting. The church is purchasing the bulbs for \$4.07 through the Ameren Incentive program. LED bulbs burn about one-half the energy that the present fluorescent bulbs do. The increase in electricity in 2023 is around 66%, so after a few months, we will begin to save money.

The church also elected Debbie Pugh and Ronnie Donoho to serve three-year terms as trustees. They are replacing Debbie Dodd and me who are concluding our three-year terms at the end of December.

The trustees are continuing to work on the design and fixtures for a new women's restroom and on having some concrete ground in front of the office entrance to level the concrete.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees

Announcements/Thank You

"Walkin' The Streets of Heaven"

*I'm Walkin' the Streets of Heaven
Paved with Pure Gold
Holding The Hand of My Savior
Recalling promises of old*

*I'm Singing Songs of Praise
As Never Before*

*It's Everything God Told Us
And Oh! So Much More*

*I Am Utterly Speechless
As I Knew I Would Be
Complete Loss of Words
Realizing Your Presence With Me*

*I'm Walkin' The Streets of Heaven
My Father By My Side
Eternity Awaits Me
Forever I'll Abide*

*Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
Come & See What God Had Done!*

Written by Bev Smith

Ladies interested in Reading the Bible through Chronologically in 2023 please contact Paula Strother (618-322-5673), so Bibles and Books can be ordered. We meet at 4:45 on Wednesdays.

I Wasn't There When Christ Was Born

I did not see the virgin birth
and yet I know its true.
The things of God are acts of faith
When we are born anew.
I did not hear the angles sing
That night in Bethlehem,
Nor was I there when the Magi came
To bring their gifts to Him.
Within my heart I know its true
That Christ is God's own Son,
For He warmed by cold, cold heart
By things that He has done.
No I wasn't there when Christ was born
And yet He knew my name!
God sent His Son into the world
And we've never been the same.

—Carrie Braden





DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
December 04	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
December 11	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Myron Lloyd
December 18	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
December 25	Steve Smith	Gary Watson	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
December 04	Deanna Buerster	Emoji Prayers—Laughing Face
December 11	Deanna Buerster	Emoji Prayers—Angry Face
December 18	Deanna Buerster	Emoji Prayers—In Awe Face
December 25	Deanna Buerster	Family Worship—No Children's Church

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

December 04	Paula Strother
December 11	Wheat Jackson
December 18	Gary & Pat Hampton
December 25	Andrea Hays



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
December 04	Bev Smith	Kathy King
December 11	Karen Watson	Lynette Wiedle
December 18	Dale Helpingstine	Judy Bundy
December 25		



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



COME JOIN US
CHRISTMAS EVE
AT 5:30 AS WE
CELEBRATE
JESUS!



Women on Mission

A huge thank you to everyone who helped gather and pack 265 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

We will continue our monthly donations beginning in January 2023. The items are white wash cloths and Ivory soap.

Our next mission emphasis is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International missions. This years theme is "Reaching The Nations, Together". Our Church goal is \$12,500 and the emphasis goes through the entire month of December.

The monthly meeting for our ladies will be on Monday, December 5th at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Following a brief meeting, a Breakfast Brunch will be served.

Blessings, Karen Watson





December 04 Bring a Friend Night
December 11 Wear Christmas Night
December 18 Celebrate Jesus Night
December 25 Merry Christmas/No Club

5:00—7:00PM
Sunday Nights



FOLLOWING HIM IN 2022

I'M COMMITTED TO

**Learning
Involving
Fellowshipping
Evangelizing**

GROUPS

Meet every
Sunday Morning
@ 9:30 AM
Salem First Baptist



For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a Son is **given**
Isaiah 9:6



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>Following Him In 2022</h1>				1	2	3
				4 4PM Church Council Mtg. Awana 5-7PM	5 Prayer Mtg. 6AM Women on Mission Brunch 9:30AM	6
11 4PM Leadership Team Mtg. Awana 5-7PM	12	13	14 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	15 Deacons and Wives Christmas Dinner	16	17 Children's Christmas Party from 11-1PM
18 Awana 5-7PM	19	20	21 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 Merry Christmas Morning Worship at 10:45 No Awana Club	26	27	28 2PM Manor @ the Woods 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	29	30	31

Emersyn Shelton
Mary Wilkins
Ashlynn Henry
Dale Helpingstine
Destiny Albert
Donna Keele
Michael Pugh
Shelby Peradotti
Carol Daniels
Jack Page
Myra Donoho
Kara Grafton
Paula Strother
Janet Wayman
Larry Woodward

December 01
December 01
December 02
December 03
December 04
December 04
December 05
December 08
December 09
December 09
December 11
December 12
December 14
December 15
December 15



Gayla Wilkerson
Ross Rollinson
Catie Smith
James Green
Jeanie McGraw
Ute Smith
Remington Chancellor
George Nattier
Deanna Buerster
Emil Nattier
Bill Wright
Elaina Quandt
Kay Rodgers
Braden Hanes
Patsy Shipley

December 19
December 21
December 22
December 23
December 24
December 25
December 26
December 26
December 27
December 28
December 28
December 28
December 29
December 29
December 31
December 31



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060
 Fax: 618-548-6039
 Website: Salemfbcc.org
 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 Praise Team Rehearsal Mission Journey: Kids

Sunday Morning and Evening

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
5:00-7:00 PM	Awana