

**“Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

**Psalm 46:10**

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

It is true that there are people that have the “gift” of evangelism. It seems that once this person begins talking with a lost person, it mere moments that lost person is ready to repent and turn the Jesus—to be saved! Others of us can’t claim this kind of experience.

If you are like me and don’t seem to have the “gift” of evangelism, we’re not off the hook. We are still to “do the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5). Our task is to be faithful; not necessarily fruitful. Because of our apprehension in “doing the work of an evangelist,” that is, talking with others about Jesus and what He did (1 Corinthians 1`5:3-4), we are vulnerable to satanic oppression. Paul, the Apostle, warns us “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Ephesians 6:10-11) There are schemes or methods that the devil uses that will keep us from being a witness for the Lord Jesus. Among these schemes are his whispers:

- You sinned again? Why would God ever want to use you to reach others?
- Look at how distracted and unorganized you are – God needs someone who “has it together”
- You have no right to share the gospel. Look at your sin. You are nothing more than a hypocrite! (“Spiritual Warfare and Evangelism: Three Methods of Satan,” Evan Tell)

If these don’t seem to be effective, Satan will continue to offer these:

- Of course, you should share the gospel – but later
- This isn’t the kind of person that would say “yes” to Jesus. It’s safer to stay quiet.
- God has ordained professionals for evangelism. He doesn’t want you to mess this up.
- You already do so many good things – how much does God expect from you? (“Spiritual Warfare and Evangelism: Three Methods of Satan,” Evan Tell)

And there are these:

- Remember when they made fun of you for your faith? They’ll do that every time.
- You can’t think about sharing the gospel – look at your financial problems!
- Today is not a good day for ministry – you’re just too tired (“Spiritual Warfare and Evangelism: Three Methods of Satan,” Evan Tell)

But, in response to the devil’s methods, remember what Jesus said: “*In the world you shall have much trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33).

Grace and peace,

Andy

## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

We live in an era that is unprecedented in human history. If you look back a hundred years you can see an incredible jump in technology. In 1923, one of the first traffic signals was created, the self-winding watch was invented, and most incredibly the first television was created using the cathode-ray tube. To think that in a mere century the television would turn into an extremely thin piece of tech with colors almost as vibrant as the real world. Never before in history had technology leaped forward so much in such a short period of time. And of course, it did not stop with the television. In just a hundred years every method of communication we used radically changed. Most conversations even over long distances are now instantaneous. There are great benefits to this and great potential pitfalls.

As Christians it is paramount for us to know how to approach technology in our time. We are not called to forego all technology like the Amish but we are told to use what God has given us as we go about "...making the most of your time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:16. The first thing we can do is to evaluate how we are spending our time on technology. Are we just idling and passively absorbing what we are watching and reading or are we actively mentally engaging with the content that we are consuming? God does not want us to be merely "amused" (which in Greek can literally mean "not thinking") but to be examining the worldview of what is being presented to us. The media has an incredible influence over all age groups today with most people blindly accepting whatever they see and hear.

We also need to be aware of the outright dangers of modern technology. AI is becoming more and more a part of our daily life and we don't even realize it. Take a look at this quote regarding AI in Christian publications: "In the realm of publication, the emergence of Artificial Intelligence presents both promising possibilities and potential perils for our Christian community. While AI can streamline content creation and dissemination, we must be vigilant about its potential dangers. The impersonal nature of AI-generated content might dilute the sincerity and spiritual depth that our publications strive to convey." Pretty great quote, right? Well, that quote itself was written by ChatGPT after I asked it specifically to write a paragraph about the dangers of AI. The day is here where anything online you read has the potential to have been written by an AI. You will probably see even sermons being written by AI before too long.

How should Christians respond? Not with fear, as, "God gave us not a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7)." But as Jesus commanded we need to be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves. We need to use what we can from technology to reach a dying world for Jesus. Using Facebook for events is a great way to put the word out in the community when we have something coming up. Sharing photos of church activities is a great way to show people what goes on inside our church family. Learning to think critically about what we read and watch is a great way to ensure we are not led astray. It's a crazy world out there but God is with us through it all.

