

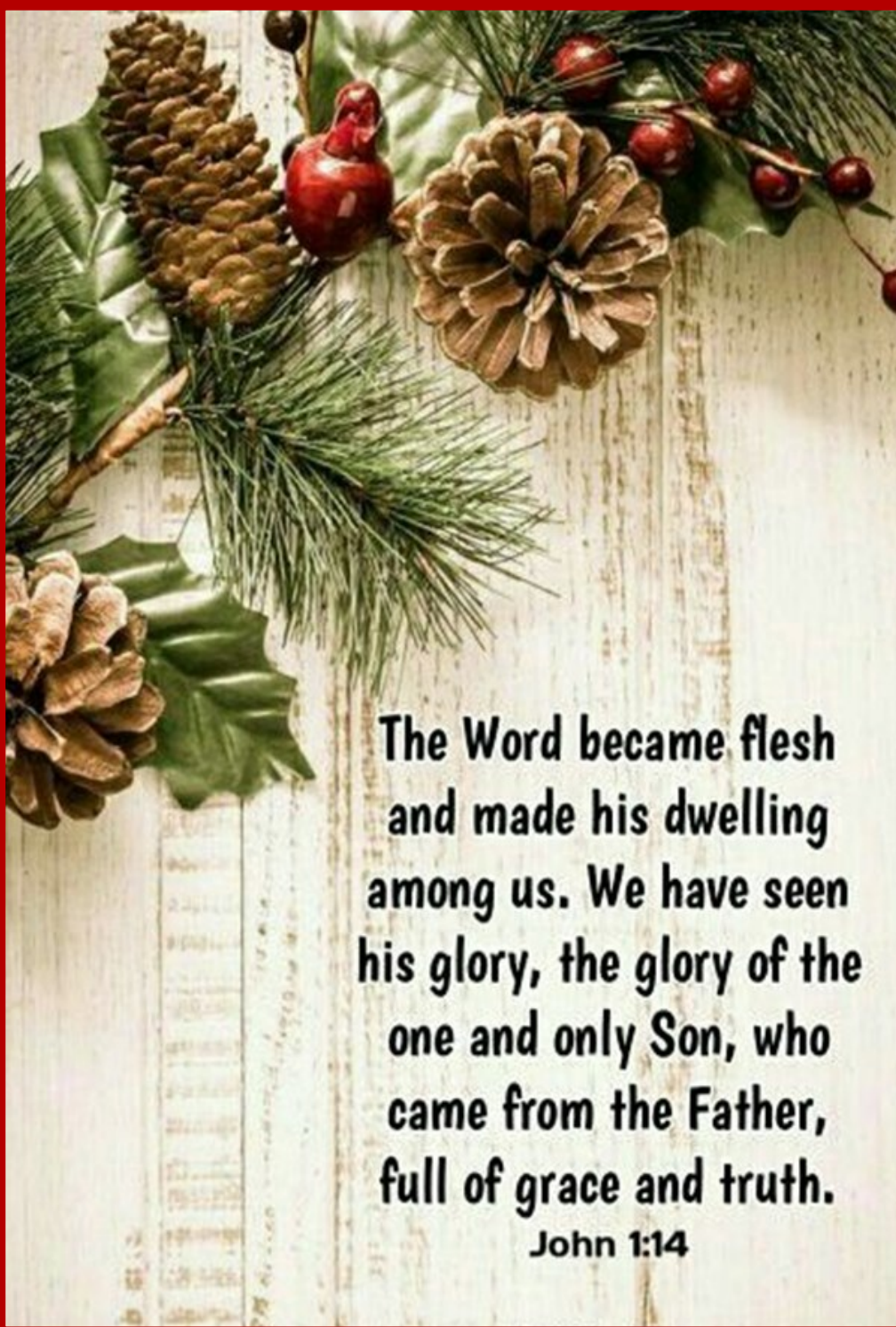
Volume 45 Issue 12

December 2024

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**The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling
among us. We have seen
his glory, the glory of the
one and only Son, who
came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.
John 1:14**

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Services
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- *Up Coming Events*
- *Ministries*

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Salemfbccom**



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Merry Christmas!

It is my hope and prayer that you have a wonderful Christmas this year. I know that many of you will have family and friends around (maybe too much) during the Christmas season. I also know that others maybe alone much of the time. Yes, some people are alone even in a crowd and others are alone because no one is around. Whichever group that you might be in, there is hope and encouragement for you.

