



**“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”  
Isaiah 40:8**

## 721 West Main

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church,

Our revival services ended last night (as I write this). Thank you to the Praise Team for leading us so well in singing. Your joy in singing enabled us, the congregation, to enter into your joy as we sang along. Stephen Brubaker led the music with joy, competence, and the harmonica added an uniqueness to our worship times. Sam, even though we have heard him before, seem to have a special anointing, or as those of yesteryear would say, unction in his messages in both content and delivery.

As good as the above is, it does not compare with the response. Many people prayed for themselves, others, and for people and issues close to their hearts. And eight people were saved and possibly a ninth. This may be a bit of positive information: seven of those saved are under the age of 15. This fact is important! By the time you read this, baptisms will have begun. I will have preached a sermon on the importance of reaching children with the Gospel. With this in mind, consider the following information.

- 63% of converts to Christianity is before 14 years old, the median age being 11.
- 34% became Christian between ages 15-29.
- According to this study, 97% of individuals become a Christian before the age of 30.

Read this information again. Do you see it? The greatest mission field is children. Jesus said of children. <sup>13</sup> *Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people,* <sup>14</sup> *but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."* <sup>15</sup> *And he laid his hands on them and went away.* (Matthew 19:13-15, ESV)

And He also said:<sup>4</sup> *Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* <sup>5</sup> *Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.* (Matthew 18:4-6, ESV)

This doesn't mean that older people are not important—we know that they are. But for some reason, the older a person becomes the less likely that he/she will trust the Lord Jesus as savior.

This is certainly something to think and pray about.

Grace and peace,  
Andy

## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

It's once again the time of year when kids head back to school. We hope that when they complete their school year they will have all sorts of knowledge and new skills that they can use in their lives. We hope that they will be taught well and that they will learn their lessons. Are we also concerned with the lessons they are learning when they come to church? Are we prepared to teach them about the spiritual truths that really matter?

Studies have shown that most people become Christians before the age of thirty. They also show that most Christians have decided whether or not they will stay in church when they get older by the time they are finishing their teenage years. One of the main reasons given for their not staying in church is that they do not get sufficient answers to life's most difficult questions, answers that the secular world is all too happy to give them. When you combine the first two statistics together, you get a complete picture of a generation that desperately needs to hear the Gospel and that needs to be trained in God's ways. So how do we ensure they are being taught well?

The first step that needs to be taken is getting involved. The next generation will not be reached if we do not take the time to interact with them. The adage, "people don't care what you know until they know that you care" has never been more true than it is today. Young people today want to experience something authentic, and they will not want to come if they sense an ulterior motive. Our outreach to young people needs to be motivated solely by care for their souls which are precious to God. Get involved today with children's ministry in some way, even if it's small.

The second step is to educate yourself. As mentioned before, one major reason given by young people who left the church was that they did not receive sufficient answers to their deep spiritual questions. The illusion is that these questions are actually difficult to answer in a satisfying way. In reality, just a small amount of reading can train you to answer these seemingly difficult questions. One example is a child who asks why bad things happen to good people. A very simple answer to this is that we live in a world that is tainted by sin because of Adam and Eve. This kind of answer does not require years of dedicated study to remember. Everyone in the church should be equipped with an arsenal of these basic answers.

The third step is to invite them to hear the Gospel. The world today is incredibly busy. It can be hard for families to make it to church due to increased working hours. This is part of why we try to have services at different times throughout the week. Someone who can't make it consistently on Sunday morning may be able to make it on Wednesday evening. But never stop inviting them. You never know when they may be free.

As children go back to school, they will be inundated every day with the beliefs of secularism. Many of them will be intentionally kept from hearing the Gospel. We must be more and more vigilant to get the Gospel to them. Pray about how God would have you work to reach the next generation and respond to His guiding. God has a way for you to serve His kingdom.

