



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

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 46 Issue 9

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721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

ALL THINGS
are possible
with God

MARK 10:27

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church,

This summer we undertook a journey following David, Israel's shepherd. I find great encouragement in reflecting on his life, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). Though his journey was filled with triumphs and failures, his story offers us timeless lessons that can guide our own walk with the Lord. Among the lessons that we can learn from David and his experiences, there are three I wish to highlight.

1. God Looks at the Heart

When Samuel was sent to anoint Israel's next king, he was tempted to choose based on outward appearance. Yet God reminded him, *"Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7). David's humble heart, not his stature, positioned him for God's calling. This reminds us that what matters most is not how the world sees us, but how our hearts align with God. Those things that catch the world's notice are not the traits that receive God's attention.

2. Trust in God's Power, Not Our Own

When David faced Goliath, he did not rely on armor, strength, or skill, but on the name of the Lord (1 Samuel 17:45). His victory was a testimony that God's power is greater than any obstacle we face. In our own battles—whether sickness, financial strain, or spiritual warfare—we are called to place our trust in the Lord who fights for us. Although the last sentence suggests ways that God can help us in times of need, there is one more biblical connection that is essential: the event of David killing Goliath is fascinating; however, it is a type of the Lord Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the power of the evil one.

3. Repentance Brings Restoration

Though David sinned greatly, he also modeled deep repentance. In Psalm 51, we hear his cry: *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."* David's life reminds us that no failure is final when we turn to God in humility. Forgiveness and restoration are always available through His mercy and His mercy is available through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is true that the victory in Jesus is the reality that sets us free.

As we reflect on David's life, may we examine our own hearts, lean fully on God's power, and walk in the freedom of His forgiveness. My prayer is that each of us would pursue God with the same passion David had, that we too might be called people after God's own heart.

Grace and peace,
Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

One of the most important things a Christian can do is to be in God's Word. However, we can often find that many passages in the Bible are hard to understand, or difficult to find out why they are even in the Bible at all. When we approach passages like this, we need to take time with them, rather than simply dismiss them out of hand. This is especially important when it comes to the many narratives in the Bible.

The Bible is often referred to as an instruction book for how we ought to live, but that does not quite capture what this incredible book really is. The Bible is a collection of sixty-six unique books written by about forty different authors over a period of nearly two thousand years. Simply put, there is nothing else like it. Words written thousands of years before you were born still have the ability to impact your heart today.

This is important when we look at the style of several Old Testament accounts. They are written as powerful narratives. Now this means that many have referred to these accounts as "Bible Stories" but to call them that is to undermine their true nature. A simple story is usually untrue but carries a lesson to be learned. The accounts of the Bible really happened to real people. However, the authors wanted to accentuate certain parts of these accounts by writing them down as narratives. In the same way, you might tell someone about something that happened to you, but frame it as a story to keep their interest, rather than explain every single tiny detail.

So when we look at the Bible, we need to look at it from a narrative angle as well. Why is each book framed the way that it is? Why is a particular event recorded at all? Who are the main characters and do their goals align with God's will or not? What can we learn from their successes and what can we learn from their failures? When we approach the Bible and ask these questions, we get so much more out of it than if we were simply reading a list of facts or instructions. Sometimes we learn much more from someone's failure than from their success.

One final point about the Bible is that we need to take the time to make sure we really understand what we are reading, rather than trying to just read a certain amount to get by. This is especially important when speaking to younger Christians. In Awana, we work with children to memorize Scripture. Often, even older kids will memorize a verse but have no idea what it means. We need to take time so that the Bible is not only in our heads but impacting our hearts. Sometimes that means taking extra time with either ourselves or a child to make sure the real meaning is comprehended.

Women on Mission/Library

Due to Labor Day falling on the first Monday of September, Women On Mission will be meeting Monday, September 8th at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be sorting and preparing our Operation Christmas Child items for our Packing Party in October. This will be a big project and need many ladies to assist in this preparation also, assembling the boxes which will be needed to distribute to our church family.

