Salem United Methodist Church October Newsletter

#181 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating *





SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833

SALEM United Methodist Church 2013

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833 Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH COMMUNITY



"Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is what is good and pleasing and mature."

Romans 12:2

Lives Transformed

Ever get stuck in a rut? Doing the same thing over and over again? Life seems meaningless? Paul might have called that being conformed to the patterns of the world. We do the same things over and over again with little thought or joy. Our lives have become conventional. We are playing life's game according to the world's rules which are: 1) It is all about me. 2) It is all about getting what I want, 3) It is all about getting ahead.

Our Christian faith teaches us that our lives do not have to be this way. God offers us another way. First, God shows us that we need to change. Then God gives us the grace to change. And ultimately transforms our hearts and minds to live into the change. This is what new life in Christ is all about - a dramatic change in form or appearance. It is a transformation.

How does this transformation occur? For some, it happens slowly over time. For others, it may happen almost overnight. But one thing is certain, it is about admitting that life is not about me. It is admitting that God is bigger than me. And it is spending time figuring out what God's will is for one's life. It is asking the questions. How does God want me to do good? What would please God? What would be the spiritually mature thing to do? This transformation never ends. It is ongoing no matter what our age. God is always at work in our lives to perfect us in our faith.

John Wesley interpreted salvation as a process in which God is always saving us from our

sins, always transforming us from what we have been into what God calls us to become. This is grace - the grace that calls us to surrender ourselves to Christ, the grace for us to accept divine love, and the grace to grow us into mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

The church is then the place where we can come to develop this spiritual maturity. In the church, we abandon the world's rules and embrace the rule of Jesus: Love God and Love our neighbors. We as the church are then to show this love we have experienced to the world so the world with us can be transformed.

In October we will have a Stewardship Campaign called, "Lives Transformed." The word stewardship is defined as one who cares for another's property or one who serves another. For Christians, stewardship also is a process of recognizing what we have is not ours. It is entrusted to us by God. We are caretakers of God's property. We serve God in all that we have and in all that we do. Little by little as we grow in our faith we come to realize this. The salvation process includes understanding our role as God's stewards. We begin to see the world differently. We begin to see the world through the lens of Christ. We are different. We begin to inhabit transformed lives.

During this Stewardship Campaign, we will be looking at how God has used this church to transform our lives. Can you recall who you were when you stepped through the doors of Salem for the first time? Who were you then? Who are you now? And how did God through your worship at Salem, your learning about your faith, and your service to others transform you?

I am looking for people to share how they see God transforming them and how Salem has been part of this process. Contact me with your transformation story. I'm waiting to hear from you!

Still being transformed,

Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October Sermon Series:

Sermon Series: Love and Le Live
Oct, 05 "Peace Filled Zone" Colossians 3:12-21 World Communion Sunday
Stewardship Sermon Series: Lives Transformed
Oct. 12 "Who Am I?" Romans 12:1-2
Oct. 19 "Who are We?" Romans 12:3-8

Commitment Sunday Oct. 26 "What is good and pleasing?" Romans 12:9-21

Celebration Sunday

Growing in Faith Class: Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer lived in the early twentieth century in Germany when Hitler was gaining power. As a pastor and theologian, Dietrich searched deep into the scriptures and faith to see how it intersected life. As he observed the politics around him, he spoke out against the political landscape, wrote some profound theological books, began an underground church, with family members attempted to assassinate Hitler, was arrested and executed for his crime. His beliefs not only helped to transform the German church, but still impact our faith. Erix Metaxas recently published a book, Bonhoeffer. A four-week study with video was developed from Metaxas' book. We are offering this. Classes based on the four major themes of Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking will be held on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. Register with Rev. Sue by Oct 12 so study guides can be ordered.

Oct 21 "What is the Church?"

- Oct 28 "Living in Christian Community"
- Nov 4 "Religionless Christianity"
- Nov 11 "Come and Die"

ASP 2015

Stay tuned for more details. Contact Bob Brown at <u>rmiabrown@comcast.net</u> if you are interested in an exciting week this summer helping people less fortunate than you and if you are in High School, earn you Community Service points.



We are going to have an exciting class this year! Four of us have never taken Disciple Bible Study and nine of us have. A great mix!

Our first class was held September 24th where we received our manual and schedules, learned something about our classmates and went over the study plan.

