

Volume 46 Issue 12

December 2025

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HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED...

## THE *Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6



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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

As we enter this beautiful Christmas season, my heart is filled with gratitude for each of you and for the opportunity we have to gather as the body of Christ to celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is not just a season; it's a reminder of the most incredible gift we've ever received—the gift of salvation through the Lord Jesus, who came to dwell among us, to live, die, and rise again.

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it is easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas. But we, as followers of Christ, know that Christmas is not just about gifts or traditions—it's about the miracle of God becoming flesh. The Apostle John reminds us in his gospel that "the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us" (John 1:14). God's love for us was so great that He sent His Son to be born in humble surroundings, to live a perfect life, and to provide the way for us to have eternal life through His sacrifice on the cross.

This Christmas, let us remember that Christ's birth is God's redemptive plan for humanity. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises of God, and in Him, we find the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. Christmas is a time to reflect on the gospel, the good news that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son, not to condemn us, but to save us through Him (John 3:16).

As a church family, we have so much to celebrate. We celebrate not just the birth of a baby, but the coming of our Savior and King. We also celebrate the hope and peace that His birth brings into our lives. As Baptists, we believe in the personal relationship each believer has with Jesus Christ, and Christmas is a perfect time to renew that commitment. Let us rededicate our hearts to Him, remembering the love and grace that were poured out upon us when Jesus came to earth.

I also want to encourage you, especially during this season, to be mindful of those who may be struggling. Christmas can be a difficult time for many, whether due to loss, illness, or loneliness. As a body of believers, we are called to reach out with the love of Christ, to offer a listening ear, a helping hand, and to share the hope we have in Him. Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus to a world that desperately needs His light.

In all the celebrations, let us remember the message of Christmas is clear: God is with us. He is Emmanuel. He came to bring light to our darkness, peace to our troubled hearts, and salvation to all who believe.

I pray that this Christmas will be a time of deep reflection, joy, and renewal for each of you. May the love of Christ fill your hearts, and may His peace rule in your homes. As we enter a new year, let us continue to live out the gospel in our community and around the world, sharing the good news of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection with all who will listen.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas filled with the love, joy, and peace that only Christ can bring.

Grace and peace,

*Andy*

## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

As we once again approach the Christmas season, it is good for us to think about the amazing and miraculous occasion of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. No other child in history has fulfilled ancient prophecies like Jesus did when He was born in the city of Bethlehem. If anyone had even fulfilled a fraction of the prophecies that Jesus did, it would be mathematically impressive. For Jesus to accurately fulfill all of the prophecies about Him is nothing short of miraculous. If, after reading this article, you want more information about these prophecies and how they relate to Jesus, you can look up an Answers in Genesis article that I consulted using the link at the bottom of the page.

The Book of Matthew contains the direct acknowledgement by the author of the Jewish prophecies that were fulfilled. Matthew himself being of Jewish blood and writing for the benefit of a Jewish audience would have known these prophecies well. The first and most impossible of these prophecies is quoted in Matthew 1:23 from Isaiah 7:14, which stated that a virgin would conceive and give birth to a child named Immanuel, or, "God With Us." Predicting a future child that would be born with no human father's intervention was an incredible statement, and doubly so because Jesus fulfilled it more than 700 years after the fact.

Another prophecy quoted by Matthew is Matthew 2:6, which is quoting Micah 5:2, though not from Matthew's own perspective this time, but from the perspective of the scribes answering the question from Herod about the location of the "King of the Jews"

the Magi had asked about. This verse stated that a future king would be born in the city of Bethlehem, which had very interesting implications. For the future king to be born in Bethlehem would make Him very similar to David, and even indicate the continuation of David's kingdom. God had made promises throughout the Old Testament that David's line would be without end. Jesus would be the perfect fulfillment of that promise, as He is the rightful heir to David's throne and is still alive today.

These two prophecies are merely related to the birth of Jesus. He would go on to fulfill at least 300 prophecies total in His time on Earth. What is important about these prophecies is that they not only show the incredible nature of God's plan, which was at work for hundreds of years before Jesus arrived, but the fact that the arrival of Jesus to Earth would be so monumental that it would totally alter the course of human history. Jesus' first coming changed the world, and we must also be keenly aware that He has promised to return again. We should take great joy in remembering His first appearance and eagerly await the return of our King to his rightful throne on a new heaven and new earth.