Small games and jump ropes are the items requested for Operation Christmas Child in the month of September.

September will be our Mission Illinois State Offering Emphasis, our goal this year is \$2500.00. Over 8 million people in our state need to experience new life through Jesus. Our SFBC family can help make this happen with our prayers and offerings.

Blessings,

Karen



Instead of a book this month, I am going to entice you into the library with beautiful scenes photographed by Dick Freeman's daughter, Melissa Dawn Hix. Her photographic skills capture amazing views of nature. It isn't easy to make one feel as though they are part of the photograph, but Melissa succeeds in doing just that! We have her permission to share her talent and God's handiwork. It's hard to pick a favorite, but you can try!

Of course, while you are visiting, I am in hopes that you will find a book that you would like to read. Last month's speaker's (Rob Phillips) books are on the table just inside the library door. I am making more room on the north shelves because the number of our kids' books continues to grow! There are a lot of nonfiction topics covered, as well as fiction books for them to search through. We have a lot of board books for babies, too. It's never too early to teach them to love books. Please check them out!

Mr. Freeman, please tell Melissa thank you for sharing and that we look forward to seeing more of her work!

Happy Fall,

Dina



MISSION MOMENT

Prayer requests for our missionary families:

Benji and Kerri Dryden appreciate our prayers as they continue to look for a home around Chattanooga, TN. He will be flying to Haiti soon. Please pray for his safety while he is there as well as his return home.

Jeremy and Amanda Tyler are traveling across the country visiting their supporting churches and speaking to new ones until they return to Brazil in October. Please pray for safety, stamina and health in their travels.

We enjoyed hearing from Steven and Kelli Shaddox during our Wednesday evening service! The "soil" is hard where they serve with their daughters, Kaci and Selah. Steven asked us to pray for good "soil" and hearts that will receive the message of Jesus Christ. He asked that we pray for their endurance and for fruit from their labor. Kelli requested prayer for rest, health and safety while they visit churches in 8 states until they return to the Czech Republic in early January.

Bryce and Natasha Nattier's oldest daughter, Elliahna, just started college at Anderson University in South Carolina. Please pray for her as she adjusts to the culture shock from a Togo, Africa missionary school to college life. Bryce is working in two hospitals for one year in South Carolina. He is learning to become a robotics specialist focusing on abdomen, thoracic and intestinal needs. Referrals will come from over a 200-mile radius as this is a specialized surgery group in the southeast with only 12 surgeons. Natasha is busy keeping up with 4 children in 4 different schools in various areas of Greenville while Josiah keeps her company during the day!



**Come Join Us in
Children's Church!
Every Sunday
during Worship
service.
Ages 4yrs—3rd
grade.**



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
September 07	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
September 14	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Gary Watson
September 21	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
September 28	Steve Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
September 07	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
September 14	Susan Wieldt	Debbie Pugh
September 21	Melissa Spenner	Dina Reed
September 28	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve) Life Group Worship		
September 07	Susan Salliotte	Pat & Gary Hampton
September 14	Janet Smith	Reha Lloyd
September 21	Barb Helpingstine	Annette Hardcastle
September 28	Melissa Spenner	Sheri Peradotti



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
September 07	Ken Smith	Kathy King
September 14	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle
September 21	Karen Watson	Judy Bundy
September 28	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle



Centralia Manor - 1910 E McCord St.
Faye Wood #206

It's hard to believe school has started, summer is almost over, and it's Labor Day Weekend already! I want to thank everyone who attended our church "Back to School Picnic in the Park". We had around 75 people there, young and old! The food was great and the fellowship even better. Thanks to everyone who brought the wonderful side dishes and the homemade ice cream. It was all delicious.

As we roll into another season, it's time to think about all the positions in our church like Sunday School teachers and helpers, and committee positions that need to be filled for the new church year. If you are currently serving in one or more of these areas and plan to continue for another year, Thank You. If you are not, please consider and pray about where God might have you serve. There are always many spots that need filled. Ask yourself, "what are my gifts and talents and where can I best serve my church?"