This is an experimental class to see if the Disciple Fast Track will really work for those who have busy schedules and no time for the full blown Disciples One class. We will be covering two classes from the original book each week and all in 90-minutes. We, as a class, are really looking forward to sharing this class, our thoughts and God's blessings.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Each week as we have "A Time for Children," Rev. Sue centers the message to the children on the Sermon topic. For September the topic was "Love and Let Love." In the message for September 14th, the topic was "Hate Free Zone."



The children were eager to participate as Rev. Sue poured some salt in their hands. She then poured some in a glass and water on top of the salt the children were amazed that you couldn't see the salt anymore. Rev. Sue then poured water without salt in another glass and explained how if you had a cut on your finger and put your finger in the salt water how it would hurt but if you put your finger in the water that had no salt it would not hurt.

Rev. Sue then explained to the children how words could hurt just as the salt in the water would hurt your cut finger. She told the children that calling someone names like stupid could really hurt them and take a long time to heal. We should always use kind words and never say in anger something that would hurt a person all their lives. We can get rid of salt immediately but we can never take our hurtful words back to get rid of them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014-2015



Salem UMC would like to welcome each of our Sunday School Teachers for the 2014-2015 school year. For the "Beginning of the school year prayer" some of the children from Sunday School joined the teachers as Rev. Sue asked God's blessings and grace of the new school year.

In the picture you will see left to right, Mary Morell and her mother Nancy, Ginny Wineburger with Evie Meisner, Libby Wright, Kulley Bancroft, Rev. Sue, Carole Roberts, Debbie Ambrose, Connie Somerville, Debbie Savage and Tommy Meisner.

FROM OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Join a Salem Music Group!

Expand the blessings you receive at Salem Church and join the choir or bell choir!

Handbell choir rehearsals are 11:30-12:30 pm after church on Sundays, and began on Sunday, Sept. 28. The church choir is rehearsing on Mondays from 7:30-8:30 pm (except for Lion's Club Monday meetings) and began Monday, Sept. 29. New members are welcome to join each group, just come and try it out. If you have any questions email Rose Eide-Altman, roseonkeys@gmail.com.

COLLEGE STUDENTS' ADDRESSES

School has started once again for the 2014-2015 school year. Many of our Young People have left family and friends to study, some far away from home. Let's remember them in prayer, with cards, and an occasional "care package." Let them know that even though they are absent in body, they are still Salem's children and are always in our hearts.

2014 - 2015 College Student addresses

Alexx Beach (Will be attending school in London) Address to be published later.

David Beye (St. Mary's College of Maryland) Campus Center #1695 16800 Point Lookout Road St. Mary's City, MD 20686-3000

Noah Beye (Catholic University) McDonald Hall Room #002 The Catholic University of America 620 Michigan Avenue NE Washington, DC 20064

Katelyn Currier (Frostburg State University) 413 Frederick Hall Frostburg State University Frostburg, Maryland 21532

Elsa Friis (Duke University - PhD in Clinical Psychology) 7 Hitching Rack Ct. Durham, NC 27713

Eric Lowe (Salisbury University) Salisbury University 1101 Camden Avenue Campus Box 2045 Salisbury, MD 21801

Ruthie Lowe (University of West Florida) University of West Florida 32154 Campus Drive Pensacola, FL 32514-5750

Anna Lyon (St. Mary's College of Maryland) Campus Center #2347 16800 Pt. Lookout Rd St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Emily Odbert (Mercyhurst University) c/o Sally Skelly PO Box 316 Harborcreek, PA 16421

Emma Poe-Yamagata: (Georgia Tech) 301 10th Street, NW Apt. 127 D Atlanta, GA 30318

Amanda Pustis (Cornell University) Balch Hall, Room 3482 **Cornell University** Ithaca, NY 14853

Austin Roberts (University of Maryland – Baltimore County) PAT 194 100 Hilltop Circle Baltimore, MD 21250

Spencer Sterling (U. of Maryland, College Park) 8417 48th Ave. College Park, MD 20740

Sarah Sterling (Frostburg State University) Rm.#251, Cumberland Hall 1 Sand Spring Dr. Frostburg, MD 21532-3104

Danielle Van Horn (Montgomery College) 4752 Powder House Drive Rockville, MD 20853

Cooper Weinberger (James Madison University) JMU Box 698 800 South Main Street Harrisonburg, VA 22807

FROM THE CONGREGATIION



"Sharing my thoughts with

from Charlyne Lewis

Just look at those Fall colors!!! This month of October

we'll see Nature in all her splendor around us...even the creatures are 'putting on' their new coats, and getting their quarters in order now... preparing for the cold days ahead, while our feathered friends are busy gathering their materials for winter nesting!