What's the encouragement? Well, it is the fact that God has spoken. The writer of Hebrews states:

¹ *"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,*

² *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world"* (Hebrews 1:1-2, ESV).

These two verses affirm the fact that God has spoken; not merely with words, but through His Son. God is not silent; He has chosen to communicate with us (fallen people) in a way that we can understand. Words, when used well can carry clarity of thought, they can encourage, they can cause harm. Words can be misunderstood; especially, if we are not clear when we used them. A former teacher recalled a lecture that he attended in which the speaker had a challenging time properly communicating what he meant to say. The lecturer said in passing that he and his wife had no children. He stated, "My wife is unbearable" and continued with his lecture. After a moment, it occurred to him that he misspoke. So, he gave a second attempt, he said "No, I meant to say that she is impregnable." Again, he realized that this, too, was the wrong word. Finally, he gave up and told the class, "You know what I mean."

I'm reminded of a song that strikes at the issue of words:

You and me, we use so very many clumsy words
 The noise of what we often say is not worth being heard
 When the Father's wisdom wanted to communicate His love
 He spoke it in one final perfect word
 He spoke the incarnation and then so was born the Son
 His final word was Jesus, He needed no other one
 Spoke flesh and blood, so He could bleed and make a way divine
 And so was born the baby who would die to make it mine (The Final Word).

This is also affirmed when the Apostle John writes,

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4, ESV).

As a follower of Christ, you are never alone. Whether you are in a crowd of a thousand people or in a living room by yourself. You are not alone. Remember that it was He who said, "I will never leave you or forsake you. . . ." (Hebrews 13:5).

Merry Christmas,
 Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

With all of the business and preparation around this time of year, it is easy to lose sight of the real reason we have for celebration. I'm sure you have heard this over and over, but this time I want to shed an interesting light on the account of the nativity that you may never have noticed before. It was a new perspective to me as well and it makes the account all the more impactful. When you compare Herod the Great with Jesus, some very interesting points of comparison arise.

The king over Israel at the time of Jesus' birth was a man named Herod the Great. People in ancient times were not given the moniker of "The Great" lightly. He had done some truly incredible things in his time. He had also integrated himself with the Jewish people nearby. While he was still an agent of Rome, this allowed him some sway with the Jews in Israel, giving him the title of "King of the Jews." It is very intriguing that Jesus Himself would bear this same title around thirty three years after Herod's death, while suffering on the cross.

Herod was also a great builder. He was responsible for the renovation of the Jewish temple which, during this time, was once again covered with gold as it had been in the days of Solomon. He had also fortified the fortress of Masada, making it impenetrable in a conventional siege. He was known as a great builder. Jesus was also a great builder. He made a claim about the temple: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:19)." He also stated, "...you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church... (Matthew 16:18)" Where are Herod's great constructions today? In ruins. Yet the church is still going two thousand years after Jesus built it.

More than anything, Herod was a king, unquestioned. He was so paranoid about threats to his rule that he had some of his sons killed after thinking they would usurp him. It was a popular joke in Rome that it was safer to be Herod's pig than his son (Note: this is actually a pun in Greek, since the word for "son" is "huios" and the word for pig is "hus"). If you were in Herod's family, you were in danger constantly. Compare that to Jesus. John 1 tells us that Jesus came so that all who believe in Him could become the children of God. Instead of worrying about his rule, Jesus is secure. He is so assuredly set up on His throne that He invites us to be part of the royal family. He is a king like no other.

One final illustration to conclude with is this. As they were walking to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph would have passed by the luxurious palace of Herod. They might have even been able to hear the sounds of celebration from inside. They may have wondered why the Messiah was not to be born in a place like that. But God chose to come to earth in the most humble of situations. He arrived in a cave meant to hold sheep, was laid in a solid stone feeding trough, and only had swaddling clothes for comfort. And yet, this was all part of God's plan. Jesus would be born in humble circumstances, to a poor family, learn to speak and walk, all so He could grow up and die to pay for our sins. This Christmas, take time to appreciate the true miracle of God's provision for us.



Women on Mission/Library

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Operation Christmas Child emphasis! Two hundred and fifty five children will be receiving a gift filled box and will have an opportunity to learn about Jesus.

Our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis will be during the month of December with a goal of \$13,000.00.

Due to busy schedules there will not be a monthly meeting, but we will continue our local ministries.