Link to AiG article: [answersingenesis.org/jesus/birth/fulfilled-prophecies-at-the-birth-of-christ/](https://answersingenesis.org/jesus/birth/fulfilled-prophecies-at-the-birth-of-christ/)



## Women on Mission/Library

Salem First Baptist Church family continues to “Be the Church in Salem and Beyond”. We just completed our Operation Christmas Child emphasis. God will bless 268 children and their families by our efforts and devotion to share the love of Jesus.

Our church has an opportunity to “Be the Church in Salem” through giving donations to our Salem Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry and/or volunteering at the Food Pantry located at Grace United Methodist Church. Non-perishable items can be placed in the grocery cart located in the main hallway here at our church. The pantry also gives additional needed items for the families.

Salem First Baptist Church day to serve at the pantry is December 8th, we need to be there by 12:15PM, call me for further details.

Every year we have a great opportunity to “Be the Church in Salem and Beyond” through our giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Every dollar received through this offering goes directly to support our foreign missionaries our goal this year is \$13,500.

Women on Mission will not meet in December but the ladies will continue to reach out to others.

As the Mission Director, I thank God for allowing me to serve in a wonderful ministry awareness church family!

Blessings, Karen



I am excited to share that our library has some new books for children from Answers in Genesis! A boxed set of 8 books answers questions from children related to the Bible that will help create a powerful foundation of faith!

The historical fiction series, The Tower and The River, allow children to experience the events at Babel and its aftermath! This duo is written from the perspective of three kids living at the time and show why Noah’s descendants stayed together to build a tower, what it was like to live in that time period, and why God judged the people.

Two books with Justin and Jessie contain stories in which the two characters have loads of fun on everyday adventures while learning how to love, trust and obey God, love others, and overcome fears. These two best friends want to live for Jesus but sometimes face tough decisions to do what’s right. These books would be perfect for bedtime, class time, Bible time – anytime!

Share these treasures with your kids over Christmas break!

Merry Christmas to each of you,

Dina



# Trunk or Treat

WE HAD A GREAT TURN OUT!  
WE RAN OUT OF CANDY!





DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
December 07	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
December 14	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Gary Watson
December 21	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
December 28	Steve Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
December 07	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
December 14	Dina Reed	Debbie Pugh
December 21	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
December 28	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour



<b>Nursery Volunteers</b> <b>(Call the church office if you would like to serve)</b> <b>Worship #1</b>			Worship #2
December 07	Dina Reed	Janet Smith	
December 14	Susan Salliotte	Nancy Stallard	
December 21	Paula Strother	Wheat Jackson	
December 28	Janet Smith	Dina Reed	



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
December 07	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
December 14	Karen Watson	Lynette Wiedle
December 21	Mike & Angela Brooks	Judy Bundy
December 28	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle



**Centralia Manor - 1910 E McCord St.  
Faye Wood #206**

By the time you read this we will all have celebrated Thanksgiving with our families. I pray that you had a memorable day and stopped to reflect on all the things you have to be thankful for. God is good, and He has blessed us as a church and individually this year.

Now we shift gears and begin preparing for all the busyness of the Christmas season. There's shopping, parties, travelling to be with friends and family, and of course all the wonderful traditions the season brings. Do you put up a real tree or an artificial one, serve turkey or ham, or maybe lasagna? Do you open gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning? We've done them all!

But the most important part of the season is to stop and remember the reason we do all these things after all. It's the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Without that one humble event over 2000 years ago in the tiny town of Bethlehem, none of this would even matter. No other event in human history has changed the course of all mankind like the birth of Jesus.

So in all the hustle and bustle that we make of this season, don't let the most important part slip by without stopping and making Jesus the focus of your Christmas this year.

From Our House to Yours,

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dale Helpingstine, Deacon Chairman



My purpose in this article is to keep the church members informed as to the repairs and maintenance that are being done to keep our church building and facilities in good order so that our ministries can take place in comfortable, clean, and safe surroundings. This last month a repair was made on a second railing on the northeast stairs to the sanctuary balcony. A game in the children's department has been repaired. Two of the cores in the sanctuary air handlers are leaking. Shutoff valves have been installed so the heating system can be operating until the cores are made and replaced. The trustees are waiting for the glass doors for the office foyer to be installed. Campbell Fire and Safety has inspected all of our fire extinguishers and repaired those needing maintenance. The church insurance is being reviewed again to see if the trustees can find cheaper rates with the same insurance coverage. The coverage begins January 1 of each year.