On the 13th we will celebrate the day ole Christopher Columbus discovered this great country, and on the 1st of November, guess what??...yep, it's time to set our clocks back. Hope all of you enjoy the 'great pumpkin' and I'll see you in Church!

God Bless!!

Charlyne





Psalm 47:2 Hymn #104

"OH COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD; LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION!" [PSALM 95:1]



On Sunday, September 7th, we were honored to have Melanie Shea from St. Paul in Sykesville sing for us. She sang "O Lord, You're Beautiful," in her beautiful soprano voice. Thank you Melanie, please come again!

\$20,000 Legacy Fund Challenge Extended to October 15, 2014

In July, a couple of members of our Salem family offered to match dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000, every dollar contributed to our Legacy Fund. The original deadline of September 30th to meet this generous challenge has been extended to October 15th, because we are getting close, but are still \$6,000 shy of the challenge goal.

As of the end of September, over \$14,000 has been contributed or pledged to meet the challenge, \$5,000 of which comes from the profits from Brookeville's Bicentennial Celebration, in which Salem opened our doors to all visitors, provided a welcoming place to cool their heels, and find good food and drink. So in order to add a little more life to the match offer, our donors graciously extended their offer to October 15th.

Just as a reminder, the purpose of the Legacy Fund, as originally proposed by Clyde Unglesbee six years ago, was to provide a funding source to finance capital improvements and initiate new programs, separate from our operating budget. Since then, over \$200,000 has been contributed by Salem friends and family, and we have made good use of the fund to remodel our parsonage and social hall, replace all kinds of mechanical equipment (most recently the sanctuary addition air-conditioning and furnace units) and totally redo our front sidewalk, dramatically improving our curb appeal.

So we need \$6,000 to take full advantage of the challenge grant. We are well on our way, and we have until October 15th for you to make your one dollar equal two. If you can help, please place your offering in our offering plate marked for the Legacy Fund. Or mail your contribution directly to the church. We are always very grateful for your support.

Peace and blessing,

Buck Bartley for the Legacy Fund Committee

181 YEARS AND STILL SERVING

During the past few months we have been concentrating on comments and memories of members and former members of our congregation to provide articles for this column. The thought came to mind to review our former pastors and members "gone before us."

The following words were taken from the 1984 Anniversary Celebration, the picture from an earlier date:



Rev. John Harris 1968-1973 Rev. John Harris 1968 - 1971

"It would be impossible for me to put into words the fond memories of my pastorate at Salem. Jessie and I were married in the lovely sanctuary. The church and its people will always have a special place in our hearts. The music, dignity of worship, inspirational teaching, fellowship, and friendly spirit of the church people shall forever be vivid in my memories. I am forever grateful to such a splendid people and count it an honor to have served you as pastor. May god richly bless you in the future."

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Dean Preville on the passing of his father September 9, 2014. Our prayers are with you and your family.

YOUTH GROUP

All meetings will be on Sundays from 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Oct 05 Who is God? Why a King?

Oct 12 Fundraiser: Dinner and Game Night

Oct 19 What is ASP? Bob Brown, presenting

Oct 26 Halloween Party in the Hall

SALEM UMC ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

<u>October</u>

Oct. 5: Melody McWilliams

- Oct. 12: Tiffany Huber
- Oct. 19: Dominick Terry
- Oct. 26: Andrew Sterling

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

We have not reached our goal of \$2,500. Please consider giving in memory of someone or in honor of someone or just because you want someone to be able to sleep without the fear of contracting malaria from the swarms of mosquitoes they have to live with. I am pleased to announce that as of 9/16/14 we are less than \$250 away from our goal.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Emily Wineburger upon her position as Special Education teacher at Fairboro High School in Dayton, Ohio. Her mother said, "She is thoroughly enjoying her students." In case you would like to send her a note, card or care package her address is:

Emily Wineburger 920 Kentshire Drive Dayton, OHIO 45459

And to Kathryn Ennes who graduated from Eastern Mennonite University and is currently a registered nurse working on a surgical floor at Howard County General Hospital.

