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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

EVERY MEMBER IS A MISSIONARY

@ SALEM FIRST

EPHESIANS 4:12

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church family,

I remember vividly Christmas 1999, do you? The doomsday-ers were warning that everything would crash when computers would not recognize the year 2000. Rather, computers would revert to 1900 and everything would be a royal mess. Y2K was everywhere. Even trusted Christian ministries were sounding the alarm. Companies paid lots of money to be Y2K compliant. I watched with intense interest as the New Year came—first in Australia, I think. Nothing happened. Then country after country, region after region entered into the new millennium without any disaster happening. At this I was both relieved and felt a little foolish to be so anxious about the new century beginning.

Now, 23 years later, there are new concerns that could never have been imagined in 2000. Apparently, the beliefs and attitudes of many have shifted to some of the most unbiblical in modern history. Y2K is in the dust pan of history. Today our culture struggles to define a woman. Men are being feminized and women masculinized. No longer are there males and females—a person can be either or neither. This confusion is spoken of with confidence that it's true. How did we get here? What should we do about it if anything?

Our motto for 2023 is “@ Salem FBC Every Member is a Missionary” (Ephesians 4:12). To understand this, I need to include verse 11, also. 11 “And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ.” God has called people to fulfill certain position in churches. Their purpose is to train believers to do the work of ministry. I was in a meeting in Nashville, TN when my group was being taught this. Setting near me was a fellow pastor serving a church in either Tennessee or Kentucky who literally burst into tears. He had been pastoring over 25 years and had never noticed that his job was to train other to do ministry; not do all the ministry himself. It's easy for a pastor to do this; he's not the only one guilty of not fulfilling his true purpose as a pastor.

So, the Scripture is clear that church members are the ministers in a church. With this in mind, the above motto is for the purpose to remind us all that everyone has a ministry and, because of the shift in thinking today, we should think like missionaries. Missionaries minister in a foreign and, at times, strange cultures. Missionaries must learn about the culture in order to reach it with the good news of Jesus. This is slow and challenging. But if people are to be reached, it is necessary. So, missionary that's reading this: are you willing to be obedient to the Lord and work to reach a culture different than your own? I'm speaking of the American culture, by the way. The changes listed above are real and challenges to the Gospel of Jesus. Our world, culture, state, county and town are broken because of sin and the only hope for broken people is Jesus. Missionaries (FBC church members), roll up your sleeves and serve to Lord Jesus by reaching others.

Grace and peace,

Andy

Welcome Associate Pastor, Christopher Spenner!

Greetings to our new church family! Melissa, Luke, and myself are so excited to join with all of you in the worship of God and the furthering of His Kingdom. We are so thankful for all of the gifts you so thoughtfully selected for us as well as the cards you sent us while we were still in Florida.

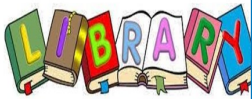
This feels like an appropriate place to give some more information about our family and where God has brought us on our journey of faith so far. I grew up most of my life in Pennsylvania and it was there that God brought me to saving faith in a Baptist church. My family attended there for a week in order to be polite to a friend who had invited us and it was there that we heard preaching from the Bible for the first time. Shortly after coming to faith, I entered the Awana program at the church as a Spark (second grade) and my father began attending Bible Institute. From there we continued to learn as much as we could about God and His Word until my father took up a pastoral position in Noble, Illinois.

Melissa grew up in a Christian family and spent her early years in New Jersey. Her father took a music minister position in Texas and while she lived there we met for the first time. However, we did not meet in Texas. She flew up to a Christian leadership camp called Worldview Academy being held in New Hampshire that I was also attending. Years after that, and another move of her family to Florida, we would begin dating. We were married on October 12th, 2019 in Venice, Florida.

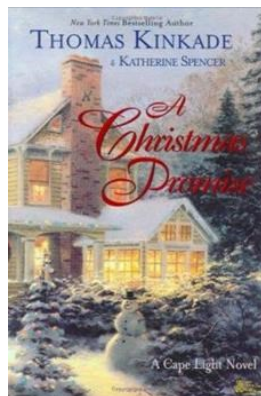
Luke is the latest addition to our family and he was born on May 24th, 2022 as Christopher Luke Albert Spenner. He has been a blessing from God to us. While we are still learning the ropes of parenting, we are excited to watch him grow in faith and knowledge of Jesus.