Two items on the agenda for the December trustees' meeting are the election of officers for 2026 and an internet upgrade. I appreciate church members letting the trustees know of matters which need to be addressed. There has been positive feedback on the step lighting that was installed on the southeast corner of the sanctuary.

Dallas Bundy  
Chairman of the Trustees





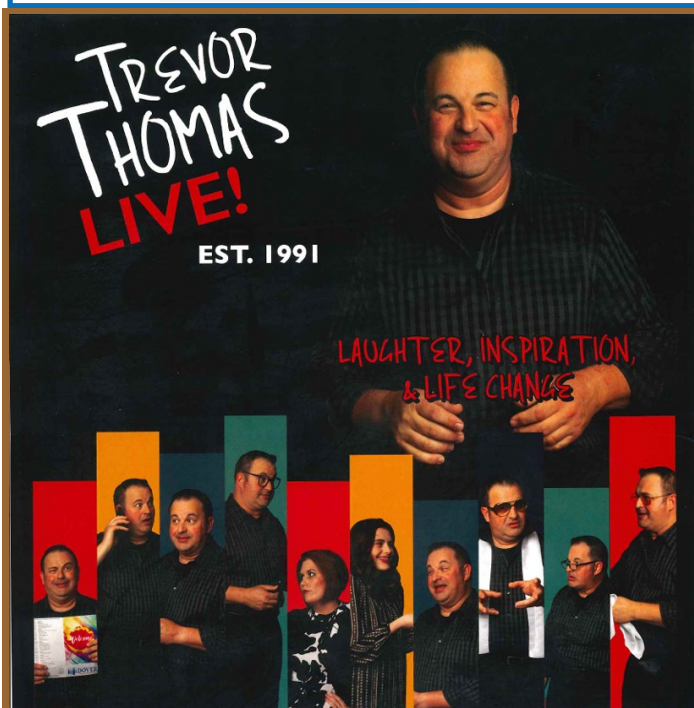
December 07 . . . . Wear Christmas & Wrap a Leader (Potato Soup, Grilled Cheese & Dessert)

December 14 . . . . . Celebrate Jesus (Corn Dogs, Chips & Dessert)

December 21 . . . . . Christmas Break

December 28 . . . . . Christmas Break


(Menu)



**December 4th at 6:30PM**  
**Love offering will be received!**



# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> No Prayer Mtg.  Christmas Decorating 10AM	<b>2</b>  No CEF	<b>3</b> 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	<b>4</b> 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon  6:30PM Trevor Thomas Live!	<b>5</b>  American Heritage Girls Lock-in starting at 4PM on Friday.	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  5-7PM Awana	<b>8</b>  Food Pantry 1:30PM @ Grace Methodist	<b>9</b>  No CEF	<b>10</b> 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	<b>11</b>  Deacon's Christmas Dinner	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  5-7PM Awana	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  No CEF	<b>17</b> 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  No CEF	<b>24</b> 2PM High Point 5:30PM Christmas Eve Service		<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  No CEF	<b>31</b> 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	<b>"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"</b>		

Ashlynn Henry  
 Dale Helpingstine  
 Destiny Albert  
 Donna Keele  
 Amy Shreve  
 Michael Pugh  
 Shelby Peradotti  
 Carol Daniels  
 Jack Page  
 Myra Donoho  
 Paula Strother  
 Larry Woodward  
 Ellie Dennis  
 Sam Collins  
 Gayla Wilkerson

Dec. 02  
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 Dec. 17  
 Dec. 19  
 Dec. 19

CELEBRATING  
**DECEMBER**  
 BIRTHDAYS!

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

Dec. 20  
 Dec. 22  
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 Dec. 28  
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 Dec. 30  
 Dec. 31



**SALEM**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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



*Our Vision*  
*"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"*

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**

**The Office will be closed on December 25 & 26th for Christmas!**

*Merry Christmas*



**For YouTube:**



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

**Sunday**  
8:30—9:20 AM Café Agape  
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