Have you missed the Salem calendar at the end of the Newsletter? You can now find it on the web site. Go to

www.salemunitedmethodist.org. Click on "Connect" and then to Calendar. Also take a look

at upcoming studies, book club, read the newsletter and much more!

We would also like to post some Ministries of Salem on our webpage. If you have some great pictures send them to Suzanne Friis.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS:

Rev. Jeanne Klauda, Anna Unglesbee, Flo Johnston, Bob and Helen Van Druff, Reta McKeever, Janet and Rob Howes, Eddie Gregg and Tony Hopkins. Their addresses are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway or call Rev. Sue.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Next Meeting – October 26th at 7:15 pm.

A big thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Church Council meeting.

After our summer hiatus, we celebrated our participation in the Brookeville Bicentennial, received updates from committees, and moved forward into fall. We discussed:

1. Upcoming events including preparations for Charge Conference (Nov. 9, 5:30 pm -

(Please plan to attend).

2. Preparing our budget for 2015. Leads us into this year's Stewardship Campaign.

3. Stewardship of our monetary blessings from our Bicentennial hospitality. (10% will go to Missions. The rest will go into the Legacy Fund which will be matched by our generous anonymous donors and thus DOUBLED!!!) A portion of this will be earmarked for kitchen improvements (dishwasher, meat slicer, ice maker) identified as needs by the Women's Group. (Thanks to Betty Bittner and Barbara Achstetter for representing the Women's Group in this discussion.)

4. The Legacy Fund challenge.

5. Staffing - progress in the search for a youth assistant and a Sunday nursery worker.

6. Work of the Trustees in 2014.

7. Work on our membership roles in preparation for Charge Conference.

Please mark your calendars for our next meetings: October 26 and December 4. Debbie Ambrose, Church Council Chair **Give to Salem as You Shop Online:** You can now have part of the profit from your sale be sent to Salem UMC. When the total donations for the church reach \$100, the church will receive a check. Big name online stores like Amazon, Macy's, Kohl's, etc. are signed up to donate. Check out the retailers and sign-up at www.umcmarket.org

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

Hostesses for OctoberPLEASE NOTE THE OPEN POSITIONS!10/5/2014Barbara Achstetter10/12/2014The Curriers10/19/2014Carole Roberts10/26/2014OPEN

If you can provide snacks for coffee hour, please contact Anne Ennes or Joyce Howes or go to: <u>www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FA8AA2BA3</u> <u>F85-coffee</u>

METHODIST MEN TOUR OUR HOUSE



Rev. Sue, George Robinson, Rick Myers, Benny Bienvenue, and Buck Bartley. Randy Kennedy took the pictures.

Saturday morning, Sept. 13, Salem's Mens group had the pleasure of receiving a V.I.P. tour of Our House, a premier non-profit job training center for disadvantaged youth, right here in Brookeville.

The founder and director of the 140 acre farm, Richard "Benny" Bienvenue, most graciously showed the 5 of us around. To say we were impressed would be an understatement. The residents here are in the age group of 16 to 21 years old. At Our House, they receive a beautiful balance of direction, discipline and nurturing love, some for the first time in their lives. Currently, the facilities house 16 residents. The overall goal of the program is to have the young men not only learn job ethics and skills, but upon graduation, they are to have their G.E.D. and be job ready. Benny even strives to see that they earn ownership of a car.

The young men work. They have developed some of the acreage of Our House property as a certified organic farm and are growing food, which they sell at Olney's Farmer's Market and to restaurants in the area. They've also built a wood shop, an artists studio and a garage to work on engines, equipment and dreams. They have also built a chicken coop and manage 130 laying hens. The coop is on wheels, so that it can frequently be moved, a low tech way of spreading the manure.

Our House is breaking ground any day now to build new dorms, to house up to 24 young men. They need donations, Mentors, volunteers and as always, community support. To quote Randy Kennedy..."it is a Godly place."

Buck Bartley, George Robinson, Rick Myers, Randy Kennedy and Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling were on this tour. Should anyone else like a tour, that can easily be arranged. Thank you Benny.