## Women on Mission/Library

Our monthly meetings resumed on August 5th with a productive time of fellowship, prayer and discussing future plans to "Be the Church in Salem and the Nations".

During the project time, 16 backpacks were filled with school supplies and delivered to Hawthorn School. Also, some of the ladies prepared items that will be used for filling Operation Christmas Child Boxes during the church wide Packing Party in October. Items for the month of September are small games and jump ropes. A table in the main hallway is provided for donated items.

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday, September 9th due to Labor Day being on the first Monday.

Our Illinois State Offering emphasis will be during the month of September and our church goal is \$2,500.

Blessings, Karen



This month's highlighted book is We Will Not Be Silenced by Erwin W. Lutzer.

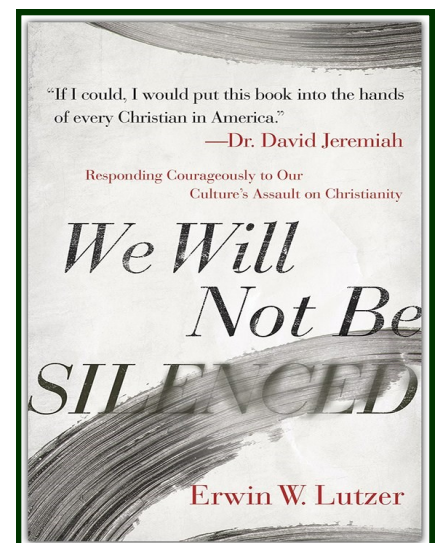
Dr. David Jeremiah says, "If I could, I would put this book into the hands of every Christian in America." As the title implies, there is a population that others would like to keep quiet...and it is US! Every day, our country slips further from its Christian values, and we hear of Christians who stand for their convictions facing condemnation.

Dr. Lutzer encourages us to stand firm in our faith and show compassion to those around us without affirming their beliefs that are not scriptural. We must respond courageously as our Christian values are assaulted; Dr. Lutzer wants to help us do exactly that.

The call number is 248 Lut.

Happy Reading,

Dina



## Announcements/Thank You

**Soon Sarah Dice will become a Mrs.,  
We would like to surround her with our love and  
good wishes!!  
She feels like their first home needs are met, So:  
To save you looking, shopping and wrapping Here's  
an idea we hope you'll like trying.**

**A card Blessing Box we thought would be great, If  
you'd like to participate, With a gift card placed in  
the Box for some later date, And sealed with a  
blessing and prayer for Sarah and Quentin.**

(The Blessing box will be in the Church office

"Awesome And Endless"

So it is my Lord, Your love for me,  
Life's dream, all in knowing You.

Awesome and endless!

How very blest I am  
Calling to You at any moment

You are with me, no hesitation

Always awesome and endless, no  
deviation

One day, to gaze into Your eyes

Your love for me, defined on a  
cross

I am awaiting my earthly goal,

To live eternally with You

Heart to heart!

Written by  
Bev Smith

**WE RAISED \$1300.69 FOR  
PREGNANCY CARE CLINIC  
FUNDRAISER!  
THANKS!**

**A little change –  
CHANGES LIVES!**



volunteer with  
**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**



**See**

**Melissa Spenner!**



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



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
September 01	Melissa Spenner	Debbie Pugh
September 08	Susan Wieldt	Dina Reed
September 15	Melissa Spenner	Deric Dodd
September 22	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour
September 29	Melissa Spenner	



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

September 01	Paula Strother
September 08	Wheat Collier
September 15	Pat & Gary Hampton
September 22	Andrea Hays
September 29	Reha Lloyd



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
September 01	Ken Smith	Kathy King
September 08	Mark Tabor	Lynette Wiedle
September 15	Karen Watson	Judy Bundy
September 22	Mark Tabor	Lynette Wiedle
September 29	Mike & Angela Brooks	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



The summer months have been busy with several seasonal “to do” lists that are to be expected...and some, not expected, however, thankfully nothing major.

