

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 47 Issue 02

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721 W Main

Salem, IL 62881

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I HAVE
loved you
WITH AN
everlasting
love

JEREMIAH 31:3



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PASTOR DR. ANDY DEWITT

Dear Church,

If you been around church very long, you know these words: 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). This is the Great Commission (although it can be the Great Omission if we aren't diligent). This is the "what" but the "how" to do this is a bit more difficult.

One of the most effective ways that this commission can be accomplished is through a church's Bible teaching ministry (Sunday School or Life Groups). How so? I'm glad you ask. When Sunday Schools were just beginning, they were effective tools to reach the unchurched, no-church people. The first Director of Sunday School for Southern Baptists was Arthur Flake. Flake maintained that the objective of Sunday School was: "to invite men and women, boys and girls to study the Bible with a group of peers under the guidance of a committed leader so that the Holy Spirit might do His work through the living Word of God." Flake, when developing principles that would make the objective of Sunday School a reality, noted five: 1) Know the possibilities, 2) Enlarge the organization, 3) Provide the space, 4) Enlist and train workers, and 5) Go after the people. These are not methods; they are principles. Methods change—they must. Principles, however, are timeless; they don't need changed. What Flake purposed then will still work today. This is what I hope that we do as we "Follow the Lord in 2026."

Arthur Flake became Director of Sunday School in 1920, which was on the heels of the Spanish Flu pandemic. We are in 2026 and we still are experiencing some of the effects of 2020. Perhaps, Lord willing, this is a bit of providence that the principles that contributed to Southern Baptists becoming the largest protestant denomination will, once again, enable Baptists to impact their church's communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, it's not enough to know Flakes' Five; these principles must be implemented, they must be worked. The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are co-laborers with God—this means, there are things that we are to do and there are things that only God can do. As one person put it, "Pray all you want, but remember that David had to pick up the stones to fight Goliath."

Also remember Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us— 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Until He Comes,

Andy

ASSOCIATE PASTOR CHRISTOPHER SPENNER

I am always amazed at how quickly the products at Walmart change over from Christmas into Valentine's Day right after the start of the new year. One day you will walk in and see all of the red and green of Christmas and the next it will all be pink and red. Major businesses waste no time right after Christmas seeing how they can get you to spend your hard-earned money again.

Valentine's Day itself is an odd holiday. It came from the Roman Empire after the turn to Christianity, taking a pagan holiday known for displays of raunchy behavior and replacing it with one that honored the martyrdom of St. Valentine. During the time of Shakespeare it had become a holiday to celebrate lovers. By 1913, the Hallmark Company had begun to mass-produce Valentine cards.

Today, especially among youth, Valentine's Day can be a very depressing time. It seems to show who has a meaningful relationship and who does not. Many youth and even some adults do not realize that this is an illusion. Social media is filled with people who make sure to put on their best filters and ensure their relationship looks perfect to everyone else. Unfortunately, this invites comparison to an unattainable standard and sends many even deeper into unfulfillment.

How do we answer a holiday like this as Christians? The first thing we need to do is root ourselves in Biblical love. Unlike the fleeting passions the world offers, we have something much deeper and more real as followers of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 13 is the most famous passage regarding how we are to love, but we need to understand what makes Biblical love different. The word in 1 Corinthians 13 is "agape" which means a selfless, giving kind of love. This is the kind of love that God loved us with when He sent His Son Jesus to save rebellious sinners like us. This Valentine's Day, let's try to focus less on the "extras" and even the romantic side of the holiday and instead be sure to give selflessly to one another, give people another chance, and show God's love through us to both those in church and the lost. Let's pray for great opportunities to show love in extraordinary ways.

