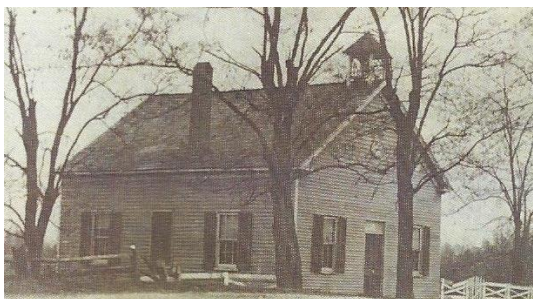


Salem United Methodist Church

February 2016 Newsletter

«183 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2016

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



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

To the Salem UM Church Community,

The blizzard of 2016 is behind us and hopefully it will remain singular. I have some good news! Liturgically speaking, spring is on the way. Lent begins on Feb 10 with Easter on March 27! Traditionally, Lent has been a season of self-examination and repentance; that is, we are called to look at where we have strayed as a follower of Jesus, make confession, and get back on the right path. So how do we prepare yet again to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus in the midst of a heated political presidential campaign? Yes, you read correctly. I put Jesus and our presidential

campaign in the same sentence. In the midst of a heated political race we as people who claim to be Christians need to take a close look at who we follow. What role does our Christian faith play in our political views? Or should it? In order to answer these questions, we need to take another look at who Jesus is and what Jesus means to us. Each of the two major political parties has candidates and supporters who are Christian. Sitting in our pews on Sunday mornings are people with a spectrum of political views, yet we all profess our faith in Jesus as Lord, Savior, Son of God, and Messiah. So what do these terms mean? Who is this Jesus?

Jesus asked his disciples this question, "Who do you say that I am?" Who do you say Jesus is? How would you describe Jesus? And just as important, how do you follow Jesus in your life? During Lent we will rediscover who Jesus is or perhaps discover Jesus all over again as we journey to and through the cross. Is Jesus the kind Savior who taught us nice ways to live? Does Jesus live eternally to serve our personal needs and then take us to heaven when we die? Have you ever thought of Jesus as a rebel, a renegade, or a revolutionary? In his book, *Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus*, Mike Slaughter of Ginghamburg

UMC claims that Jesus came to begin a radical movement of God which was revolutionary and subversive. Jesus announced his mission as one that would “bring good news to the poor...proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18). These words clashed with both the political Roman kingdom and the religious kingdom of the first century. Do these words still clash with the political and religious kingdoms of the 21st century?

During Lent many will “give something up for Lent” such as chocolate, sodas, etc. in a vain attempt to refocus on Jesus. Instead of giving something up this Lent, I invite each of us to (re)read one Gospel, your choice: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Take note of what Jesus says and to whom he says it. Think on how his words and actions were threatening the status quo of his first century culture. Think also on how his words can still challenge our lives in the 21st century. Which Gospel will you read?

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Prayer and Share Worship
Wednesdays 7:00-7:30 pm**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm

Eat in or take out pancake supper by the Men of Salem. Feel free to wear your mardi gras beads. Freewill donation accepted.

Shared Lenten Worship

Feb 10, Ash Wednesday at Ashton UMC 7:30 pm
Contemplative Worship: "Turning Back"

March 24, Holy Thursday at Salem UMC 7:30 pm
“Denied, Betrayed” A dramatic portrayal of the night before the Crucifixion with a soup supper and table worship in our Community Hall

March 25, Holy Friday at St. Paul UMC 7:30 pm
Scripture and Song

Epiphany Sermon Series Continued: The Lord's Prayer

Feb 7 Forgive? Erin Wheeler preaching

Feb 14 Please, Lord, Part 2: Communion Sunday

Lent Sermon Series: (Re)Discovering Jesus: Rebel, Revolutionary, Radical

Feb 21 Rebel Jesus

Feb 28 30-Hour Famine Worship: Youth Lead Worship

March 6 Revolutionary Jesus

March 13 Radical Jesus

March 20 Palm Sunday-The Challenge of the Cross

March 27 Easter Sunday-A Revolutionary Resurrection

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening

All middle and high-school students are welcome. You do not need to attend Salem.