Early in the summer season, the Trustees held a workday for Spring/Summer cleaning and a clearing out with the educational building. Many areas were cleared of expected clutter that builds up throughout the year. Our facility is well used and clutter and “the such” are part of that equation. Several windows were cracked or broken, the heating/air conditioning needed attention...some did come as a surprise; however, with the help and of several of our members namely Dallas Bundy, Mike Pugh, Gary Watson, and Tom Reed who are trained in those areas, it was noticed and repaired immediately. Pastor Andy, Ronnie Donoho and myself pitched in where help was needed. There are still several things to attend to that will help prevent it from happening again.

Elevators/lifts have been inspected, and we are again certified to use them. A required inspection will be taken care of in the next few weeks as necessary for the insurance company’s rules.

A big part of seasonal cleaning was handled by Dave’s Carpet Cleaning who did a remarkable job cleaning the educational building class rooms and church office. There again, several surprises of how professional carpet cleaning reacts to self-cleaning; however, it all took care of itself and we begin the next year with clean floors and carpeting. One request from the Trustees involves self-cleaning machines and too much soap. We asked that before you attempt to help in the area, please notify the Trustees. It’s imperative that we are notified before self-cleaning begins.

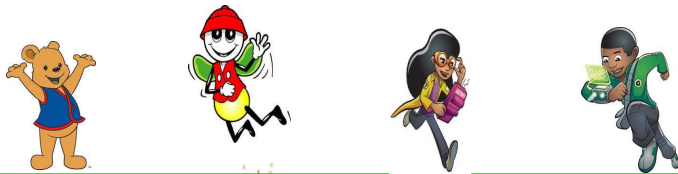
That brings up another bit of important information. The Trustees request that no drinks or food, other than water be taken into the sanctuary. We understand water is a necessity for many with health concerns. Other than water, we asked that soda, coffee, food, etc. not be taken into the sanctuary for reasons that speak for themselves. Should something spill, please clean it up before it has a chance to dry and stain. The carpet in the sanctuary was badly soiled from spills. A couple of our Trustees put in several hours of spot cleaning prior the carpet cleaner’s work.

Another item of great importance is the **security and safety** of all in attendance at First Baptist church. The Security Team works very hard to provide a safe environment in order to assure safety of our members and guests. They have recently attended a security forum along with Pastor Andy. Our first change among several yet to take place involves the glass entrances. They include the East parking lot doors, the Office entrance and the South nursery entrance. **They have been rekeyed.** The responsibilities that require a key have been distributed to those individuals. There will now only be two keys available to others at large **that must be signed out at the church office and returned at the end of the function.** The security levels are in some way uncomfortable even for me; it’s where we find ourselves in today’s society. Within a few months the security measures will become the “norm” and we will all make the adjustment as we understand, realistically, the need. The Trustees appreciate all the Security Team has done to work with us relying on their knowledge and expertise. Please encourage them by understanding our safety concerns.

In closing, the Trustees decided at our last meeting to collect together several of the historic pieces of our membership that have survived since its organization on November 9, 1837. They are being cleaned/restored, researched and archived and will be pictured and discussed in October’s Family Newsletter. The original pulpit originating at Shurleff College in Alton and the original communion table have been restored by a couple of our members, and placed within our facility, a testament to John Mason Peck, Mary Putnam Rand Lemen, W.F. Boyakin and Nathan Arnot along with many other pioneers that felt God calling them to do a remarkable work of faith in the earliest days of Salem’s beginning. Dr. James M. Baldwin, a former pastor began his book, “Captured By The Cause” with these words, *“Nothing that happened in the past is dead to those who desire to know how things came to be.”* With that, we moved forward to what God will be asking of us in service in the coming months. It’s a pleasure to serve God and our church members as a Trustee. Thank you for your understanding and encouragement.



September 22 . . . . . Registration/First Night  
 September 29 . . . . .



