



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
721 W. Main St. Salem, IL 62881

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 46 Issue 7

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721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060



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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

July 4th, Independence Day, is only a little over a week away as I write this. We, as citizens of the United States, have enjoyed the fruits of liberty that no people currently or in history have enjoyed. Indeed, God has blessed America.

Someone wrote the following about how prayer impacted our nation (I'm sure that there are additions that could be made to this list).

Prayer in 1620 safely guided the Mayflower with the Pilgrims to a new world.

Prayer in 1623 saved the Pilgrim fathers from starvation.

Prayer in 1777 at Valley Forge saved the Continental Army and won the war for American Independence.

Prayer at Philadelphia saved the Constitutional Convention and gave birth to the American Way of Life.

Prayer in 1857 saved America from economic destruction.

Prayer in 1918 ended World War I and lack of prayer started World War II.

Please remember that you are invited to join a monthly prayer meeting the first Monday of each month at 6 AM.

Also, July 6-9 is VBS!! Please be praying for the kids, the leaders and all those involved. Only the Lord knows the impact of VBS on kids today and on the rest of the kids' lives.

Who made God? How do I know that God exists? How do I know the Bible is true? What about those who've not heard? Are all religions equal? Can we know that heaven is real? Etc. What do these questions have in common? They are important questions that people have about the truth of Christianity. We are commanded to "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect," (1 Peter 3:15). On *July 19 & 20th*, we have a guest speaker coming who is accustomed to answering the types of questions that I listed a moment ago. His name is Rob Phillips and he directs the apologetics ministry of the Missouri Baptist Convention. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss this.

Blessings and peace,

Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

Freedom in Christ

As we experience the month of July, many Americans will be thinking about the idea of freedom. The 4th is a major holiday and it is only a year away from the 250th birthday of the nation. There is an argument going on in America right now about what it truly means to be free. Many argue that a woman's right to choose abortion is a matter of freedom that should not be denied. Some say that having greater finances is the real key to freedom while others say that the lack of material possessions is what really gives you freedom. In a way, everyone is looking for freedom of some kind.

If you ask someone what they think it means to be a Christian, one of the responses you may get is that being a Christian is all about following a bunch of rules in a book. Funnily enough, a lot of Christians play right into that stereotype. While it's true that many live without the appearance of any distinctions in their lives, a lot of Christians do specific things entirely because "that's what they are supposed to do." This seems a far cry from the statement made by Jesus that "...the truth shall set you free (John 8:32)."

How does a Christian experience freedom? It would make sense that to be free from something, you must first be in bondage or slavery to something else. How can you be "set free" if nothing is holding you hostage? The Pharisees were confused by this since they had never been slaves of anyone in their entire lives. They claimed that their birth as descendants of Abraham made them free. Like many others, they looked for their freedom in themselves or in something they could control.

Instead, Jesus turned this idea on them. He informed them that their slave master was sin. He told them in John 8:34, "...Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin." When we are without Christ, sin controls us. We cannot help but sin. Our natures tend toward sin without us having to try. Jesus went on to finish His statement by comparing a slave to a son in the house. "Now the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free (John 8:35-36)."

Freedom found in Christ is not what our fallen natures think freedom is. We think freedom is the ability to be completely outside of any other control. The truth is that we are never really outside of all control. Left to our own devices, we will return to sin every time. Freedom in Christ is freedom to choose a life better than one spent in sin. While it is true that we will sin until we die and are perfected by God, that freedom does give us the opportunity to please God with our lives.

As you think about your freedom as a Christian this summer, consider those who still live as slaves to sin. Many of them, like the Pharisees, believe that they are free because they refuse to conform to religion. They do not realize that they are still slaves to their sinful natures. Pray that God will give them the realization that they can have true freedom and pray that we will have opportunities to speak that truth to them.

Women on Mission/Library

Even though we aren't meeting in the months of June and July our opportunities of ministry continue. Our church family is gracious in giving toward our many special offerings through the year. In May, we gave toward the Mother's Day Offering. We received \$1961.00. June was the month for the Baby Bottles for the Pregnancy Care Center.

July brings opportunity for our church family to share God's love and teaching to many children entrusted in our care through VBS.