In Christ, Christopher Spenner

## Women on Mission/Library

### *Women On Mission*

*Due to Labor Day weekend, our next meeting will be Monday September 11th the ladies are planning a road trip to MT. Vernon to tour our Illinois Baptist Pregnancy Centers. We need to be more aware of how our tithes and offerings minister to ladies seeking counseling and love concerning their pregnancy. We will be sharing more details about this mission trip as soon as possible.*

*Operation Christmas Child items for September are: jump ropes, small musical instruments, toys with lights and small games. September is also our Illinois Baptist State Offering which assists in planting new churches and assisting healthy churches to grow. This years goal is \$2,000.*

*Blessings,  
Karen*



We have different books with Bible quizzes on the shelves in the library. I thought it would be fun to share a quiz with you this month! Hope you enjoy them! Answers will be in next month's article. Here we go!

1. In what country did the Queen of Sheba live?
2. In what country did Noah's ark land?
3. What country asked Paul to "come over and help us"?
4. In what land did Moses spend forty years in preparation for his life's work?
5. In what country was Tarshish, where Phoenicians went for tin?
6. What part of Egypt did Pharaoh give to Joseph's relatives?
7. In what country was the great city of Damascus?
8. What name was given to the district through which Paul traveled on his second missionary journey?
9. After the flood, what great country did Ham and his descendants occupy?
10. Give three names for the land to which the children of Israel returned.

See answers next month in the Family News or come check out our Bible quizzes section in the library!

Pastor Andy has been teaching/preparing us to witness to the lost. These books are excellent aids and are in our library! Check them out! Ray Comfort's The Way of the Master 248.5 C, Al-drich's Gentle Persuasion 248.5 A, and Kramp's Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes 248.5 K.

Happy Reading, Dina

## Announcements/Thank You

Welcome to Henry Jack Probin born August 14 2023 weighing 8lb 6oz, 21.5"  
 Son of Amy Helpingstine Probin and Jamie Probin. Grandparents Dale and Barb Helpingstine. Congratulations!



Welcome to Shawna Sue McDanel born August 14, 2023 weighing 6lbs 8ozs, 19.3/4"  
 daughter of Jeff & Shawnee McDanel, sister of Lizzy McDanel, grandparents Steve & Linda Thompson, great grandparents Jack & Darlene Page. Congratulations!



### Heaven Bound By Carrie Braden

Looking for the day I will be heaven bound.  
 I will be at peace at last.  
 To be with loved ones already gone.  
 No more sickness, and no more tears.  
 I'll be with Jesus one day soon.  
 Glory Hallelujah some day soon  
 I'll be heaven bound.

### On Holy Ground

On holy ground  
 I seek your face  
 No greater place  
 For me to be  
 Please take my hand and walk with me  
 To live with you eternally  
 My goal I will have reached  
 My prayers answered  
 On holy ground  
 Each day I seek your presence in my life  
 Each day you fill my heart  
 With your love and tender care  
 Assuring me of so much more to come  
 I stand with you on holy ground  
 By: Bev Smith



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
September 03	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
September 10	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Myron Lloyd
September 17	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
September 24	Steve Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
September 03	Deanna Buerster	Animal Safari—Lion
September 10	Deanna Buerster	Animal Safari—Zebra
September 17	Deanna Buerster	Animal Safari—Tiger
September 24	Deanna Buerster	Family Worship—No Children's Church



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve)	
September 03	Andrea Hays
September 10	Reha Lloyd
September 17	Annette Hardcastle
September 24	Sheri Peradotti



Due to covid, the Nursing Home is on lock down. We will contact you when we can resume our services. Thank you.

DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
September 03	Ken Smith	Kathy King
September 10	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle
September 17	Bev Smith	Judy Bundy
September 24	Karen Watson	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



## Think of Yesterday—Pray For Tomorrow

We all have memories: good ones and/or questionable ones. But in our memories we must remember that hope is a great part of looking forward to tomorrow or our next challenges. It's very encouraging that the Lord knows where we have been and where we are going.