By Rick Myers

SIGN-UP FOR:

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Providing altar flowers is a nice way to honor or remember a loved one. Sign-up on the bulletin board.

NURSERY HELPERS:

Our nursery attendant has resigned. Until a new one can be found, we need volunteers to watch our preschoolers and toddlers in the nursery during worship. A sign-up sheet is available or see Rev. Sue.

COFFEE HOUR:

There are several empty spots on our Coffee Hour sign-up sheet. Please consider filling one of those spots. Very simple snacks or outrageously - it's your choice. And it CAN be fun. Men are welcome to participate!

HAPPENINGS

Lord's Table

Our participation in the Lord's Table began on Saturday, September 27. The Lord's Table is a soup kitchen located at St. Martin of Tours, 201 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg. We begin cooking at 1 pm and serve at 3:30 pm. We welcome everyone to come and help serve. Thank you to Libby Wright, Barbara Achstetter and the volunteer staff for their faithful service to "the least of these" in our community.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service

The Greater Olney Interfaith Ministerium will be hosting a Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 25 at B'Shalom, 7:30 pm. If you are interested in helping to plan this special time of worship, see Rev. Sue.

JUST A REMINDER

To order your Café Justo Coffee please contact Kathryn Ennes at church or via e-mail at <u>k_ennes@yahoo.com</u>.

OUR LADIES NEED HELP!!



There is a group of ladies who meet each week at JoAnn Keister's to work on crafts for the Christmas Bazaar. They are in need for batting (some places call it Fiberfil) to make items such as Rag Dolls and many other exciting things. It is a little much to expect them to make, to spend their time, energy, and other supplies and provide all the things needed for these projects, exclusively out of their own pockets. Let's all go to a craft store, K-Mart, Target or your local fabric store (you can even get it at Amazon.com) and purchase a bag (or 2) of batting (Poly-fill/Fiberfil) to help these ladies with the expense of providing for the Christmas Bazaar. If you love crafting and want to help, call JoAnn, she will be glad to tell you when and what time.

BOOK DISCUSSION SELECTIONS FALL 2014-SPRING 2015

All meetings are held on Thursdays and are at 7:30 pm in the <u>Choir Room</u>

November 6 - <u>Same Kind of Different As Me: A</u> <u>Modern-Day Slave, an International Art</u> <u>Dealer, and the Unlikely Woman Who Bound</u> <u>Them Together</u>

A true story by Ron Hall, Denver Moore and Lynn Vincent

A dangerous, homeless drifter who grew up picking cotton in virtual slavery. An upscale art dealer accustomed to the world of Armani and 9Chanel. A gutsy woman with a stubborn dream. A story so incredible no novelist would dare dream it.

It begins outside a burning plantation hut in Louisiana . . . and an East Texas honky-tonk . . . and, without a doubt, in the heart of God. It unfolds in a Hollywood hacienda . . . an upscale New York gallery . . . a downtown dumpster . . . a Texas ranch.

Gritty with pain and betrayal and brutality, this true story also shines with an unexpected, life-changing love.

December 4 - Light Between Oceans

by M.L. Stedman

February 5 - <u>The Silence Of Bonaventure Arrow</u> by Rita Leganski

March 5 - Girl Meets God by Lauren Winner

May 7 - Someone by Alice McDermott

June 5 -to be determined

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact velma_durant@yahoo.com. We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

Our October Birthdays are:

Lowe, Eric 10/03

Lowe, Ruthie	10/03
Frazier, Nick	10/06
Brown, Robert	10/07
Meisner, Joe	10/09
O'Brien, Cecelia	10/20
Weinberger, Emily	10/24
Kaisler, Chryl	10/25
Ambrose, Fred	10/25
Ambrose, Debbie	10/29

October Anniversaries:

Rider, Don and Joanne	10/10
Preville, Dean and Doreen	10/20

IN OUR COMMUNITY

<u>Sandy Spring Lions Club:</u> Monday, October 27 at 7:00 pm, in Salem Community Hall.

Eyeglass Collection: Salem continues to collect used eyeglasses, cell phones and hearing aids to donate to Lions Club. Please leave them in Salem Community Hall.

