

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be
praised. Proverbs 31:30

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Happy Mother's Day!

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church,

For some time now, I have heard and read several studies that reveal a common concern. It appears that, even though we are more connected as a culture than ever before, we are surprisingly lonely. Most people have a smart phone that enables them to keep up the latest news reports, sporting events and text or email others several times a day. Yet, all this connectivity doesn't result in closer relationships; in some cases (perhaps many cases) people are still lonely. Children, instead of going outside to play with their friends, are often sequestered away in their rooms with their electronic devices looking at words on a screen instead of talking with someone face-to-face. You may have seen this: a group of people, perhaps a family or a group of friends, are sitting at a table not speaking with each other but with heads banded staring at a screen. Somewhat humorous was a picture of a group of more than 50 teenagers walking from a class and everyone of them was staring at the phone's screen. The caption underneath the picture read: "The Living Dead."

Like it or not, the truth is that churches are not immune from this experience. Astonishingly, it is possible to attend a worship service, sing, pray, listen and still be lonely. There is a solution. One way to cure the epidemic of loneliness is Bible Study (Sunday School). Imagine with me the following. You come to a class with other believers and you all have a study book (quarterly) along with a Bible opened discussing and learning more about a passage of Scripture. In the process you learn of ways to apply the message of the text to your life. You can share prayer requests and pray for others, too. You can actually speak to others face-to-face.

(I digress but I wish to say something about your Bible. Smart phones give us instant access to many Bible translations and it is convenient because your phone is small and your Bible may be one more thing you must carry. However, holding a physical Bible in your hands, and finding a specific passage of Scripture, is a rewarding activity. Personally, this is my opinion, and you are free to disagree, holding a physical Bible and even marking in it or writing a note, is a good practice. This enables you to refer back to previous notes that you have written, in some cases, years before. It's popular today for pastors to preach using iPads instead of a hard-copy Bible. This is something that I'm not comfortable doing.)

Acts 2:42 offers an example that we are to follow. *42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.* One summer in seminary I took a class that taught church music with pastors in mind. Mr. Bulter (the professor) was part of the group putting together the 1991 Baptist Hymnal. There was one particular hymn that the theological committee disregarded that they argued should not be included. That hymn was "In the Garden." Why did the theological committee have a problem with this hymn? It was because it was too self-focused. Consider the chorus: .

And He walks with me
 And He talks with me
 And He tells me I am His own
 And the joy we share as we tarry there
 None other has ever known

The Bible doesn't teach that "it's me and Jesus because we have our own thing going." Read the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6. Notice the pronouns—we need each other!

Grace and peace,

Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

Think back to a time when you were exhausted and fatigued from a busy or stressful time in life. Probably one of the things you wanted to do the most was rest. While a perfectly normal response, sometimes that instinct makes us feel guilty. We think we do not deserve rest and need to keep pushing harder. What we fail to realize is that just as God has planned for us to have times of hard work He has also planned for us to have times of rest and renewal.

Have you ever wondered why we have a seven day week? It doesn't make sense from a purely natural perspective. Twenty-four hour days follow the time it takes for the earth to rotate once and months are found in the phases of the moon. But there is no natural basis for a seven day week. The reason we have one is because God ordained it during the week of creation. God worked hard for six days to create the universe and He rested on the seventh day. Exodus 20:10-11 informs us that this was not simply an idle choice by God but intended to be a specific example for His creation: "...The seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; on it you shall not do any work...For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day." God knew we would need rest after a long week of work so He made it law that we should take that rest. He knew we would push ourselves too far and end up hurting ourselves.

It may surprise you to know that Jesus took regular time for rest as well. You would think that given the urgent nature of His mission and the very limited time He would spend on earth that He would have no time for rest. However, he shows us just the opposite. After feeding the five thousand, He went off to pray alone on a mountainside. He went away with just His twelve disciples after a time of ministry that was incredibly busy. He even spent time alone in the Garden of Gethsemane right before He would be crucified. Following Jesus' example, we must be sure to take times of rest when they are needed. Otherwise we will grow to resent the work God has for us.

This especially applies to church ministry. For one example, we are coming out of a time of major continuous ministry with Awana. Why don't we run that all year? Because those involved need time to rest and recuperate for the next year. For the same reason, we do not immediately start Vacation Bible School right after Awana. These times of rest are great for reconnecting with God and spending more time in prayer and Biblical meditation on His Word.