Youth Bell Choir: 6:30-7:00 pm

Youth Group: 7:00-8:00 pm

Thank you to all who adopted a Rocker.

Feb 5-7 ROCK

Leave Friday, 3:30 pm

Return Sunday, 3:30 pm (ish)

No Youth Group Sunday night

Feb 14 Souper Bowl of Caring and ASP
Breakfast

Discretionary Offering will go for the youth to purchase food for Olney Help

Youth Group: Go buy food

Feb 21 Host Game Night for Church and Family
All ages invited. Bring a game and a snack.
6:30 pm-8:00 pm.

Feb 26-27 30 Hour Famine 6:00 PM Friday-6:30 pm Saturday.

Youth will assist with Lord's Table on Saturday afternoon.

Need Adult volunteers to sleep over on Friday evening, drive youth to Lord's Table, and prepare dinner for them on Saturday evening to end their 30 Hour fast.

Feb 28 Youth will lead worship on Sunday.

No Youth Group Sunday night

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**YOU CAN'T STUMBLE WHEN YOU ARE ON YOUR KNEES.**

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A HEART AT PEACE GIVES LIFE TO THE BODY.

SALEM SNOW CLOSING POLICY



Mother Nature's gift

"I wonder If there's worship this morning at Salem..."

Here is how you find out about the cancellation of the services before getting in your car:

Call the church at (301) 774-7772 after 7:00 am on Sunday and listen to the recorded message.

1. Rev. Sue will attempt to call all regular participants of the 8:15 am service to announce the cancellation of that service.
2. Check your email. If you've subscribed to the church's email list, you'll find a message by 7:00 am on Sunday for the 8:15 service and by 9:00 am for the 10:00 service.
3. If you have access to the internet, visit Salem's Facebook page. The message will be posted by 7:00 am on Sunday.

Here is how the church makes the decision about the service cancellation:

When there is a concern about the impending weather (such as freezing rain and heavy snowfall) that might affect the congregation coming to church, the Salem Trustee Chair and Pastor review weather forecasts and decide by 6:30 am whether to cancel Sunday services.

Please note that occasionally the 8:15 am service will be cancelled but the 10:00 am service held, based on weather conditions and the ability to clear the sidewalks and parking lot. If you attend the 10 am service, check your email after 9:00 am for confirmation.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Pastor, Rev. Sue, pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org, or Trustee Chair, Connie Somerville gds6621@verizon.net



And carrying out the above instructions, Church Activities were indeed canceled on Sunday, January 24th when "Mother Nature" hit us with a 30+ inches of snow. We at Salem are very grateful for the members of the church, neighbors and friends of the church who came out and helped clear the walks, driveway and parking lot as well as the parsonage. Listed below are the names of all the Special People, please give them a "pat on the back" and a big thank you :



Buck Bartley with his snowblower

A special thanks to Buck Bartley, for all he did for snow removal. Every day Buck was either shoveling or snow blowing. He was able to get people from the church and the neighborhood to help. Other dedicated workers are:

Sue Daley, Rick Myers, church neighbor Andy Spagnolo, Chuck Sterling, church neighbor the Thompson Family, (Donny, Trish, Aiden, Donovan, Wyatt), Todd Greenstone, of the Todd Greenstone Custom Farming, Inc., company cleared the parking lot with his large, wheeled front end loader.

Shoveling out the parsonage were:

The Thompson family, Tom Luke, and Rick Myers. A special thanks to Rick Myers for the wonderful pictures. **If** you did not see your name on the list, it was probably because you were 'snowed-in.'

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

We are now providing a large-print version of the bulletin and readings each Sunday. Look for them on the front table of the sanctuary. Unfortunately we cannot print the announcements in large-print due to space constraints.

