



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

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 44 Issue 12

December 2023

721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060 (phone) 618-548-6039

Inside This Issue	Pages
From the Pastor's Desk	2
From the Associate Pastor's Desk	3
Women on Mission / Library	4
Lottie Moon Poems	5
Schedules/ Nursing Home Ministry	6
Deacon's Article Wee Learn & Play	7
Awana Schedule December ... A Christmas Story	8
Monthly Calendar December Birthdays	9
Information Page	10



Listen to Sunday Morning Services
WJBD 1350 AM 92.1 FM

- *Audio/ Video Sermons*
- *Up Coming Events*
- *Ministries*

On the Web!
Salemfbccom



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Merry CHRISTmas,

“Long ago, at many times and ^ain many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2but ^bin these last days ^che has spoken to us by ^dhis Son. . .” (Hebrews 1:1-2a). Please read these verses again. First, notice that God spoke; He spoke in many different ways to people of yesteryear. God spoke to Abram, but we don’t know exactly how God spoke but Abraham knew it was God speaking. He spoke to Moses. He spoke from the burning bush (Exodus 3). He spoke to the prophets and revealed many things. I could continue but notice that God speaking in the past is not the focus on the above verses. Secondly, God has *Spoken* through (by) His Son. This is God’s final word. Michael Card captures the meaning of these two verses in a song he wrote some thirty years ago. Card writes,

You and me, we use so very many clumsy words
The noise of what we often say is not worth being heard
When the Father's wisdom wanted to communicate His love
He spoke it in one final perfect word

He spoke the incarnation and then so was born the Son
His final word was Jesus, He needed no other one
Spoke flesh and blood, so He could bleed and make a way divine
And so was born the baby who would die to make it mine

It’s not only the writer of Hebrews that notices the importance of God speaking. John would not allow us to forget that when God speaks things happen. With words that remind us of the first verses of the Bible, when God speaks things happen. John writes, *“In the beginning was ^bthe Word, and ^cthe Word was with God, and ^dthe Word was God”* (John 1:1). Later in verse 14 John pens these words: *“And ^athe Word ^{ad}became flesh and ^{ae}dwelt among us ^{af}and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of ^{ag}grace and ^{ab}truth”* (John 1:14). Please read these verses again, too!

Again, I appeal to the poetic insight of Michael Card.

When the Father longed to show
A love He wanted us to know
He sent His only Son and so
Became a holy embryo

That is the Mystery
More than you can see
Give up on your pondering
And fall down on your knees

A fiction as fantastic and wild
A mother made by her own child
The hopeless babe who cried
Was God Incarnate and man deified

The chorus of Card’s song penetrates my heart; I hope it does yours, too. “Give up on your pondering and fall down on your knees.”

Merry Christmas

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

The year is finally winding up and it has been a great year in the service of God. From a personal perspective, I can say that this year has been an absolutely incredible first year in service at this church. Melissa and Luke are settling in well and they have both made great friends at the church already. We are truly blessed to be among such a loving congregation.

As we move into the Christmas season, I am reminded of one of the stories behind the legend of Santa Claus. According to the story, St. Nicholas, a Christian man whose name and legacy would be remade into the Santa Claus legend, was walking in the winter snow when he heard about a family in trouble. This family had three young girls, and due to the poverty they lived in, they would not be able to afford dowries, a typical monetary gift given to a prospective husband. Without these dowries, they would be forced into terrible labor or immoral means to get by. Nicholas, knowing this terrible potential fate, secretly gathered enough money for all three of the girls to have dowries and then tossed those into the house via three small bags of coins. Amazed at this unexpected generosity, the family rejoiced, praising God for His provision, never knowing of the human man used by God to accomplish this.

We are used to hearing about giving and receiving at this time of year but another perspective we do not often consider is that of God's provision. In many old American documents, God is referred to as "Providence." Our forefathers understood that without God, even survival in America would not be possible. James 1:17 tells us that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights." Those who came before us, especially those who lived in very difficult times, such as right after the first Thanksgiving, or during the Great Depression, took this verse to heart. They remembered how Jesus said the lilies of the field were arrayed more splendidly than Solomon in all his glory. And God did provide for them as well. God has a habit of providing for those who are faithful to Him. Sometimes it just does not happen in the time or way we are expecting.

Elijah is a great example of this provision in the Bible. Elijah was one of God's most faithful servants in the Old Testament, so much that John the Baptist was believed to be Elijah reborn. He took a stand against kings and false gods and did whatever God asked of him without question. He performed great signs and miracles and was acutely aware of God's power in a way that none of us ever will be. Yet after proclaiming that there would be a famine in Israel, he was told by God to go and hide himself by a brook. This incredibly faithful man was unsure of where he would even get his next meal, given the famine that had begun in Israel at his command. Yet God again provided, sending ravens every day that brought him bread and meat every morning and evening. Elijah may have worried every day if the ravens would come, but God's provision was perfect. Elijah did not go hungry.

