

Volume 46 Issue 3

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*He gives beauty
for ashes,
the oil of joy
for mourning,
the garment of praise
for the spirit
of heaviness...
Isaiah 61:3*

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

There is a misconception that many people have: Sunday School is for children. To be sure, Sunday School is an important ministry to children, to help them grow and mature in the Lord. Sunday School, however, is also a vital ministry to adults. Perhaps it is the name that causes some adults to think that investing an hour on Sunday morning in a Sunday School class is a waste of their time. In reality, this hour is Bible Study (or at least it should be). Jesus commanded that we should be “. . . teaching them to observe all that I commanded you . . .” (NASB). One effective venue to carry out this command is in Sunday School. People are instructed not only what the Bible teaches but also taught what it means to be a follower of the Lord Jesus.

Sunday School (or as I prefer, Bible Study) offers us some positive benefits. First, it provides a place to boost Bible knowledge. There are more Bibles and more translations of the Bible available today than any other period in history. However, there is also a higher degree of biblical illiteracy today than in past years. Familiar Bible stories are not “familiar” with a multitude of people today (probably not even with your neighbors). A second benefit of Sunday School is the building of character. Character appears to be in short supply in our nation these days. Not that long ago, there was a news story from a southern part of the nation of a school principal who emailed pornography to several teachers. Even though this became public knowledge, his contract with the school system was extended for another year. What does this communicate to students? We need to teach character.

Thirdly, Sunday School provides spiritual care. I understand that some might object to this statement, “I went through a crisis and no one from church called me.” We are still fallen human beings and no one is perfect. Unfortunately, we will disappoint each other. Even with these failures, Sunday School is a small group experience where spiritual care can be most effectively given.

If you are not involved in Sunday School, please give this some thought. You may be missing out on something that will bless your life and your participation may bless the lives of others.

Grace to you,
Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

There is an epidemic moving throughout American churches right now. It is a sickness focused on the individual, and it is creating churches filled with people who only think in terms of themselves. This manifests in a multitude of different ways, but the results are the same in the end. These churches end up so focused on pleasing individual people that they forget their purpose is to please God.

One of the first places this begins is in worship. Many churches today have forgotten what worship is. Psalm 95 describes the worship of the Israelites as giving praise to God for who He is. Verses 1-3 read, "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods." The primary focus is to be on God and His greatness.

In addition, another purpose of getting together to worship is because God wants us to encourage one another. When we see others worshipping God, it can inspire us to worship as well. Colossians 3:16 states, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." All sorts of music is used here to bring glory to God.

A problem arises however when we seek to individualize any of the worship on Sunday. Please note, the music is not the only part of the service that is "worship." But it is one of the easiest areas of corporate worship to twist away from its intended purpose. One way we do this is by getting annoyed at certain pieces of music that do not fit our personal preferences. Another way churches do this is by isolating individuals by using dimmed lights and singing just from the stage. Our worship on Sunday mornings is to be directed towards God, not ourselves, and it is to be done with the others in the congregation.

Sadly, many churches have embraced the idea of making music and other elements of preaching in their churches mere entertainment. Instead of trying to facilitate a worshipful attitude, they are happy to instead provide a great show that they hope will make visitors stick around. These can be well-intentioned ideas, but in the end they only serve to harm the faithful and provide nothing of substance to the visitors they so eagerly want to please.

One final word of warning involves the account of Uzzah, found in 2 Samuel 6. At that time, the Ark of the Covenant was being transported to Israel from Philistine territory. David was overjoyed and spared no expense, purchasing a brand new cart to transport the ark. During the journey, the cart hit a bump in the road and a man named Uzzah reached out to steady the ark. As he touched it, he died. Why did God kill him? Because David and his group were not worshipping properly. The ark had instructions for carrying, and they were disregarded. We must approach God on His terms, not ours.

Women on Mission/Library

The Ladies enjoyed the fellowship and mission opportunities at our February meeting. We sent valentines to our shut-ins and packed bags for our jail ministry. These bags provide toiletries, snacks, New Testament and a South Central Transit token for one trip at the time of their release. Some extra tokens were provided for men who need transportation upon their release.

Each month we give an opportunity to our church family to share items for our Operation Christmas Child Ministry. In the month of March, we are requesting clothing for children 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. There isn't a need for baby clothes or adults.

Our next meeting will be March 3rd at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Blessings.