THE BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 2nd, 7:30 pm at Joann Ranshaws. We will be reading "The Secret Chord" by Geraldine Brooks. This fiction account of the life of David brings to life second Iron Age Israel while showing us David through the eyes of those who love him and those who fear him.

CONGRATULATIONS

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Halsey Weir Smith

Salem welcomes Halsey Weir Smith as a new member of our congregation.

Halsey was born August 16, many years ago; he served in the United States Marines for over 30 years-Reserve and active duty. He and his wife Gerry had two daughters, Karen and our Kulley Bancroft who in turn gave him 2 grandchildren, Christopher and Braedyn. Halsey and Gerry were married for 48 years before she passed away. They made their home, since 1971, in the Bel-Pre section of Silver Spring where he still resides.

He retired from Equifax (Credit Bureau) as an Account Executive. Halsey has always been active in the community; some of his most notable achievements include: Sandy Spring Lions Club for 44 years; Member of the board of directors of the MGH Health Foundation-(Hospital) 15 years; American Legion 14 years - Commander 10 years; former member of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation for 18 years - we built the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, VA; Served 10 years on Advisory Board of Friends of Longwood

Community Center; Board member of the Olney Big Band (Swing Music).

Halsey said, "I attended several different bible classes to become more familiar with the Lord and Love of Christ. Looking forward to working with the members of the SUMC and the fellowship."

OUR SYMPATHY

Salem UMC express their condolences to the family of Patricia Seibel, a neighbor of Salem UMC, who died on Tuesday, January 26 at home. She was the daughter of the late Francis and Helen Linton. Pat is survived by her husband John, a sister, Janice Harrington, brother, Larry Linton, three children: Daniel Truman, John and William Seibel, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Pat lived as a neighbor to the church her whole life. Debbie Unglesbee McElveen remembers Pat going with the Salem youth to New York with the Baltimore Conference for a United Nations Youth Conference and to a Youth Week in Western Maryland. She was the niece of Anna Unglesbee and late Flo Johnston.

ASP 2016

ASP CHILI COOK-OFF AND EPIPHANY AUCTION

Salem's Community Hall was ablaze with excitement, Saturday, January 9th, as crockpots began arriving and the aroma of chili filled the room. There were chicken chili, with and without beans, Lumberjack, Pot Roast, Enemy Miney Moe, JMU Duke, Darn Good (sausage), Not My Mother's, Black and Gold, The Classic, 2 Stage X8 and finally Texas Tango. Comments were: "Every one of them is excellent," "all are so good it's hard to vote." However, vote they did!

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

1st place - Maggie Dougherty
White Chicken Chili w/beans

2nd place - Bob Brown
Black 'n Gold Chili

3rd place - Carole Roberts
Chicken Chili no beans



The Chili Cook-Off Winners: Left to right- Bob Brown, Carol Roberts and Maggie Dougherty

Maggie was so excited at winning she danced all the way to receive her wooden spoon trophy. Congratulations to each winner and well-done to all who participated,

ASP raised \$997 from the two events. (\$343 from the cook-off and \$654 from the auction). It is a very good second fund raiser for the 2016 ASP trip, this time to West Virginia.



The Epiphany Auction was fun and lively with our Auctioneer Steve Currier and his right-hand helper, Barbara Achstetter. There were items set for silent auction and many items set for auction.

Our many thanks to the Ladies of Salem for donating some of the leftover baskets from the Christmas Bazaar.

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**ASP Valentine Breakfast  
Sunday, February 14 11:15 am – 12 noon  
Salem Community Hall**

It's not breakfast in bed but it does get you out of cooking! Join us for pancakes, sausage, fruit, yogurt, coffee and more.

Freewill donation supports our Appalachian Service Project home-building crews this summer.