WOMEN ON MISSION/LIBRARY

Often changes in our life are difficult to accept or understand! I know it is for me, especially since (we have always done it that way.) For many years our Salem Ministerial Alliance has served our community through the Food Pantry and it was provided at our Community Center. Our church family always served each March or April and some brought their children to experience the blessing of serving others, even Covid couldn't shut this ministry down! However, a new venue was offered to serve our community where they could continue receiving not only food but additional items like hygiene products, clothing, baby items and an encouraging word. Last year 4,255 households received food, a warm welcome and a feeling of dignity as they were served. In total, 10,981 individuals including 3,726 children and 2,302 seniors were served. Grace United Methodist Church is providing space for the SMA to continue this much needed ministry. Anyone wanting to know more about this ministry, stop by for a tour, serve for an hour or just sit and share. Our next opportunity for volunteering will be the second Monday of February 9th.

I appreciate the 12 individuals who helped in various ways on Jan. 12th for more information feel free to call me.

Another way to help with this ministry would be to drop off food items in the grocery cart provided in our main hallway.

Blessings, Karen



Library News

The Name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10
El Shaddai, Elohim, Adonai, Yahweh, El Elyon, Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah Shammah, Jehovah Tsidkenu, Jehovah Shalom...

When the Bible speaks of God, the name used holds more significance than most realize. In The Names of God, Ken Hemphill will lead you through an in-depth devotional study and teach the significance of each name along with the keys that will help us to grow in a relationship with God. These names reveal the very nature of God Himself. You will discover He is our Provider, Sustainer, Healer, Shepherd, and much more. We can surrender to His Lordship, know His character and trust Him to act in our daily lives because as the song title says, "He is Our All in All."

Warm Winter Wishes
Dina



TRUSTEES' REPORT

Last month, new soap dispensers were installed in restrooms, nursery, kitchen, and janitor's closet. The final three soap dispensers were installed in the middle of January. A fifth panic button has been installed on the second floor. It is in the AED box. The panic buttons (there are a total of five throughout the building) are used in emergencies when police or medical needs are warranted. A new vacuum sweeper has been purchased. After searching for the church's insurance needs for 2026, the trustees kept the same insurance company, Gearhart Insurance from Carbondale, for the church's insurance needs. A belt was replaced on one HVAC unit, and maintenance was done on a second unit.

At the January business meeting, Dale Helpingstine made the following motion, "On behalf of the Finance Committee and the Trustees, I make the following motion: (1) that the church accept a FEMA Grant for \$150,000 to be used to upgrade the church's security systems. The money will be used as follows: \$5,000 for Video Intercom Upgrades, \$33,000 for Access Control Upgrades, and \$112,000 Video Camera Security Upgrades and (2) that Angel Molenhour, our financial secretary, be hired to administer the paperwork and on-line reporting for the life of the grant. Since we do not know at this time how much time will be involved, we propose to come back to the church at a later date and amend the budget to reflect her additional pay." The motion carried. The trustees will be involved in securing bids for this project and implementing the work.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees



Welcome Baby Savage

We are gathering baby items for
Ty Michael Savage arriving in March!
There is a crib in the main hallway to place
your items.

February 01	Mike Pugh	Ronnie Donoho	Tom Reed
February 08	Steve Smith	Dale Helpingstine	Dallas Bundy
February 15	Rick Meador	Jon Wieldt	Gary Watson
February 22	Jon Wieldt	Ken Smith	Greg Strother



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
February 01	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
February 08	Dina Reed	Debbie Pugh
February 15	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
February 22	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour

Children's
CHURCH!

Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve)		
	Worship #1	Worship #2
February 01	Janet Smith	Nancy Stallard
February 08	Susan Salliotte	Wheat Collier
February 15	Pat Hampton	Gary Hampton
February 22	Maggie McNeal	Paula Strother

**NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS**

DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
February 01	Ken Smith	Kathy King
February 08	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle
February 15	Christopher Spenner	Judy Bundy
February 22	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle



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

DEACON MINISTRY

It's February already! I will be serving as chairman of this fine group of deacons, along with Steve Smith serving as our vice chairman.