Blessings,

Karen

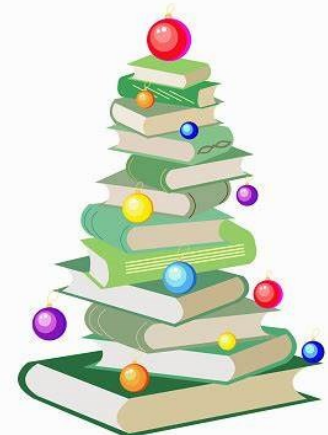


Dear Friends!

Please check out the Christmas books in our library! Mrs. Sharon made sure to stock up on some excellent books for the Yuletide season which include non-fiction, fiction and children's books! I have already pulled them from the shelves and made a display on two tables to help you get a head start! Please find your way to the library to find a good book to help you relax, slow your world down a bit, and remember the true reason for the season in all of our busyness this time of year.

Merry Christmas!

Dina



Announcements

Mission Moment



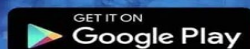
After serving in Haiti for nearly 20 years, Benji and Kerri Dryden are excited to expand their missionary service beyond the sea-shores of Haiti and reach the dozens of islands scattered throughout the Caribbean. Haiti has been increasing in turmoil during the past decade, making it difficult to stay there. In this ministry expansion, they will still be involved in the training of nationals as well as future missionaries, encouraging and uplifting those who currently serve on the field, and promoting missions throughout the churches and Bible colleges in the United States. We appreciate your continuing monthly support as we serve as our Lord leads.

Come on Tues., Dec. 10th at 6:30PM for sign up and information about

SOW EVANGELISM APP

The SOW Evangelism app helps you apply God's word and His principles and prepare to join God in His mission of reaching and saving the lost.

Download today and contact your Pastor for the unique church code.



In February the Trustee's received three bids for snow removal and the contract for 2024 was awarded to Walsh Farm & Trucking.

In March, the lawn mowing & grounds job description was revised and bids were received from three lawn mower services, with the contract being awarded to Trumbo Outdoor Services. Also, in March, a Spring Church overall cleaning was held on March 22nd, and it was a success with many church members helping out.

In April we received a bid from Full Compass Systems for a new overhead projection system as this was a ministry need and necessity for our Church.

In July, the carpets in the downstairs Sunday school rooms and pre-school rooms were professionally shampooed and scotch guard by Dave's Carpet Cleaning. Also in July, the annual Elevator Inspection was done and all required permits were obtained.

A sink hole was reported on the SW side of the church and this was inspected by the City and was found to be an old water meter. It was filled with pea gravel and top soil and grass seed was planted over it.

In August a new custodian was interviewed and hired and is doing a remarkable job keeping our Church clean. Also, Dallas Bundy refinished the old Communion Table and it was placed in the Sanctuary following completion. In addition, historic artifacts were placed in the history display cabinet outside the office area and also in the library.

In September, the Security Team attending a Sheepdog Training session in Mt. Vernon to ensure our Church was up to date with all necessary security measures. Following this meeting, as suggested the outside door locks were changed and pertinent key holders were noted. Also, a search was completed for new playground equipment to replace the damaged and broken equipment that we currently had. The new equipment was purchased and installed in October.

The light bulbs in the Sanctuary are needing to be replaced and they are currently being ordered and when we receive them, a lift will be rented and all bulbs will be replaced.

Throughout the year, our HVAC system has had to have several repairs made to keep it up and running. Dallas Bundy will give a report on the repairs and the current situation with the HVAC system.

It has been noted that there have been two falls with injuries on our parking lot this year, so this past Friday, all parking blocks on the East, West & South parking lots have been painted yellow on top of all parking blocks.

A new TV was purchased this week to replace the defective one in the Children's Church classroom and it will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

We have nine men that we can call at moment notice. I don't know what we would do without them. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.



December 01 No Club Thanksgiving Weekend

December 08 Wear Christmas and Wrap a Leader (Grilled Cheese, Veggie Soup & Snack Cakes)

December 15 Celebrate Jesus! (Corn Dogs, Chips)