**YOU DON'T NEED TO TRAVEL THE WORLD TO REACH THE LOST.**

Over **8 million** people have no relationship with Jesus.

More than **1.8 million** immigrants from **50+ countries** live here.

There are **10 counties** without an IBSA church.

About a third of Illinois Baptist churches now give an average of \$1,000 through the Mission Illinois Offering.

**What could we do if we all joined in?**

Visit [MISSIONILLINOIS.org](http://MISSIONILLINOIS.org) to learn how you can help!



September 2024

Date	Verses	Date	Verses
09/01/24	Ezekiel 13-15	09/17/24	Daniel 10-12
09/02/24	Ezekiel 16-17	09/18/24	Hosea 1-7
09/03/24	Ezekiel 18-20	09/19/24	Hosea 8-14
09/04/24	Ezekiel 21-22	09/20/24	Joel
09/05/24	Ezekiel 23-24	09/21/24	Amos 1-5
09/06/24	Ezekiel 25-27	09/22/24	Amos 6-9
09/07/24	Ezekiel 28-30	09/23/24	Obadiah-Jonah
09/08/24	Ezekiel 31-33	09/24/24	Micah 1-7
09/09/24	Ezekiel 34-36	09/25/24	Nahum 1-3
09/10/24	Ezekiel 37-39	09/26/24	Habakkuk-Zephaniah
09/11/24	Ezekiel 40-42	09/27/24	Haggai 1-2
09/12/24	Ezekiel 43-45	09/28/24	Zechariah 1-7
09/13/24	Ezekiel 46-48	09/29/24	Zechariah 8-14
09/14/24	Daniel 1-3	09/30/24	Malachi 1-4
09/15/24	Daniel 4-6		
09/16/24	Daniel 7-9		

## 2024 Throwback Thursday



Dates

- May 16<sup>th</sup>
- June 20<sup>th</sup>
- July 18<sup>th</sup>
- Aug 22<sup>th</sup>
- Sept 19<sup>th</sup>



Times: 6:00-8:00 PM

*"Celebrating all classic cars and trucks"*




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.*

# SEPTEMBER



**2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2  Office Closed	3	4 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	5 9AM/6PM Precept Orientation/Book Pick up 11:30 Fellowship Luncheon	6	7
8	9 Women on Mission 9:30AM  AHG/TL 5:30PM	10	11 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	12 9AM/ 6PM Precept Bible Study	13	14
15	16	17	18 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	19 9AM/ 6PM Precept Bible Study Throwback Thursday 6-8PM	20 Fall Fest 4-7PM	21 AHG/TLB Parking Lot 9- 3PM
22 5-7 PM Awana	23	24	25 2 PM Manor @ Salem Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Praise Team Rehearsal	26 9AM/ 6PM Precept Bible Study	27	28
29 5-7 PM Awana	30 AHG/TL 5:30PM	<h2>“Being the Church in Salem and to the Nations”</h2>				

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

- Sept. 04
- Sept. 05
- Sept. 07
- Sept. 07
- Sept. 08
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- Sept. 08
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- Sept. 08
- Sept. 09
- Sept. 12
- Sept. 12
- Sept. 13
- Sept. 14
- Sept. 15
- Sept. 16



- Amanda Hanes
- Chloe Oziemkiewicz
- Mary Anne Rollinson
- Daniel Jr. Luttrell
- Keaton See
- Carl Spence
- Darren Becker
- Sheri Peradotti
- Brian Piper
- Brylee Hanes
- Vernon Wiedle
- Twila Kincaid
- Lesa Morris
- Carson Smith
- Barbara Phillips

- Sept. 16
- Sept. 16
- Sept. 19
- Sept. 20
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- Sept. 25
- Sept. 26
- Sept. 26
- Sept. 28
- Sept. 28
- Sept. 28



**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  
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  
6:00 PM Behold your God: Rethinking God Biblically  
5:00 PM AWANA (starting 9/22)