Finally, it is important to ensure you are spending time of rest and leisure actually learning and improving yourself, especially in spiritual matters. No one is helped by time spent with their brain turned off. God gave you a brain so you could use it to think His thoughts after Him. When you take that time to relax and watch movies or read books, think about the messages they are telling you. Compare them to a Biblical worldview and see where they are in agreement with God and where they are found wanting. When you eventually return to work, you will be refreshed and maybe even full of new ideas to reach the culture for Christ.

Women on Mission/Library

We are a group of ladies who have a passion for helping those in need! Many times we are made aware of opportunities right around us in Salem. Recently, we consulted with the staff of Marion County Jail of a need which we could help concerning the release of women. Our women filled a light weight back pack with items that will be a huge help for these individuals as they are released. Among those items is a small New Testament with a gospel tract with the plan of salvation. Your tithes and offerings enable us to fulfill our SFBC vision statement "Being the Church in Salem and to the Nations".

We are thankful for the great response shown towards our Easter Offering. We exceeded our goal of \$5000!

This month we will have the opportunity to give toward our IL Baptist Mother's Day Offering. This offering is used to help in the ministries at Carmi Children's Home and Family Services. On Sunday, May 5th, Regina Thompson, Director of Grace Haven will be speaking during our morning worship.

Our suggested items for the month of May for Operation Christmas Child are small flashlights (with extra batteries) and reusable water bottles.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 6th at 9:30AM

Blessings, Karen



Women on Mission
Growing Closer To Christ



From twinkling tiaras to trinket boxes, bejeweled bookmarks to burlap totes, shimmer bugs to seed necklaces, glitter clay to gingerbread people, party hairbands to paper mâché, sparkle fish frame to snow globes, fancy flowers to finger puppets, pine cone animals to pomander balls, totem poles to tie-dying t-shirts, and from weeds to wreaths...

These are just a few of the topics that can keep your kids entertained for hours this summer. Check 'em out!

J 745.Wor What Shall We Do Today?

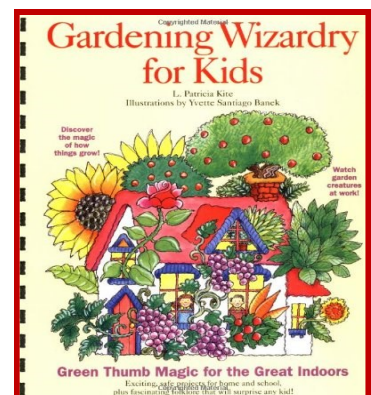
C 635 K Gardening Wizardry for Kids

J 745.5 Glitter and Sparkle

J 740 For 420 Handcrafts in Simple Steps

Happy Crafting,

Dina



Announcements/Poems

Save the Dates!

August 18-21st

Sunday—Wednesday



Evangelist
Sam Moore

Seven Steps to Stagnation

1. We've never done it that way before.
2. We're not ready for that.
3. We're doing all right without trying something new.
4. We've tried it once before.
5. We do not have the money for that.
6. That's not our job.
7. Something like that could never work.

(There is probably an eighth step, but we have



Thank God for Mother's Love

There is no love, like a mother's love,
no stronger bond on earth...
like the precious bond that comes from God,
to a mother, when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong,
never changing for all time...
and when her children need her most,
a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,
God bless them every one...
for all the tears and heartache,
and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,
a mother's love lives on...
through many generations,
with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,
for they love with a higher love...
from the power God has given,
and the strength from up above.

Author Unknown





DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
May 05	Mike Pugh	Ronnie Donoho	Tom Reed
May 12	Steve Smith	Dale Helpingstine	Dallas Bundy
May 19	Rick Meador	Jon Wieldt	Gary Watson
May 26	Gerald Purcell	Ken Smith	Greg Strother



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
May 05		
May 12		
May 19		
May 26		Family Worship—No Children's Church

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



May 05	Pat & Gray Hampton
May 12	Andrea Hays
May 19	Reha Lloyd
May 26	Annette Hardcastle



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
May 05	Ken Smith	Kathy King
May 12	Mark Tabor	Lynette Wiedle
May 19	Karen Watson	Judy Bundy
May 26	Mark Tabor	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

Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.
Melody Webb

Heritage Woods—2049 E. McCord, Centralia
Carrie Braden



For those who don't know, we are blessed with wonderful Sunday School/Life Groups teachers! Each week, they prepare the lesson on the topic covered in their age group's quarterlies or of their choice. Sunday School/Life Groups is a great way to learn more about and discuss various topics in God's word in a small setting; the fellowship before class starts is just a plus! We regulars need to watch for new faces and make sure to welcome visitors so they become regulars like us!