<u>**Our House**</u> needs Egg Cartons. Please save your empty egg cartons, place them in the kitchen in the hallway, someone will get them to Our House.

"FOR I WAS HUNGRY..."

<u>Manna Food Center:</u> 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, or online at <u>www.mannafood.org</u>; to volunteer call 301-424-1130.

Olney Help: P.O. Box 430, Olney, MD 20830;

to volunteer call 301-774-6829. They still are in desperate need of rice sides (Rice-a-Roni/ Knorr sides), peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken, fruit juice, snacks such as granola bars/crackers, cake mix/frosting, canned pasta. Please place items in a box in the church hallway. <u>No glass jars.</u>

PLEASE NOTE: From Ruth Filbert of Olney Help:

We have joined a fundraising project sponsored by Amazon. If you order from Amazon you can go to <u>smile.amazon.com</u>, choose Olney Help as the beneficiary and we will receive 1/2 percent of the cost of all eligible items. The prices, your account, Amazon prime, etc. all remain the same - we just get a donation. I spot-checked a few items and everything was eligible, but I am sure there are probably some items that are not.

Please consider bookmarking this site and telling all your friends, relatives, congregations and anyone else you know. We have seen a significant increase in both food and financial assistance and can really use any money that this effort generates.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks for your support.

Ruth Filbert (rfilbert46@msn.com)

<u>Millian UMC Food Pantry:</u> Millian UMC, 13016 Parkland Dr., Rockville opens its food pantry on the second Saturday of the month. A box for food items is in the church hallway.

Got Clothing? The <u>Glenmont United Methodist</u> <u>Church</u> has a thrift store and has asked for donations of children's and youth clothing plus household items such as pots and pans, other cooking utensils, etc. If you have anything you can contribute, please bring them to Salem and place them in the collection box in the side entryway. We will see they get delivered.

Disaster Victim Assistance: Monetary donations will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Make checks payable to Salem UMC and mark "disaster relief" in the memo line. Or donate online at www/umcor.org.

Thank You to Salem's Prayer Partners - To everyone of our Prayer Partners; there are four that meet each Tuesday morning at JoAnne Keister's home to pray for each request given. However, there are many more, those who work and those who for some other reason cannot be there, who also pray over the prayer list. Thank you for your faithfulness.

SHAWLS

Prayer Shawls are available in Salem Community Hall. There is no cost; if you know anyone you want to share a prayer with all the time, see Carole Roberts or Rev. Sue for a shawl. The comfort they give is well worth the effort of delivering one to your friends, family or coworkers. They will thank you!

AND THE ANSWER IS -



If you guessed Don Rider you were correct.



Don Rider

Don Wrote: "My Dad worked for a Farmer's Cooperative, so my family lived in a series of small farm towns in Central, NY where the dairy industry is still big. While both my Mom and Dad are now gone, I see my two sisters (NY and Massachusetts) quite often.

In whatever town we lived, the church with the white steeple was always a center of family and spiritual activities--family night suppers and youth fellowship meetings. Finding Salem and its many inspired and inspiring members has been a bit of a homecoming for me. I am constantly amazed by the variety of talents, spiritual gifts and unique ministries that Salem folks exhibit.

After college and a stint in the Army, I embarked on a career with the federal government and settled in the Olney area more than 30 years ago. My grown children always kid me: "Dad you will never leave Olney." While that may be a bit of an exaggeration, I have become very attached to this area. Where else can you find all the conveniences and access to D.C. while at the same time a 15 minute ride puts you in the middle of open fields and miles of gorgeous farm country?

My "retirement" job involves teaching college courses--both on site and on line. It is extremely rewarding. Joanne is the most warm and loving companion anyone could have. She has recently retired from a very, very demanding job working-in Congress. More than ever, we are able to enjoy travel, spending time with friends and family and just "hanging out" together. Our marriage, in 2008, was the first one conducted by Rev. Sue shortly after she became Salem's pastor."

OUR NEXT CHALLENGE ...

DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?



Can you guess who the older of these two girls is?

Call me 240-328-4810, email me <u>velma_durant@yahoo.com</u> or stop me at church, I would love to publish your name as a person who knows.

Answer in November's Edition of the Salem News.

	The Salem Newsletter is assembled and published by Velma Durant,
	and edited by Curtis Smith and Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling.
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