Karen



Women on Mission
Growing Closer To Christ



Friendship (Answers)

1. What is the outstanding example of friendship between two young men in the Bible? (David and Jonathan)
2. What is the finest Bible illustration of friendship between two women? (Ruth and Naomi)
3. With what family did Jesus have a very deep friendship? (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus)
4. Who was called "the friend of God"? (Abraham)
5. Complete this sentence and who said it: "Ye are my friends if ye do" (...whatsoever I command you." Jesus – John 15:14)
6. Whose friends and neighbors scoffed when he began to build a boat far away from any body of water? (Noah's)
7. Who was the friend "to him who fell among thieves"? (The Good Samaritan)
8. What book of the Bible says: "A friend loveth at all times?" (Proverbs 17:17)
9. Who was Paul's beloved young friend to whom he wrote two epistles and whom he called "my own son in the faith"? (Timothy)
10. Is this proverb in the Bible: "A friend in need is a friend indeed." (No.)

Happy Reading,
Dina

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Church Number
795442

Announcements

MISSION MOMENT

The Lord continues to open doors for us to enter into the lives of people from many different backgrounds, cultures and languages through their diverse medical needs. Each of us has a story that God is writing, and it really is a privilege to be trusted to walk with patients through lives/stories and to be a part of how God is working in their lives. It's also amazing to see healing through compassionate medical care that allows them to change the focus of their life from these huge medical needs that have consumed significant amounts of time, money, and worry. Some of these needs we can treat, but others require a higher level of care not available at the Hospital of Hope or other hospitals here in Togo. However, through relationships with other medical missionaries whose missions hospitals have greater resources, we have been able to get the medical care needed outside of Togo. (In next month's newsletter, I will share the story of two brothers with holes in their intestines who came to the hospital for help.)

The PAACS program (5 years of surgical training and discipleship) which was instituted a year ago is growing. Two new residents, including the first Togolese doctor, began in January. We were excited to have Josue join a bit early, Oct. 1, to start making the difficult transition from French to English. The PAACS residents are required to do their testing in English, which can be problematic.

In September, we were able to gather all the residents and many of the faculty from both PAACS Togo hospitals for a spiritual retreat. Revelations 21:1-8 made us think about a future with God with no more tears, no more death, mourning nor pain. The medical work can be quite heavy at times as we see the severe suffering in their patients and friends. As surgeons, we often struggle with tough questions on what is best in their context, or what can and cannot be done. It was helpful to be reminded that the suffering and pain are not forever. We seek to treat and care for their patients with the compassionate care that Christ demonstrated, hoping one day they may dwell together with God as mentioned in verse 3.

Prayer Requests:

Our Family: Elliahana, our oldest child, is currently working through college applications. As parents, this is certainly a big milestone. Please pray for her and us as we work through this together and prepare for what the future holds.

Our Team: Our team will have a lot of changes coming up to begin in the summer of 2025. Please pray for those who will be here serving during that time. We are as ALWAYS in need of more workers for the ministry here. Please pray Matthew 9:37-38. Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Our PAACS team: Please pray for Josue Drafor who started at our hospital October 1, and Franck, from Cameroon, who is the second doctor to join us.



Bridal Shower for Emily Dice

March 22nd at 1 PM

Open House

Registered @knott.com



**Deacons
Called
To Serve**

DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
March 02	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
March 09	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Gary Watson
March 16	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
March 23	Steve Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh
March 30	Gary Watson	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
March 02	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
March 09	Melissa Spenner	Debbie Pugh
March 16	Susan Wieldt	Dina Reed
March 23	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour
March 30	Melissa Spenner	Lesa Morris



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

	Life Group	Worship
March 02	Janet Smith	Janet Smith
March 09	Barb Helpingstine	Dina Reed
March 16	Kristen McMahill	Nancy Stallard
March 23	Susan Salliotte	Wheat Collier
March 30	Kristen McMahill	Pat & Gary Hampton



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
March 02	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
March 09	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle
March 16	Ken Smith	Judy Bundy
March 23	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle
March 30	Paula's Class	Lynette Wiedle

MANOR AT SALEM WOODS - 441 HOTZE RD, SALEM:
Faye Wood #204

Centralia Manor - 1910 E McCord St.
Barbara Phillips #103

Heritage Woods—2049 E. McCord, Centralia
Carrie Roberts

Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.
Melody Webb



I want to thank everyone who had a part in making our Family Fun Night a success. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the event this year because I was with my Mom, who was in the hospital in Centralia, but I know everything was in good hands. Although the deacons plan this event, it takes the whole church to pull it off and make it a success. So, if you brought chili or soup, or made a dessert to share, helped with the drinks, set up and cleaned up, or watched the kids on the blow-ups, on behalf of all the deacons, I say THANK YOU.