I thought our first meeting was very good, with good attendance. We prayed for our church family and people that is on our prayer list. We mentioned things we should do as we serve God as deacons this year.

Family Fun Night is in the planning for Sunday, Feb. 15th from 5-7PM at the Franklin Park School. We will have great food, desserts, fellowship and activities for adults and blow up jumps for the kids. We will be in partnership with the Awana program and spending time with the kids and their families.

Our deacons wish to be visible and available to our church family and our community. Continue to feel free and welcome to contact your assigned deacon for anything. We will be helping Pastor Andy and Asst. Pastor Christopher with visitation and making contacts.

Will you join us in praying for our Pastor, Asst. Pastor and their families, deacons and their wives, and our church family as we serve and minister in the cause of Christ and for Salem and the surrounding area?

Blessings to all,
Ronnie Donoho
Deacon Chairman

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**AMERICAN HERITAGE
GIRLS
& TRAIL LIFE USA
BEGINS ON FEB. 9TH
AT 5:30PM**





February 1: "Bring a Friend" - Vegetable soup, grilled cheese, and a snack
February 8: "Glow for Jesus Game Night" - Spaghetti, salad & garlic bread
February 15: "Family Fun Night"
February 22: "Wear Camo, Nerf Game Night" - Chicken Noodle, Chicken nuggets & snack



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

SUNDAY, FEB. 15TH

fun

5-7PM

games



FEBRUARY



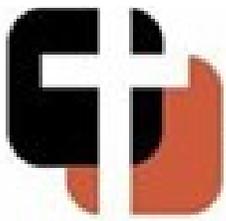
2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 5-7PM Awana	2 6:00AM Prayer Mtg. 9:30AM WM	3	4 5:30PM Youth 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Mission Kids	5 9AM Women's 6PM Bible Study 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon	6	7
8 5-7PM Awana 7PM Special Business Mtg	9 12:15PM Food Pantry 5:30PM AHG/TL	10	11 5:30PM Youth 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Mission Kids 7PM Deacon's Meeting	12 9AM Women's 6PM Bible Study	13	14
15 Lord's Supper 5-7PM Family Fun Night	16 5:30PM AHG/TL	17	18 5:30PM Youth 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Mission Kids	19 9AM Women's 6PM Bible Study	20	21
22 5-7PM Awana	23 5:30PM AHG/TL	24	25 2PM High Point 5:30PM Youth 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Mission Kids	26 9AM Women's 6PM Bible Study	27	28

Happy BIRTHDAY

February

Wayne Howard Feb. 01		Roberta Williams Feb. 13
Diana Owens Feb. 01		Jesse Cantrell Feb. 14
Joyce Scrivner Feb. 02		Gary Hampton Feb. 16
Tom Gordon Feb. 04		Bonnie Gray Feb. 25
Carolyn Smith Feb. 05		Rhonda Keele Feb. 25
Melanie Johnson Feb. 06		Joan Purcell Feb. 25
Rick Meador Feb. 07		Linda Wright Feb. 27
Nevaeh Hester Feb. 11		Lilienne Collins Feb. 28
Kevin Keele Feb. 11		Andy DeWitt Feb. 28
Ellen Casey Feb. 12		Cartter Meador Feb. 29



SALEM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Vision:

"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"

Sunday

8:30 ~9:20AM

9:30AM

10:45AM

5~7:00PM

Cafe' Agape

Life Groups for all ages

Morning Worship

Awana

Phone: 618-548-4060

Website: Salemfbcc.com

Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church



Join Us. . .

Sundays

8:30-9:20AM

in Fellowship Hall

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00-4:00

Closed 12:00-1:00

for lunch

Friday 9-12

For YouTube:



Wednesday Evening

5:30PM **Youth Bible Study**

6:00PM **Adult Bible Study**

Mission Journey Kids

Praise Team Rehearsal