As an added incentive, a light breakfast is served at 8:30, with coffee ready at 8:00. All are welcome to come and enjoy a time of fellowship before Sunday School begins at 9:30. Wouldn't it be great if Tonya had to begin bringing more doughnuts and Debbie and Mary Lois needed to prepare more fruit & bagels with the orange juice, chocolate and white milks?!? (I'm sure Tonya picks up ONLY diet doughnuts!! At least that's what I tell Dina)

See you there!

Tom

I'M COMMITTED TO

Learning
Involving
Fellowshipping
Evanglizing

GROUPS

Meet every Sunday Morning @ 9:30
 Come and bring a friend!



**GOD'S ROCK-SOLID TRUTH IN A
 WORLD OF SHIFTING SANDS**
ROMANS 12:2

SAVE THE DATES!

JULY 7-10TH

UBS 2024

STAY TUNED FOR

MORE INFO.





WEE LEARN & PLAY CLASS OF 2024



May 2024

Date	Verses	Date	Verses
05/01/24	1 Chronicles 6	05/17/24	2 Chronicles 28-31
05/02/24	1 Chronicles 7-8	05/18/24	2 Chronicles 32-34
05/03/24	1 Chronicles 9-11	05/19/24	2 Chronicles 35-36
05/04/24	1 Chronicles 12-14	05/20/24	Ezra 1-3
05/05/24	1 Chronicles 15-17	05/21/24	Ezra 4-7
05/06/24	1 Chronicles 18-21	05/22/24	Ezra 8-10
05/07/24	1 Chronicles 22-24	05/23/24	Nehemiah 1-3
05/08/24	1 Chronicles 25-27	05/24/24	Nehemiah 4-6
05/09/24	1 Chron 28-2 Chron 1	05/25/24	Nehemiah 7
05/10/24	2 Chronicles 2-5	05/26/24	Nehemiah 8-9
05/11/24	2 Chronicles 6-8	05/27/24	Nehemiah 10-11
05/12/24	2 Chronicles 9-12	05/28/24	Nehemiah 12-13
05/13/24	2 Chronicles 13-17	05/29/24	Esther 1-5
05/14/24	2 Chronicles 18-20	05/30/24	Esther 6-10
05/15/24	2 Chronicles 21-24	05/31/24	Job 1-4
05/16/24	2 Chronicles 25-27		

Thank You!



**APPRECIATION DINNER
FOR AWANA VOLUNTEERS**
May, 5th at 5pm



MAY

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“Being the Church in Salem and to the nations”</p>			<p>1 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 Fellowship Luncheon 11:30AM Wee Learn & Play Graduation @ 6:30PM</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
			<p>5 Guest Regina Thompson 5PM Awana Appreciation Dinner</p>	<p>6 Prayer Meeting 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM AHG/TL 5:30PM</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 5:30 Youth Table Painting 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.</p>
<p>12 Youth Bowling 5-7PM 6PM Church Council</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 Throwback Thursday 6-8PM</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 AHG Mother Grandmother Daughter Tea Party 2PM</p>
<p>19 Lord's Supper</p>	<p>20 AHG/TL 5:30PM</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 2 PM Manor @ Salem Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 5:30-8PM Youth Girl's Night</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

Tara DeWitt
Kathy King
Aaron Watson
Blaire Longman
Wanda Keele
Mark Tabor
Calvin Albert
Katie Shelton
Anthony Kerr
Andrew Howard
Beulah Lupkey
Lauren Purcell

May 01
May 02
May 02
May 04
May 07
May 07
May 08
May 11
May 14
May 17
May 18
May 18



Dorothy Schaubert
TJ Thompson
Sharon Campbell
Joshua DeWitt
Shirley Garden
Johnny Powell
Bradley Oziemkiewicz
Langdon Collins
Neva Isett
Dustin Becker
Bonnie Becker

May 18
May 18
May 19
May 20
May 21
May 21
May 22
May 27
May 29
May 30
May 30



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060
Website: Salemfbcc.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
TO THE NATIONS”**



Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 to 4:00

Closed 12:00 to 1:00

for lunch

Friday 9:00—12:00

Wednesday Evening

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

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