We had some new families join us for Family Fun Night, and that is a good thing. Let's make sure to welcome them if they chose to visit and worship with us.

It is the time of year when many of our church family are dealing with the flu and various other health concerns. Many have had, or will soon be having surgeries, and we need to be checking on them, asking if they need anything, and praying for them. If there is someone in your immediate life group or Sunday School department that you know has a need, please pray for them daily and ask others to do the same. There is power in numbers and God hears all our prayers. Paul reminds us in Galatians Chapter 6 that we should be "doing good to all". Verses 9-10 say, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

With all of us doing our part and working together we can make our church a place that we can all be proud to say, "I belong to Salem First Baptist Church."

Blessings,
Dale Helpingstine
Chairman of the Deacons

TRUSTEE REPORT

There are always repairs and additional installations that must be done in a church building as old as ours. A flush valve was repaired in the men's downstairs restroom. I appreciate Mike Pugh taking care of this project. A motor for the air handler in the closet in Room 116 was replaced. The air handler takes care of heating or cooling, depending on the season of the year, for rooms 114, 115, 116, and Odds and Ends. A doorbell is being installed on the east door. The doorbell will ring in the kitchen/dining room and the office. This will allow someone to let you enter with food or a meeting in that area of the building. All of the outside doors are always locked (except on Sundays and Wednesday night) for security reasons, but the doorbell will allow you to notify someone in the kitchen/dining room that you need to enter that side of the building for some reason. Remember, all doors except the north and west door of the sanctuary are locked during Sunday morning worship services. Also, there are lights which will be installed by the stairs on the southeast corner of the sanctuary. Hopefully this will help people be more aware of the stairs. The concrete stop blocks were also realigned in all the parking lots. They get moved when cars hit them and/or when snow is removed. A loose railing going to the sanctuary balcony has also been repaired.

On Sunday, September 16, snow and ice were cleared near the doors. The decision was made not to scrape the parking lots with the thought that the snow on top of the ice would give more traction to walk on than if the snow was removed leaving a solid sheet of ice. Thank you for being careful. I was surprised at the end of the morning worship service to find that most of the snow and ice had melted on the parking lots.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees



March 02 Bring a Friend (Hot dogs, chili, & chips)

March 09 Kids On Missions (Chicken nuggets, chips and peaches)

March 16 Wear Green (Corn Dogs, chips, green punch & green cookies)

March 23 Baseball Team Wiffleball Night (Breakfast)

March 30 Wear Camo Nerf Game Night (Pizza, juice drinks, & cookies)
(Menu)

FAMILY FUN NIGHT



GLOW BOWLING YOUTH FUN!

hello, MARCH

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 5-7 PM Awana	3 9:30AM Women on Mission	4	5 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	6 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon	7	8
9 5-7 PM Awana	10 AHG/TL first mtg. of year 5:30PM	11	12 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	13	14	15
16 5-7 PM Awana	17	18	19 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 5-7 PM Awana	24 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	25	26 2PM Manor@Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	27	28	29
30 VBS lunch immediately after Morning Worship 5-7 PM Awana	31 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	“Being the Church in Salem and Beyond”				

Mary Kneemyer
Verna Piper
Jo Stallings
Ron King
Helen Jett
Patricia Crippen
Lynette Wiedle
Gerald Purcell
Sandy Hicks
Rose Ann Fulkerson
Barbara Wells

Mar 02
Mar 07
Mar 07
Mar 08
Mar 12
Mar 17
Mar 18
Mar 19
Mar 21
Mar 22
Mar 22



Steve Brubaker
Melody Webb
George Kruse
Susan Beasley
Miranda Dennis
Trinity Savin
Eric Dennis
Sharon Dennis
Bethany Quandt
Ivan Quandt

Mar 24
Mar 24
Mar 26
Mar 27
Mar 27
Mar 27
Mar 29
Mar 31
Mar 31
Mar 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.



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