December 22 Christmas Break No Club

**December 29 Christmas Break No Club
(Menu)**

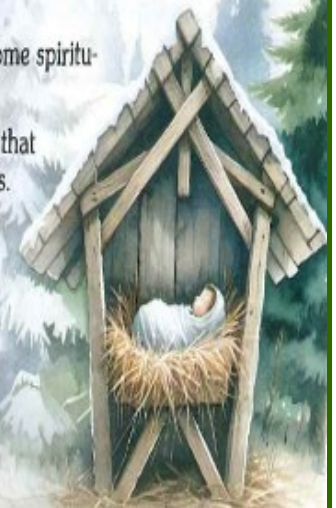


December 2024

Date	Verses	Date	Verses
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/01/24	1 Corinthians 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/17/24	Hebrews 1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/02/24	1 Corinthians 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/18/24	Hebrews 7-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/03/24	2 Corinthians 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/19/24	Hebrews 11-13
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/04/24	2 Corinthians 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/20/24	James 1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/05/24	2 Corinthians 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/21/24	1 Peter 1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/06/24	Galatians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/22/24	2 Peter 1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/07/24	Galatians 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/23/24	1 John 1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/08/24	Ephesians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/24/24	2 John-Jude
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/09/24	Ephesians 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/25/24	Revelation 1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/10/24	Philippians 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/26/24	Revelation 4-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/11/24	Colossians 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/27/24	Revelation 9-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/12/24	1 Thessalonians 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/28/24	Revelation 13-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/13/24	2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/29/24	Revelation 17-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/14/24	1 Timothy 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 12/30/24	Revelation 20-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/15/24	2 Timothy 1-4		
<input type="checkbox"/> 12/16/24	Titus-Philemon		

EIGHT CHRISTMAS CONTRASTS

1. Jesus underwent a human birth so that we who believe on Him might have a heavenly birth. (Luke 2:11; John 1:12)
 2. Jesus took His place in a manger in a stable, so that we might have heavenly mansions. (Luke 2:7; John 14:2)
 3. Jesus became a member of a human family so that we might become members of the family of God. (Matthew 2:11; Galatians 3:26)
 4. Jesus made Himself subject to others so that we, through the power of His Spirit at work through us, might be made free. (Luke 2:51; Galatians 5:1)
 5. Jesus laid His glory aside so that we might receive glory. (Philippians 2:6,7; 1 Peter 5:4)
 6. Jesus became poor so that we might become spiritually rich. (Matthew 8:20; 2 Corinthians 8:9)
 7. Jesus was born, to the praise of angels, so that we can be born again, to the praise of angels. (Luke 2:13,14; Luke 15:10)
 8. Jesus, who was pursued by an evil and dangerous ruler, went to the cross to destroy a far more evil and dangerous ruler. (Matthew 2:13; Hebrews 2:14)
- Adapted from "The Contrasts of Christmas" by Donald Grey Barnhouse.





DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Awana	2 Prayer Mtg. 6AM	3 Decorating for Christmas at 9:30AM	4 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	5 Fellowship Luncheon @11:30	6 American Heritage Girls Lock In	7
8 5-7 PM Awana	9	10 Children's Ministry Family Christmas Party 6-7:30PM	11 6PM SOW Sign Up Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	12 Deacon's Christmas Dinner	13	14 Youth Girls Ornament Swap 1-4PM
15 5-7 PM Awana	16	17	18 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	19 Youth Christmas Party 5-7PM	20	21
22 No Awana	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30PM	25 MERRY Christmas	26	27	28
29 No Awana	30 Take Christmas decoration down @ 9:30	31	“Being the Church in Salem and to the Nations”			

- Ashlynn Henry
- Dale Helpingstine
- Donna Keele
- Michael Pugh
- Shelby Peradotti
- Carol Daniels
- Jack Page
- Myra Donoho
- Paula Strother
- Janet Wayman
- Larry Woodward
- Ellie Dennis
- Sam Collins
- Gayla Wilkerson

- Dec. 02
- Dec. 03
- Dec. 04
- Dec. 05
- Dec. 08
- Dec. 09
- Dec. 09
- Dec. 11
- Dec. 14
- Dec. 15
- Dec. 15
- Dec. 17
- Dec. 19
- Dec. 19



- Jamie Webb
- Catie Smith
- Jeanie McGraw
- Ute Smith
- George Nattier
- Deanna Buerster
- Jarrett Harris
- Emil Nattier
- Bill Wright
- Elaina Quandt
- Kay Rogers
- Christopher Spenner
- Patsy Shipley

- Dec. 20
- Dec. 22
- Dec. 24
- Dec. 25
- Dec. 26
- Dec. 27
- Dec. 28
- Dec. 28
- Dec. 28
- Dec. 29
- Dec. 29
- Dec. 30
- Dec. 31



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Our Vision
“Being the church in Salem and 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
5:30PM Youth Bible Study
6:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Mission Friends/Mission Journey Kids
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
5:00 PM AWANA