**A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

(I must confess, as publisher of the Salem Newsletter, it is very hard to choose which “Time for Children” to use each month. Everyone has a special message that is related to the message the adults will be hearing and each one touches our hearts in a special way. I want to print them ALL: however; the same old problem – room – so I, Velma Durant, as publisher, ask your prayers that I pick the right message that would bless you, our readers, all over again.)



January 3, Kings Day, was celebrated at Salem with Rev. Sue telling the children the story of the Three Wise Men who followed the star to the Christ Child. With a paper star to lead them, the children marched around the sanctuary to the altar where the Nativity scene was displayed and where the Three Wise Men were added to the display.



Rev. Sue with Piper and Shelby Luke

On Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Sue started a series of messages on the Lord's Prayer for the children. The ushers gave each child as they entered the sanctuary a blank sheet of paper. At the beginning of service she instructed the children to draw a picture of what God looked like to them. It was amazing and humbling. One child drew a picture of a woman and her little girl: God is like a Mother, taking care of little girl every day. Out of the mouth of babes! And a child shall lead them... Thank you Father for our children!

## MEMORY GARDEN

If you are interested in placing an order for a brick to honor/remember someone, please see the order blank at the end of this newsletter.

## SALEM CEMETERY

**Cemetery Lot Price Increase:** The cost of Salem's cemetery lots will increase by \$200.00 beginning 2016. Please see Chet Babylon for purchase or information.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Church Council Meeting Highlights  
January 27, 2016

- Our first meeting of 2016 was well attended. Thank you to all Council members who braved the snowy roads to come together to do God's work.
  - Debbie Ambrose opened the meeting with a devotion based on Matthew 5: 13-16 from the Message. Here we are called to be "light, bringing out the God colors in the world." Our meeting focused on shining our light to our church, the community and the world.
- † Rev. Sue reported on December worship attendance. The average was 87. Christmas Eve attendance totaled 171 at both services. Concern was shared for Hasashi Yamagata. His father had a stroke and Hasashi has gone to Japan to be with him.
- † Chet Babylon and Nancy Cox from the Cemetery Committee reported on the work of the committee. They have been working diligently to review and revise the operating procedures of the cemetery. They have also produced a new pamphlet about our cemetery. Keep your eyes open for this. It will be available to all very soon. Thanks to the entire committee for your hard work.
- † Bill Lavelly was elected as the new Lay Leader. He will now serve alongside Ginny Weinberger. He fills the vacancy left by the passing of John Howes.
- † Rev. Sue shared the church Statistical Report that was sent to the Baltimore -

Washington Conference for 2015. This includes membership information, financial information, and information about our assets. Contact Rev. Sue if you would like a copy.

- † Kulley Bancroft shared year-end financial information for 2015. While last year's budget was written to include a \$19,000 negative balance, we ended the year with a positive balance of \$3,300!!!! All apportionments are paid for last year. Thanks to all for your generous giving and support of our ministries. Kulley shared the balances of our three investment accounts (Cemetery, Legacy, and Endowment). We are awaiting our year-end statements from the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation. Kulley and Rev. Sue will be getting together to make final revisions to our updated Financial Policy.
  - † Financial Statements for 2015 giving will be mailed this week. These statements will not include contributions to the Legacy Fund. Statements of this giving will be sent separately.
  - † Sharon Craddock has resigned as our Financial Secretary as of March 1. The Lay Leadership committee will be looking for someone to fill this position. Interested? Contact Rev. Sue.
  - † We discussed the development of our church Goals for 2016. We began by looking at Rev. Sue's pastoral goals, considered input from Erin Wheeler and arrived at 3 goals for 2016. We will be working on ways to:
    1. Increase attendance
    2. Find new ways to reach out to the community
    3. Continue to streamline our various church accounts into one Operating Account.We will be forming a work group to spearhead actions and activities that will address these goals
- Rev. Sue ended the meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting is February 25, 2016. All are welcome.  
Debbie Ambrose, Church Council Chair

**SALEM UNITED METHODIST MEN**

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be Sat. February 6<sup>th</sup> in the Community Hall. All Salem men are encouraged to attend as we plan for the ways we can serve our God, our Church and our community.