We were viewing a home area junior college baseball game a few years back. We questioned why the home team coach left the starting pitcher in after allowing 15 runs in the first 2 innings, 15 to 2 at the end of 2 innings. So, the game progressed to a score of 22 to 8 after 7 1/2 innings. Being a long game now, many of the fans had left. In that bottom of the 8th inning, the home team scored 16 runs, batting through the line-up twice. The home team won 24 to 22 in the 9th inning game (over a 4 hour game). I research and study baseball. From that time on, I don't give up on this junior college team—no matter what the score.

When we realize where all good gifts and blessings come from, we live with thankfulness. Joy & peace come from a grateful heart, not our circumstances. (Col. 1:12)

Blessings be to all  
from the Father,  
Deacon Greg



## New Vision Statement

(adopted August 20, 2023)

### **“Being the Church in Salem and to the nations”**

#### Core values:

- Devotion to the Bible's Instruction
- Devotion to Fellowship
- Devotion to “breaking of bread”?
- Devotion to prayers (Acts 2:42)

#### Strategies:

- Evangelism (Matthew 28:16-20)
- Disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)
- Fellowship (Acts 2:42)
- Ministry (Acts 4:32-37; Acts 6:1-6)
- Worship (Acts 2:46-47)



September 17 . . . Registration  
1st Club Night  
September 24 . . . Regular Club

Sundays 5:00—7:00PM  
Come join the fun!



2023 Throwback Thursday Cruise Nights

Celebrating All Types of Classic Cars and Trucks

Salem  
First Baptist Church  
721 West Main St.  
Salem, IL

Sept.  
21th

RAIN  
CANCELS

Times: 6:00-8:00 PM



CELEBRATING  
BARBARA PHILLIPS'  
90TH BIRTHDAY  
SAT., SEPT. 30TH  
FROM 2-4PM @ SFBC  
EVERYONE WELCOME!





KASKASKIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
Bible Conference & Annual Meeting  
September 9th  
Bible Conference 9AM-Noon  
Speaker: Rev. Brian Croft,  
Practical Shepherding  
Annual Meeting 1-3:30PM  
RESTORATION: HE RESTORES MY SOUL



# SEPTEMBER



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
3 5PM Church Council Mtg.	4 Church Office Closed for Labor Day	5	6 First Day of Wee Learn & Play 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal	7 Orientation/book pick up for WBS 9am & 6PM	8	9 Kaskaskia Baptist Association Annual Mtg. 9AM-3:30PM
10	11 Women on Mission 9:30AM American Heritage Girls 5:30-7:30PM	12	13 5PM "Sparks" Leader Mtg. 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg	14 WBS 9-11am & 6-8PM	15	16
17 5PM Registration/ Awana Club	18	19	20 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal	21 WBS 9-11am & 6-8PM Throwback Thursday Cruise-In 6-8PM	22	23 <i>Happy fall y'all</i> 
24 5PM—Awana Club	25 American Heritage Girls 5:30-7:30PM	26	27 2PM Manor @ Salem Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal	28 WBS 9-11am & 6-8PM	29	30 Barbara Phillips 90th Birthday Party 2-4PM In the Fellowship Hall/

Jeannine Richards  
Narissa Sum  
Kelly Wood  
Donald Austin  
Joel Buerster  
Carla Petty  
Mike Watson  
Troy Keele  
Lois Dodson-Nattier  
Debbie Pugh  
Abigail Dice  
June Lowry  
Amanda Shockley  
Dallas Bundy

September 04  
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September 12  
September 12  
September 12  
September 13  
September 14  
September 14  
September 15



Amanda Hanes  
Chloe Oziemkiewicz  
Mary Anne Rollinson  
Keaton See  
Carl Spence  
Darren Becker  
Sheri Peradotti  
Jack Woods  
Brian Piper  
Brylee Hanes  
Vernon Wiedle  
Twila Kincaid  
Carson Smith  
Barbara Phillips

September 16  
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September 26  
September 28  
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September 29



**SALEM**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060  
 Fax: 618-548-6039  
 Website: Salemfbcc.com  
 Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church



*OUR VISION*  
*"BEING THE CHURCH IN SALEM*  
*TO THE NATIONS"*

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**

**Wednesday Evening**

4:45 PM Women’s Chronological Bible Study  
 5:30—6PM Media Center Open  
 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study  
 Youth Bible Study  
 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  
 6:00 PM Evangelism Made a Little Less Difficult