Thank you once again for your warm welcome and we look forward to seeing how God uses Salem First Baptist Church to advance his kingdom throughout the world!

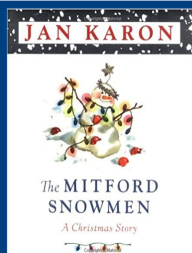
Library News/Trustees



Your Librarian
Sharon Dennis



The holiday season is upon the townspeople of Cape Light, and the village has a special guest. James McDougal, a minister who runs a mission in Central America, has decided to make a trip to Cape Light to work with Reverend Ben and spend some time with its warm-hearted residents. It's during the season's first snowstorm, when James's car collides with another car, that the first hint of trouble befalls this close-knit community. No one is hurt, but out-of-towner Leigh Baxter is forced to stay until her car is fixed. Trying to escape a troubled past, Leigh figures Cape Light will make a decent hiding place for a few days. What she doesn't expect, however, is that the charm of this beautiful, seaside hamlet and its citizens will soon win her over-and that she will fall in love with James, the compassionate minister who has so generously welcomed her into his life. A few days quickly turns into a month, and suddenly Leigh finds herself wondering whether James will still accept her in his heart if her dark secrets ever come to light. In the meantime, Jessica and Sam Morgan find their relationship put to the test. More than anything else this Christmas, they want a baby to call their own. But they soon discover that life's most precious gifts often come in unexpected packages.



It's Christmastime in Mitford, and everyone's favorite characters are filled with holiday spirit. In *The Mitford Snowmen*, a swirling snowfall brings them to Main Street for a snowman-building contest complete with doughnuts, hot chocolate, and contagious good cheer. A charming small trim size and enchanting four-color illustrations make this the perfect way to visit Mitford and gather a heart full of Christmas joy.

Women on Mission

Our ladies enjoyed the Christmas Brunch on December 5th. Several casseroles were shared. Some of our ladies work on Power Packs. The two mission opportunities our group recently prepared were Christmas bags for God's Warrior and bags of treats for Project Bread to be delivered with their meals.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 2nd at 9:30AM, weather permitting. Come and be a part of Women on Missions.

Our Lottie Moon Offering for this year is \$8,675.00. Thank you for being so generous.

*Blessings,
Karen*



Announcements/Thank You

"My Friend, My King"

I am blessed with beautiful and unique relationships in my life. People from all walks of life creating joy, laughter, and love.

*Family, friends, and our awesome creator,
My special friend, my King.*

I enjoy going to Him in prayer daily. What an awesome privilege to commune with the King of our universe, any time, any place.

No one loves us as He does. Just imagine paradise awaiting us.

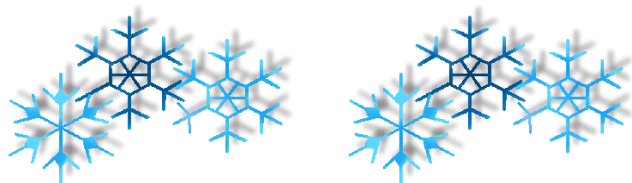
My friend, my King.

Merry Christmas Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Happy New Year!

Living it with the author of our life.

By
Bev Smith



We would like to thank those who prayed, visited, sent cards, brought food and meals to us during my recent surgery and recovery. We feel so blessed to be a part of such a loving, caring and praying church family. A special thank you to Pastor Andy, our Deacon Steve, Mary Lois and Deanna. We are blessed beyond measure!

**We love you all,
Bill & Barbara Wells**

"Refuge in His Wings"

Take refuge in His wings where you are absolutely secure. Trust the One who is holy and pure.

The only beloved Son of God who is truly precious for sure.

Remember He is the One who created heaven and earth. Trust only in Him who is holy and pure.

Take refuge in His wings my friend where you are absolutely secure.