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES/HOSTS**

**Have you signed up to provide snacks for coffee hour?** It doesn't have to be fancy; please contact Anne Ennes: alhemd@aol.com or Joyce Howes: cucinotta24@icloud.com with your date to serve. Their telephone numbers can be found in the Church Directory.

Men, consider being host for a Sunday or two.

**SIGN-UP FOR:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**

If you would like to provide flowers you may either place your name on the list on the church bulletin board or go to Sign-Up Genius at: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0948AAAD2AA5F94-altar](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0948AAAD2AA5F94-altar).

When signing up, please indicate if the flowers are a tribute (for example: from the Jones family in honor of John's 10th birthday). Tributes will be listed in the Sunday announcements.

Purchase your flowers at the vendor of your choice and bring by Saturday afternoon. Call Rev. Dr. Sue before you head out so she can open the church for you.

Contact Suzanne Friis with questions.

**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 February Birthdays are:**

- Gregg, Eddie 02/02
- Friedrich, Jeff 02/07
- Whaley, Janet 02/07
- Roberts, John 02/08
- Wahl, Jerry 02/08
- Sterling, Sarah 02/12
- Roberts, Austin 02/15

- Lyon, Anna 02/17
- Blaine, Ed 02/23
- Rhinehart, Roger 02/24
- Pustis, Amanda 02/25

There are no February Anniversaries listed.

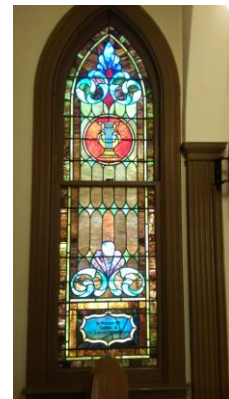
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KNOW THE BIBLE IN YOUR HEAD, STOW IT IN YOUR HEART, SHOW IT IN YOUR LIFE, SOW IT IN THE WORLD.

THE WINDOWS OF SALEM UMC, BROOKEVILLE, MD

by Rose Eide-Altman

For this second article about the people mentioned in the stained glass windows of Salem United Methodist Church, Brookeville, MD, I have chosen 3 more windows of people related to each other, but this time it is not as obvious as they do not share the same last name. Just a reminder: For ease of discussion I have numbered the windows, with number 1 being the one in the choir loft, front right of church. Follow around that north facing wall with windows 1-5, then 6-8 together in the back of the church, the east facing wall, and on around. The sources I used are: "The Book of Names, Genealogical Record of a Community": the history of Brookeville; the Federal Census records as found on www.ancestry.com; and cemetery records on www.findagrave.com. These window articles are just a simple overview of facts from these public documents.

This article will begin with window 1:



Window 1 is inscribed: "In Memory of Samuel & Louisa Hopkins"

Samuel J. Hopkins (Sept. 17, 1822- Aug 23, 1873) married Sept. 25, 1845 to Louisa Elizabeth

Day (July 13, 1824- Oct. 27, 1895). Samuel was a saddler. They had 4 children: Samuel Jefferson Hopkins (July 4, 1846 – Dec. 13, 1927); Hiram W. Hopkins (May 8, 1849 – Aug. 1, 1916); Eliza S. Hopkins (Sept. 28, 1850-Feb. 21, 1930) and Mary L., (b. 1857). Samuel is buried in the Hopkins family cemetery, Lisbon, MD; Louisa is buried in the Salem cemetery.

Their daughter, Eliza, married William Miller, and that brings us to window 2:



Window 2 is inscribed: “In Memory of Wm. B. Miller”

William B. Miller (June 4, 1851- Nov. 9, 1894) was married to Eliza S. Hopkins (Sept. 28, 1850-Feb. 21, 1930). William was a wheelwright and undertaker. They had 2 daughters: Elizabeth L., b. 1875, and Nellie M., b. 1884. William died at age 43 and was buried in the Salem cemetery. After his death Eliza married Seth Warfield Griffith (Jan. 10, 1860-Nov. 4, 1935). Seth and Eliza are also buried in the Salem cemetery.