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and like me are looking forward to the cooler days of Fall.

Blessings,

Dale Helpingstine
Chairman of the Deacons

TRUSTEE REPORT

The work on the lights in the sanctuary is now completed. I want to thank Mike Pugh, Cody Beard, and Trenton Shelton for delivering the scaffolding. Other helpers taking the scaffolding to the balcony, setting it up, and taking it down after the lights were replaced were Emil Nattier II, Frank Harris, Dale Helpingstine, and Ronnie Donoho. A thank you to Myron Lloyd for helping position the spotlights. The lights on the east steps by the pews have been installed. A new elevator company was located to assist with the yearly state inspection and certification of the church's two elevators. The inspection has been done. Several inspections of the shrubs and trees have been conducted for Japanese beetles. The beetles did some leaf damage a few years ago. The beetles have not been sighted in the church yard this year, but they have been spotted in people's yards. Julie was contacted so a signpost with a "No Semi Parking" sign attached could be driven in the ground without damaging underground utilities. The sign had been removed when Ameren replaced a light pole on the east side of the east parking lot. A few faded and damaged areas on a sanctuary wood door, a pew, and some spots on some wooden walls have been touched up with stain. Surveillance signs have been purchased and installed on the playground and chiller fences to let people know that the area is under 24-hour surveillance.

Dallas Bundy

Chairman of the Trustees

Awana Clubs

The Gospel of Jesus is presented in fun, engaging ways. Kids have fun learning bible verses & bible truth through songs, handbook time, games, fun nights & mission activities.

Ages PreK - Youth

Sunday evenings 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Supper provided for Clubbers and Parents

Registration \$20.00 per child or \$60.00 per family max

First Club Night - Sunday, September 21, 2025

Register at Facebook@salemfirstbaptist or salemfbc.com or scan the QR Code



**COME AND
CELEBRATE
THE ADDITION
TO OUR HERD!**

**SEPTEMBER 6TH
1-3PM COME & GO
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1213 EAST MAIN ST. SALEM, IL**



For our Baby Registry, please scan the QR code above or visit:
<https://my.babylist.com/bvrwjygp>

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day Church Office Closed	2	3 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	4 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon	5	6 Baby Shower for Sarah Purcell 1-3PM @ Church of Christ
7	8 Prayer Mtg. 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	9	10 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	11 First Respond- er's Appreciation Dinner	12	13
14	15	16	17 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	18 Throwback Thursdays 6-8PM	19	20
21 5-7PM Awana	22  AHG/TL Mtg.	23	24 2PM High Point 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	25	26	27
28 5-7PM Awana	29 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	30	<p>“Being the Church in Salem and Beyond”</p>			

Jeannine Richards
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

Sept. 04
Sept. 07
Sept. 07
Sept. 08
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Sept. 12
Sept. 12
Sept. 13
Sept. 14
Sept. 15



Amanda Hanes
Chloe Oziemkiewicz
Sarah Purcell
Mary Anne Rollinson
Carl Spence
Darren Becker
Sheri Peradotti
Brian Piper
Brylee Hanes
Vernon Wiedle
Twila Kincaid
Lesa Morris
Carson Smith

Sept. 16
Sept. 16
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Sept. 19
Sept. 21
Sept. 22
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Sept. 26
Sept. 26
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Sept. 28



SALEM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Website: Salemfbcc.com

Facebook: [Salem First Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/SalemFirstBaptistChurch)



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”*

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 to 4:00

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

Friday 9:00—12:00

(Closed on Labor Day)

For YouTube:



Wednesday Evening

5:30—6PM Media Center Open

5:30PM Youth Bible Study

6:00 PM Adult Bible Study

Mission Journey Kids

Praise Team Rehearsal

Sunday

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

6:00 PM Behold Your God

5:00-7:00 PM Awana (Starting Sept.
21st)