The items that are requested in the month of July for the Operation Christmas Child ministry are school supplies. These supplies are much needed for the children in other countries and thanks for your continued support of this ministry.

Blessings,

Karen



July is here, and with it comes our guest speaker, Rob Phillips, whom we have been looking forward to seeing and hearing. Two of his books are highlighted here. Mr. Phillips will be selling his books at his own cost when he comes.

Jesus Before Bethlehem (What Every Christian Should Know About the Angel of the Lord) asks the question "What was Jesus doing prior to his conception in Mary's womb?" While we see the Father and the Holy Spirit actively engaged in human affairs across the pages of the Old Testament, the other member of the Trinity is foreshadowed in messianic prophecies but otherwise absent from the earth. Or is He? This book explores dozens of Old Testament appearances by a figure often called "the angel of the Lord". He appears as a man, a voice from heaven, a flame within a thorn bush, and a divine presence in a pillar of cloud and fire – all of which come to us as appearances of the preincarnate Christ.

Written for pastors and laypersons alike, this study is designed to show how the eternal Son of God has always taken a personal interest in those He created to be his imagers on earth.

(What Every Christian Should Know About) The Return of Jesus states that the devil is in the details of the second coming. Literally. He tries to confuse Christians as his domain shrinks and his days as a roaming lion draw short. He mocks Christians who argue over details of His return. He sneers when self-proclaimed prophets "reveal" details about the second coming. He laughs fiendishly when Christians split churches and quarrel over timetables of the end of days.

Focusing on all Christ-follower's common ground, we seek to regain truths about Christ's second coming plainly stated in Scripture. With Christ's imminent return, we are better prepared to focus on and better equipped to share the good news that the returning Jesus came the first time to secure our salvation.

Make sure to grab a book (or two) from our library for days when it is just too hot to do anything but read!

Dina

Poem/Announcements

"Streets of Gold"

Father,
One day I will walk the Streets of Gold with you!
Just imagine my smile.
You've never left my side, just as you promised.
Peace and contentment surround me.
What love I've known trusting in You.
Eternity awaits us, sins are forgiven.

Revelation 21 tells us so plainly.
"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be
no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be
no more pain for the former things are passed away.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, make Jesus the goal of your life,
heart and soul.

See You There!



By Bev Smith

Rob Phillips to lead an Apologetics Conference @ SFBC July 19 & 20th



Rob Phillips serves as strategic leader of Ministry Support and Apologetics for the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Phillips has worked for several FORTUNE 500 companies and a national Christian non-profit organization. He also served for 14 years as an associate pastor.

Phillips has participated in mission projects in Honduras, Nicaragua, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, the Philippines and Malaysia.

He speaks at churches, conferences, training events and other venues. To schedule him to speak in your church or to your organization, contact him at rob.phillips@oncedelivered.net.

He and his wife, Nancy, live in Jefferson City, Mo.



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
July 6	Greg Strother	Gary Watson	Dallas Bundy
July 13	Mike Pugh	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt
July 20	Steve Smith	Tom Reed	Dale Helpingstine
July 27	Gerald Purcell	Greg Strother	Ronnie Donoho



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
July 6	<u>Melissa Spenner</u>	Deric Rice
July 13	Susan Wieldt	Debbie Pugh
July 20	Melissa Spenner	Dina Reed
July 27	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve) Life Group Worship		
July 6	<u>Dina Reed</u>	Dina Reed
July 13	Susan Salliotte	Nancy Stallard
July 20	Janet Smith	Reha Lloyd
July 27	Barb Helpingstine	Melissa Spenner



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
July 6	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
July 13	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle
July 20	Ken Smith	Judy Bundy
July 27	Paula's Class	Lynette Wiedle



Centralia Manor - 1910 E McCord St.
Faye Wood #204

Summer has officially begun. It's HOT out and we are all looking for ways to stay cool. The 4th of July is fast approaching and families everywhere will be celebrating our nation's freedom with cookouts, swim parties and fireworks to cap off the day.