—Carrie Braden



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
January 01	Greg Strother	Gary Watson	Dallas Bundy
January 08	Mike Pugh	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt
January 15	Steve Smith	Tom Reed	Dale Helpingstine
January 22	Gerald Purcell		Ronnie Donoho
January 29	Ken Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
January 01	Deanna Buerster	What's In The Bible? - In The Beginning
January 08	Deanna Buerster	What's In The Bible? - Let My People Go
January 15	Deanna Buerster	What's In The Bible? - Wanderin' In The Desert
January 22	Deanna Buerster	What's In The Bible? - Battle For The
January 29		Family Worship—No Children's Church

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

January 01	Reha Lloyd
January 08	Annette Hardcastle
January 15	Sheri Peradotti
January 22	Janet Smith
January 29	Dina Reed



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
January 01		
January 08	Ken Smith	Kathy King
January 15	Bev Smith	Lynette Wiedle
January 22	Karen Watson	Judy Bundy
January 29	Dale Helpingstine	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

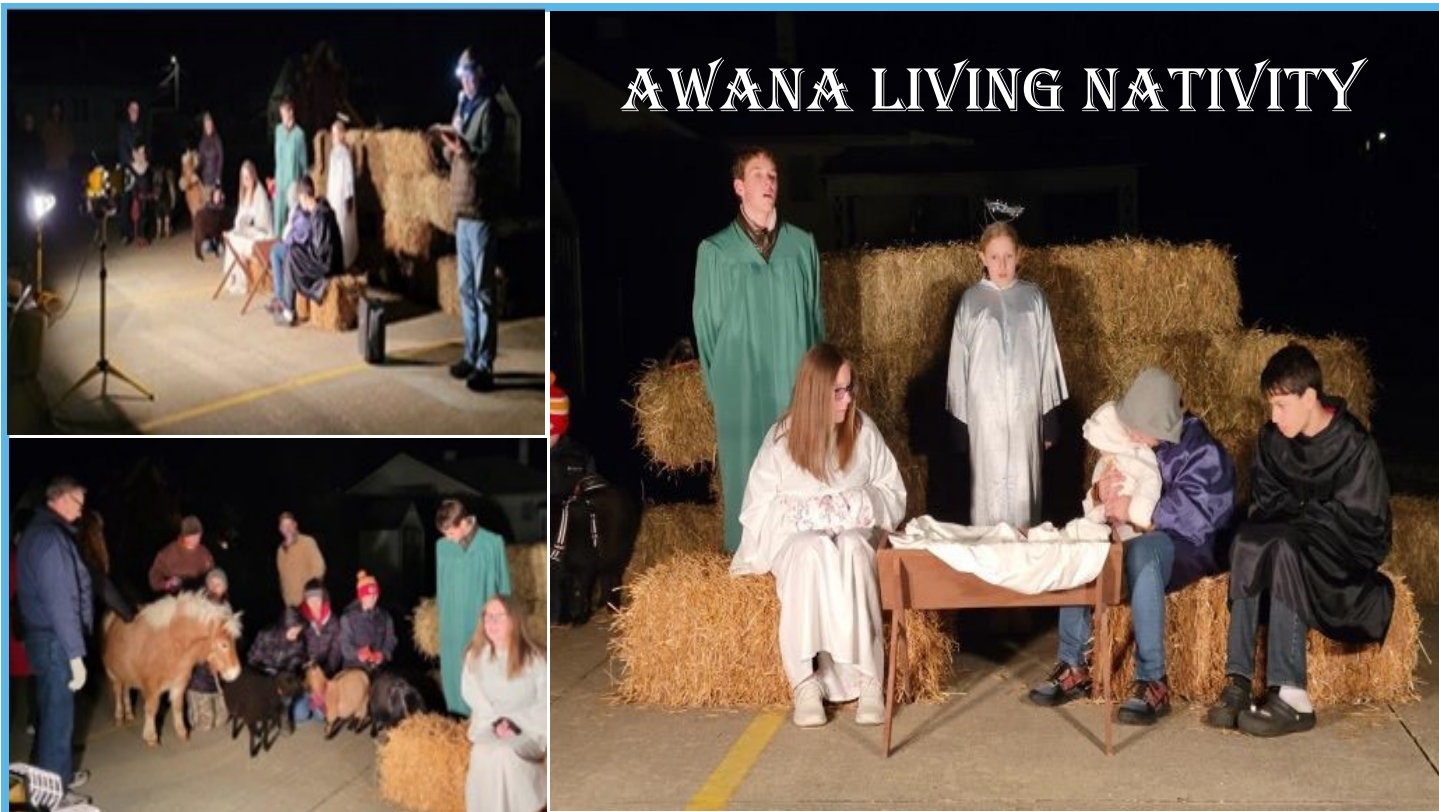
Odin Health and Rehab Center— 300 Green St.
Suzanne Pollard Betty Canon Carrie Braden