God has provided for us over and over in ways we cannot fully grasp to keep us sustained on our mission for His Kingdom. But I think of the ravens in that scenario as well, and how strange it would have been for them to be tasked to provide food for this lonely man by God. God often tasks us to be the ravens to those around us, providing His blessings to them. One of the major ways we did this as a church this year was through Operation Christmas Child. Ministries like that allow us to take an active role in being part of God's provision for the unfortunate.

Of course, the greatest act of God's provision is what this whole season is about. Without God sending His Son Jesus into the manger on that first Christmas day, we would all be doomed to die in our sins and face the wrath of a holy God. Due to God's great love, we were given the free gift of salvation so we could be spared from the consequences of our own wrongdoing. As we celebrate Christmas this year, we would do well to remember God's great provision.

Women on Mission/Library

Women on Mission

Thanks to all who helped in any way to provide for 267 Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. Many children and their families will have an opportunity to learn about Christ through the 12 week lessons provided through the Greatest Story study.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis for International Missions will be promoted the entire month of December and our goal this year is \$13,000.

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday, December 4th at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. We are asking for the ladies to bring their favorite homemade snacks or goodies to share with the group.

We will be doing some mission projects while enjoying fellowship.

Come and bring a friend.

Blessings,

Karen



Merry Christmas, Friends!

We have some wonderful books in our library that will help you prepare your hearts for Christmas! I have tried to make it easier for you by creating a display of the books! (Next month I plan on a short lesson about using the card catalog that will hopefully make some of you more comfortable in exploring our library.) The books range from nonfiction to fiction to poetry and children's books with a few of the authors being Max Lucado, Ruth Bell Graham, Lee Strobel and Helen Steiner Rice. Come check them out!

We have an exciting new reference book! All the Genealogies in the Bible contains charts and exegetical (to explain or interpret) commentary. (Had to look that one up!)

Again, Merry Christmas to each one of you! I hope in all the holiday busyness you take the time to reflect on God's gift to us! He is the reason for the season.

Christmas Blessings,

Dina



Announcements/Thank You

"The Perfect Life"

*Born in a manger
Died on a Cross
Jesus; You have my attention,
This in not ordinary obituary lan-
guage*

*But, You are not ordinary.
Living among us on earth 33 years,
A Sinless Life,
The Precious Son of God*

*As I See It
Coming to earth
To Die on a Cross
For all of us
To Save Us from our Sins*

Such Love!

*Thank You for the Ultimate
Example of Your Love & Power*

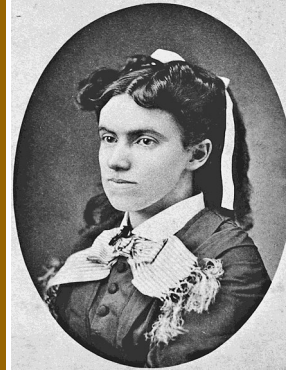
*You are my Creator, My Friend
As well as my King*

*Thank You for all Blessings,
My Cup Runneth Over*

*My Goal:: Living Eternally
With You in Heaven*

*Jesus is Coming,
He Cannot Lie.*

By Bev Smith



Lottie Moon was appointed a missionary to China July 7, 1873. She gave her life and her love to the Chinese people in an effort to share Christ with them. She died Dec. 24, 1912, but her legacy lives on. Her influence led to the establishment of the

Women's Missionary Union and inspired other missions pioneers to join her on the field. She launched the discussion leading to the offering that bears her name today—Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Christmas Sermons

- Dec. 03 . . . "Christmas: Opportunity for Renewed Hope"
- Dec. 10 . . . "Gifts of Christmas"
- Dec. 17 . . . "Promise of a Perfect King"
- Dec. 24 . . . "Birth of the King"

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*





DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
December 03	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
December 10	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Myron Lloyd
December 17	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
December 24	Steve Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh
December 31	Gary Watson	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
December 03	Deanna Buerster	Candy—Mints
December 10	Deanna Buerster	Candy—Movie Candy
December 17	Deanna Buerster	Candy—Chocolate
December 24	Deanna Buerster	NOCC— Family Worship
December 31	Deanna Buerster	Candy—Cotton Candy

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



December 03	Dina Reed
December 10	Barb Helpingstine
December 17	Paula Strother
December 24	Wheat Jackson
December 31	Pat & Gary Hampton



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
December 03	Paula's Class	Kathy King
December 10	Mark Tabor	Lynette Wiedle
December 17	Karen Watson	Judy Bundy
December 24	Dale & Barb Helpingstine	Lynette Wiedle
December 31	Connie Seymour	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



Is it Tantamount

Viewing our past, looking forward to our future, but maneuvering the present. You've heard people say, "What you see is what you get". Sometimes it's what you don't see that will hurt you.