Eliza is also related, as daughter-in-law, to the dedicatees of window 5:



Window 5 is inscribed: “In Memory of Leebus and Ruth S. Griffith”

Leebus Griffith (Feb 11, 1804- Feb 5, 1889) was married Jan 26, 1858 to Ruth S. Warfield

(Jan. 31, 1828- Nov. 13, 1882). Leebus was a farmer. Ruth was his second wife and they had 5 children: Ida May Griffith Waters (Nov. 27, 1858 – May 9, 1883); Seth Warfield Griffith (Jan. 10, 1860-Nov. 4, 1935); Florence Cornelia Griffith Etchison (May 8, 1861 – Sept. 25, 1933); Robert E. Lee Griffith (July 15, 1862 – Feb 8. 1947); Clarence M. (Nov. 17, 1864 – Apr. 8, 1924). Leebus is buried in the New Market cemetery; Ruth is buried in the Lorraine Park Cemetery, Woodlawn, MD.

Their son, Seth, married Eliza Hopkins and together Eliza and Seth could have been the ones to give windows 1, 2 and 5. All 5 individuals mentioned on these windows had died by 1895, and so this further supports the idea that the windows were installed at the time the church was built in 1910.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sandy Spring Lions Club: Monday, February 22 at 7:00 pm, in Salem Community Hall. **There is a standing request for help in preparing the dinner and setting up the room for the meeting. If you can help Mondays please contact Maryellen Eaton.**

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.

Our House needs Egg Cartons. Please save your empty egg cartons, place them on the coat rack in the hallway; we will see that Our House gets them.

HAPPENINGS

Bazaar Committee Meeting: February 6th at 10:00 am in the Community Hall. A light breakfast will be served.

Lion’s Club Blood Drive: The Lions Club is once again sponsoring a blood drive for The American Red Cross. They will be at Salem UMC on Tuesday, February 23rd from 1:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The blood supply is very low because several drives were cancelled due to the storm in January. Donors can go to www.redcrossblood.org under SS Lions Club drive on February 23 to make an appointment. Or you may contact Joyce Howes at cucinotta24@icloud.com (you can find

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Joyce's phone number in the church directory). Please consider saving a life and helping a stranger by donating your blood and an hour of your time. Also check out the Rapid Pass option for saving your time at the blood drive.

Welcome Spirit Club! Spirit Club, a fitness group for those with disabilities, meets Wednesdays in the Community Hall from 6-7 pm. Our own Philip Weinberger is an avid participant.

Seniors on the Move – Exercise Class: Fridays, 9:00-10:00 am in the Community Hall. Drop in – registration not required! Participate and pay by the session or for the full fall program. For more information contact the leader, Mary-Jo Cosgrove, at mjcosgrove58@gmail.com

Lord's Table Needs Volunteers: Salem will once again serve dinner to the homeless at the Lord's Table at St. Martin's in Gaithersburg on the 4th Saturday of each month, September through June. Help is needed for set-up, food preparation and particularly for serving between 3:30-4:40 pm. If you can help in any way, please sign up on the bulletin board. The next Lord's Table is Saturday, February 27th.

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### JUST A REMINDER

To order your Café Justo Coffee please contact Kathryn Ennes at church or via e-mail at [k\\_ennes@yahoo.com](mailto:k_ennes@yahoo.com).

### "FOR I WAS HUNGRY..."

**Manna Food Center:** 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, or online at [www.mannafood.org](http://www.mannafood.org); 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 the box marked for Olney Help in the church hallway. No glass jars.