One thing our church has been doing for the past 6 years is our Throwback Thursday Cruise In. On the third Thursday of each month from May - September (except August, which is the last Thursday) we open our east parking lot to all sorts of hotrods, muscle cars, antique and vintage cars and trucks and their owners. We had 40 participants at our June Cruise In, setting a new record for the event. This is not a regular car show with judging and trophies and such. We just bring our cars and lawn chairs and visit for a couple of hours once a month. Not only do we attract the cars and drivers, the community also comes out to look at the cars and trucks. This is an excellent opportunity to meet folks who may not be involved with a church and invite them to visit our church. So, if you like old cars, or even if you just want to come and meet our spectators, plan to join us on July 17th from 6-8 pm, and show the people of Salem what a friendly and inviting church we are. Hope to see you there.

Also, keep our church families in your thoughts and prayers this summer. We have many folks with serious medical conditions. Make an effort to call and visit these folks and ask how you might be of help to them.

Blessing,

Dale Helpingstine, Chairman of Deacons



TRUSTEE REPORT

During June, the following projects are being worked on or completed. The tinted glass on the office foyer and on the storm glass over a sanctuary window has been inspected by the a glass company. Bevis Construction will be installing these soon. Weight limit signs have been installed on the fence on the playground. A sign informing people that the playground is under 24-hour surveillance will also be installed. Some gravy ladles and a large skillet have been purchased for the kitchen. At the last trustees' meeting, the trustees received a handout of the church's Facilities Use Agreement and a handout with information on the location of all air handler units and the air filters each unit requires. Both informational items are also kept in the church office. There is also an Emergency Light that is not working properly and is being inspected. The spraying for Japanese beetles will be done when they arrive and attack the trees and shrubs. The annual inspection for the elevators is being scheduled. Also, the lighting in the auditorium is a work in progress.

Dallas Bundy

Chairman of the Trustees



JULY 6-9TH

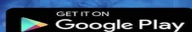


The Quandt's Baby Girl is on the way! They'll need diapers and wipes to prepare for the coming days! Help us celebrate by adding to the crib in the main hallway. (right after VBS)

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.



Church Number
795442

THROWBACK THURSDAYS

CELEBRATING ALL CLASSIC CARS AND TRUCKS

SALEM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
721 W MAIN ST. SALEM, IL

RAIN
CANCELS

DATES:
MAY 15TH
JUNE 19TH
JULY 17TH
AUG. 28TH
SEPT. 18TH



6:00-8:00 PM

CONTACT: DALE HELPINGSTINE 618-322-7123

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL CLASSIC CARS, TRUCKS, MUSCLE CARS, HOTRODS, AND ANTIQUE VEHICLES. JUST BRING YOUR CAR, LAWN CHAIR AND ENJOY THE EVENING.

PLEASE NO ALCOHOL ON CHURCH PROPERTY





Our family would like to express our thanks for your acts of kindness, words of encouragement and sympathy, donation to Baptist Children's Home and the meal served to our family and friends.

*Shirley Garden
Katrina & Andy &
families*

JULY

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 VBS Work day 9-Noon	2 VBS Work day 9-12 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	3 VBS Work day 9-Noon	4 	5
6 	7 	8	9 	10	11	12
13	14 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	15	16 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	17 Throwback Thursdays 6-8PM	18	19 Apologetics Conference
20 Apologetics Conference	21	22	23 2PM High Point 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	24	25	26
27	28 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	29	30 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	31		

Marlene Hilger
Zandi Woodward
Rick Chapman
Pat Hampton
Paul Womack
Johannah Stallard
Christian Boyles
Rachelle Oziemkiewicz
Kay Pullium
Pat Nattier
Shirley Parkinson
Mark Peradotti

July 01
July 01
July 02
July 03
July 04
July 06
July 12
July 12
July 13
July 15
July 15
July 15



4th of July

Jaysen Alston
Noah Savin
Sharon Kavanaugh
Paulette Murphy
Fred Wiedle
Emily Vanhyning
Douglas Vermaas
Darlene Page
Charlene Eidson
Gary Watson
Tom Reed
John Erickson

July 16
July 17
July 20
July 21
July 21
July 22
July 22
July 26
July 29
July 29
July 30
July 31



SALEM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Website: Salemfbc.com

Facebook: [Salem First Baptist Church](#)



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
*"Being the Church in Salem
and Beyond"*

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

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 to 4:00

**Closed 12:00 to 1:00
for lunch**

Friday 9:00—12:00

Sunday Morning

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