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





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. The lights have arrived, and the trustees and members of the church will begin installation of the LED lights after the holidays. At the time of this writing, Kevin Keele had already installed the LED lights in the workroom to show the trustees how the new lights will look. The old ballasts must be removed, and direct wiring will be done in each fixtures before the new lights are installed.

Some of the work that has been completed by the trustees in December is as follows: We thank Debbie Dodd for purchasing a new crockpot for the kitchen. New tires have also been purchased and installed on the church vehicle to replace the ten-year-old tires. We thank Frank Harris, Ken Smith, and Emil Nattier II for helping with this project. A thank you to Susan Wieldt for donating a table for use in the church. A new toilet paper holder has been installed in the sanctuary foyer women's restroom.

At the November church business meeting, the church elected Debbie Pugh and Ronnie Donoho to serve three-year terms as trustees. They are replacing Debbie Dobb and me who are concluding our three-year terms at the end of December. At the December trustees' meeting, the trustees organized for the 2023 church year. Gary Hampton was elected chairman of the trustees. Tom Reed was elected vice-chairman. Susan Wieldt was elected secretary. The trustees have three sub-committees. Gary Watson is chairman the Bus Committee. Debbie Pugh is chairperson of the Kitchen Committee. Ronnie Donoho is chairman of the Decorating Committee.

The annual corporation meeting will be held during the January 2023 church business meeting to elect officers for the corporation for 2023.

Trustee projects which are still under discussion and implementation are: The design and fixtures for a new women's restroom; the grinding of some concrete in front of the office entrance; and the planting of two trees in the Spring next to the playground for future shade.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees



- January 01 No Club
- January 08 Welcome Back -"Pizza/Ice Cream Sundaes
- January 15 Regular Club
- January 22 Pajama Night/ Toothbrush Collection
- January 29 Crazy Hair Night

5:00—7:00PM

Sunday Nights



*Every Member is a Missionary
@ Salem First
Ephesians 4:12*

I'M COMMITTED TO

**Learning
Involving
Fellowshipping
Evangelizing**

GROUPS

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



**God's Warrior's
Christmas Party**

JANUARY



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Awana Club	2 Women on Mission 9:30AM	3	4 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 4PM Church Council Mtg. 5-7PM Awana	9	10	11 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	12	13	14
15 4PM Leadership Team Mtg. 5-7PM Awana Business Mtg.	16	17	18 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	19	20	21
22 5-7PM Awana	23	24	25 2PM Manor @ the Woods 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	26	27	28
29 5-7PM Awana	30	31	to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:12			

Karletta Gray
Adam Savin
Allysa Buerster
Abriella Sum
Harry Word
David Salliotte
Lynn Kincaid
Richard Daniels
Elias Quandt
Candace Howard
Karen Watson

January 02
January 02
January 05
January 09
January 10
January 13
January 15
January 16
January 16
January 17
January 21



Mary Lois Hawkins
Carrie Braden
Shanda Word-Runkle
Anne Coates
Annette Hardcastle
Donna Shoemaker
Tonya Huffhine
Isabel Aguilar
Ronnie Donoho
Avery Runkle

January 21
January 22
January 22
January 23
January 25
January 26
January 27
January 28
January 30
January 30



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Fax: 618-548-6039

Website: Salemfbc.org

Facebook: [Salem First Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/SalemFirstBaptistChurch)



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.

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

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