**Got Clothing?** The Glenmont United Methodist Church 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.

**Syrian Refugees:** Monetary donations will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Make checks payable to Salem UMC and mark "Syrian refugees" in the memo line. Or donate online at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).

### PRAYER 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 co-workers. They will thank you!

### NOTES OF THANKS

**From:** Maria Hauge  
<[Maria.Hauge@stpetersolney.org](mailto:Maria.Hauge@stpetersolney.org)>  
**Date:** January 14, 2016 at 2:31:32 PM EST  
**To:** Libby Wright <[libster@verizon.net](mailto:libster@verizon.net)>  
**Subject:** Thank you from St. Peter's

Dear Libby -

Today I attended our last Holiday Giving Project meeting and I am happy to report that Montgomery County served almost 9,000 families and 18,200 children in December. At Thanksgiving about 7,800 families were also served.

Thank you so much for all your help this past Thanksgiving and December. With your help St. Peter's was able to provide food baskets for 200 families at Thanksgiving and in December we served almost 250 families and gave gifts to over 470 children. We truly appreciate all your help and look forward to working with you in 2016! May this year be peaceful and joyous! Thank you again!

Blessings, Maria

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YMCA YOUTH LINKS HOLIDAY PARTY – DECEMBER 16, 2015

Are you familiar with the YMCA's Snowman Program? Each year as we are preparing for our celebration of the birth of our Savior, our faithful Missions Chairman, Libby Wright, brings

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beautiful display paper snowmen. These snowmen have names, ages and the gift desire of a child who would not have gifts under the tree if it were not for the YMCA's Youth Link Program.

This year as Libby brought the snowmen in, people gathered around her and before "Coffee Hour" was over, all snowmen had disappeared. So many people were disappointed that they had missed out on this special program.

YMCA's party was held on December 16th and a booklet of pictures is posted on the bulletin board for your enjoyment, far too many to be shared in the newsletter; however here are a couple of them, along with their thank you note.



This picture gives you an idea of how large the party was.



Along with other organizations and churches, we made a difference in a child's life.

Dear Rev. Sue and Libby,

I can't thank SUMC enough for the beautiful presents you contribute year after year. It was our best holiday party ever because of you. I'm enclosing some pictures of the event – enjoy!

Best, Laure Brown

Thank you for Prayer Shawl & Prayers

Dear Velma and Curt,

Thank you so much for placing my name on your prayer list and for the beautiful prayer shawl, it is so soft and pretty and came at the perfect time when I was at my lowest.

It's hard to hear the doctor tell you that you have Leukemia, but heartwarming to know friends and family are right there with you and that people I don't even know are praying for me.

Love, Nancy Schut
(Curt Smith's cousin)

The Mission of the People of Salem United Methodist Church is to grow in Christian faith and express God's love to all.

The Vision of Salem United Methodist Church is to be a signpost of God's grace to the world.

TREES

by: **Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)**

ITHINK that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

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

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEMORY GARDEN ENGRAVED BRICKS



The Memory Garden was established in 2003-2004 and we have all enjoyed this beautiful project to date. The Memory Garden provides a special way to **memorialize, honor and celebrate family and friends** in a permanent and beautiful setting. Inasmuch as additional people have become a part of the Salem family, we are providing an opportunity to order additional bricks that will become a permanent addition to the Garden.

Additional brick orders can be placed with Joyce Howes, with installation planned for late spring. Proceeds from this sale will go into the church general fund.

Brick size 4" x 8" engraved is \$125

Brick size 8" x 8" engraved is \$200

Brick ordering information forms are on the table in the Sanctuary or you may contact Joyce Howes at 301-774-5851 or cucinotta1@verizon.net.

MEMORY GARDEN BRICK ORDER FORM

Brick Purchased by: _____

Phone or email:

Check Size:

Brick Size 4" x 8"

Brick Size 8" x 8"

Message for engraving:

Make check payable to Salem United Methodist Church with Memory Garden on the memo line and give to Joyce Howe