We have flowering plants in pots we leave outside until cold weather arrives. When the weatherman says frost is coming, the potted plants are brought inside. Little did we know, the pot soil right next to the very attractive plants has tiny eggs of tiny gnats inside. When brought to the inside warmer weather, these eggs hatch out to be hundreds of tiny flies, flying inside the house. And what a problem? That is a hurting situation! There seem to be more and more things like that to "blindside" us.

We must be concerned about our surroundings and definitely all those God has put around us, but, as Psalm 121 says, "I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." We can be assured that He is still in control. He deserves our praise.

Our purposes seem tantamount to what God wishes to do, especially as we celebrate how God purposed His Salvation Son, Jesus to give us grace in His Christmas birth.

Looking forward, have a very wonderful December and special Merry Christmas!

Many blessings to you, Deacon Greg

Wee Learn & Play Thanksgiving Dinner



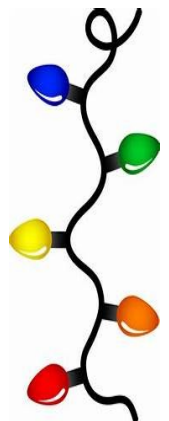
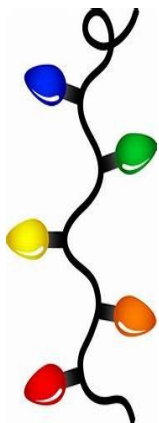


December 03 . . . Bring a Friend
December 10 . . . Wear Christmas/
Trim a Leader
December 17 . . . Celebrate Jesus
December 24 . . . No Club/
Christmas Eve
December 31 . . . No Club/
Christmas Break



DECEMBER ... A CHRISTMAS STORY

- Day 1: Micah 5:2
- Day 2: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 3: Psalm 72:9-11
- Day 4: Jeremiah 31:15
- Day 5: Numbers 24:17
- Day 6: Isaiah 11:1-2
- Day 7: Luke 1:26-28
- Day 8: Luke 1:29-31
- Day 9: Luke 1:32-33
- Day 10: Luke 1:34-35
- Day 11: Luke 1:37-38
- Day 12: Luke 1:46-48
- Day 13: Luke 1:49-50
- Day 14: Luke 1:51-52
- Day 15: Luke 1:53-55
- Day 16: Luke 1:67-69
- Day 17: Luke 2:7
- Day 18: Luke 2:8-9
- Day 19: Luke 2:10-11
- Day 20: Luke 2:13-14
- Day 21: Luke 2:29-32
- Day 22: Luke 2:33-35
- Day 23: Matthew 2:1-2
- Day 24: Matthew 2:10-11
- Day 25: Matthew 2:16-18
- Day 26: John 1:1
- Day 27: John 1:4-5
- Day 28: John 1:14
- Day 29: John 1:15-16
- Day 30: 1 John 5:1
- Day 31: Romans 8:2-3



DECEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
“Being the Church in Salem and to the nations”					1 AHG Lock in -	2 AHG Lock in -
3 5PM Awana Club	4 Prayer Meeting 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	5	6 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	7	8	9
10 Leadership Team 4PM 5PM Awana Club	11	12	13 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	14 Deacon's & Wives Christmas Dinner	15 God's Warrior's Christmas Party	16
17 5PM Awana Club	18	19	20 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	21	22 Children's Trip to Belleville to Way of Lights.	23
24 No Life Groups 10:45AM Worship 5:30PM Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 2 PM Manor @ Salem Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 No Life Groups 10:45 Worship New Years Eve						

- Ashlynn Henry
- Dale Helpingstine
- Destiny Albert
- Donna Keele
- Michael Pugh
- Shelby Peradotti
- Carol Daniels
- Jack Page
- Myra Donoho
- Paula Strother
- Janet Wayman
- Larry Woodward
- Ellie Dennis
- Gayla Wilkerson
- Jamie Webb

- December 02
- December 03
- December 04
- December 04
- December 05
- December 08
- December 09
- December 09
- December 11
- December 14
- December 15
- December 15
- December 17
- December 19
- December 20



- James Green
- Jeanie McGraw
- Ute Smith
- Remington Chancellor
- George Nattier
- Deanna Buerster
- Jarrett Harris
- Emil Nattier
- Bill Wright
- Elaina Quandt
- Kay Rodgers
- Christopher Spenner
- Braden Hanes
- Patsy Shipley

- December 23
- December 24
- December 25
- December 26
- December 26
- December 27
- December 28
- December 28
- December 28
- December 29
- December 29
- December 30
- December 31
- December 31



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060
Website: Salemfbc.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.



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
5:00 PM Awana Club