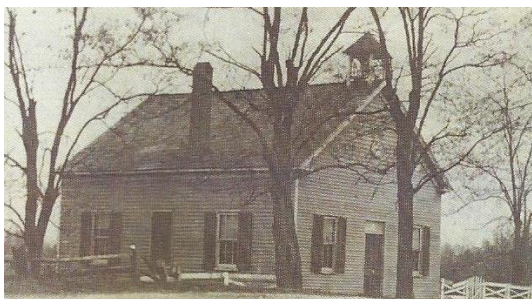


Salem United Methodist Church

January 2017 Newsletter

«183 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM United Methodist Church 2016

SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



By Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling

Connie Lou Kruhm Somerville was born in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1956 to Charles Henry and Betty Lou Bergmann Kruhm. Connie had one sister, Darlene, and two brothers, Chuck and John. She was a graduate from Sherwood High School. In 1979 she married David.

Together they have two daughters, Breanna and Lorrie, and two grandchildren, Dominick and Savannah. Connie cared for her mother, sister, and brother who all had Huntington's disease. Connie worked as a C & P telephone operator and at Montgomery Mutual which later became Liberty Mutual, and in the office of Olney Pediatrics. In October 2001 right after 9/11, Connie joined the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary as a way to help her community. There Connie filled many roles, one included obtaining and designing a mobile canteen to feed firefighters and rescue workers who are on a scene for an extended period of time.

On October 24, 2010, Connie became a member at Salem UMC. She decided to join after attending a women's retreat. Connie served here in many ways as well. She was an usher, assisted our tech person, organized our Christmas bazaar and was the Chair of our Trustees.

On Sunday, December 4 Connie worshiped with us and attended our Christmas tree lighting that evening. In the early hours of Monday morning, December 5 at her home, Connie joined her parents, sister, and brother when she entered into eternal life.

Connie was a true servant of God. She served with humility and a willing heart. When she saw a need, she gently stepped in and said, "I think I can help with that." And she did- always a smile and a laugh. When Connie joined the church she took a spiritual gifts survey. Her spiritual gift was administration. Connie used this gift with her family, at work, in the Auxiliary, and at church. All of us are more organized because of Connie's gift of administration. Connie served with humility, efficiency, kindness, and joy. We will miss Connie tremendously.



The last picture of Connie at the Salem's ASP Breakfast

**TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH
COMMUNITY**



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

A Clear Vision from Rev. Sue

If someone were to ask you where do you think you will be in five years, or what do you think you would be doing in five years, how would you answer that? In the early part of our lives it may be easier to see what the future holds for us, than in the later part of our lives. When we are young, we may aspire to marriage and children, or to taking the next step in our careers. When we grow older, we begin to think in terms of the legacy we will leave for future generations.

If someone were to ask us as a church, what will Salem be like in five years, how would

you respond? What will we look like? Who will be here? How will we continue to grow as faithful followers of Jesus Christ? Do you have a clear vision for Salem's future?

Salem has a rich history. For 183 years the Word of God has been preached, the Gospel message has been taught, and countless disciples have served the Living Christ through this small church. As our culture becomes more and more non-religious, how do we continue to connect with those who are hurting or searching for something more?

As your pastor, I am concerned how we are visioning, preparing, and planning for our future especially as our congregation ages. In addition to our rich heritage, we have a beautiful campus of three buildings, the largest parking lot in Brookeville, and a wonderful, well-used playground available to the community. Those who have gone before us planned well and implemented their plans so we can be the beneficiaries of all this. But what is our next step?

In consultation with Deb Ambrose, our Church Council Chair, and J. W. Park, our District Superintendent, **we are inviting the conference's church strategist, Christie Latona**, to confer with us. Her strategy is for us **to take a survey called Readiness 360 this February 3-13**. Then gather on **Saturday, February 18 for a debriefing of the survey and a congregational training**. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

In the meantime for the month of January, Christie is asking us to prepare ourselves spiritually for our visioning discernment. She wrote, "To shift from personal preferences/comfort zones/analytical perspectives into a God-centered one, it is essential that we build our spiritual discernment muscles. This is especially critical when charting a course to the future." Christie recommends that we spend 30 minutes a day to read a chapter from the Book of Acts in a special way. This special way is called the **S.O.A.P. Method: Scripture, Observation, Prayer, and Discernment**.

After reading the chapter, journal with these four parts:

Scripture: Write down one verse that stood out to you.

Observation: Write what you see in the verse and surrounding section.

Application: Write down how you sense God wants you to apply this verse to your life.

Prayer: Write a short prayer of response, asking God to help you do what God just showed you. (And pray it!)

If we read one chapter a day from the Book of Acts beginning on Sunday, January 8, we can have finished the entire 28 chapters by Saturday, February 4. Sermons for the month of January will coincide with the chapter for that Sunday.

Salem UM Church is not our church. We are merely custodians of it so we can come to know who Jesus is in our lives, grow in our faith, and share God's love with everyone. What the future holds for Salem is in our hands. How will we discern the call of God for this vibrant community of faith? Will you join me in this discernment process?

"If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed."

Proverbs 29:18 The Message

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Epiphany Season: A New Thing!

After Christmas we celebrate Epiphany Season. Epiphany means God manifests Godself in the world through Jesus. To spiritually prepare ourselves for congregational discernment and visioning, we have been asked to read one chapter of Acts a day. See message above. So during Epiphany we will discover how God is manifesting God's self to us through the scriptures of the Acts of the Apostles.

January 8 Baptism of our Lord: Of Water and the Spirit, Acts 1

January 15 Worth It?, Acts 8

January 22 Division and Decision, Acts 15

January 29 What is Your Story?, Acts 22

February 5 Acts of the Apostles: Chapter 29
Debbie Ambrose, leading worship

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening

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

6:30-7:00 pm Youth Bell Choir

7:00-8:00 pm Time Together

January 8 Epiphany Party, bring one gift to share
with each other, Cost <\$15

January 15 Understanding our Covenant

January 22 Writing our Covenant

January 29 Living our Covenant

Feb 3-5 ROCK!

ROCK!

Feb 3-5, 2017; Ocean City, MD

Our youth group is going to ROCK again.
Youth who are going are Joey Brantley, Sandy Harischandra, Amy Roberts, Wyatt and Aiden Thompson, and Jacob Weinberger. Adults are Mary Ellen Eaton, Alex and Sam Larson, Tom Luke, and Rev. Sue. Look for Adopt-A-Rocker in the month of January.

Salem Youth invited the congregation to a pot luck dinner and to make Advent Wreaths on the First Sunday of Advent.



Thanks to Rick Myers for providing the greens for the Advent Wreaths.

BLUE CHRISTMAS OR THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Christmas isn't a joyful time for everyone. Many feel blue for a variety of reasons. On Sunday, December 18, members of the congregation met to remember.

Remembering our loved ones who were celebrating this joyous season around the dinner

table of our King and singing "Happy Birthday" to Him. Remembering the "time" that is so quickly slipping away from all of us.

As Rev. Sue spoke to us about remembering, our hearts were filled with hope. The joy of the season began to creep in and overshadow the darkness of loneliness and sorrow.

As we placed a flower in the wreath we knew our loved ones were safe in the care of the One who made us all. The candle of light shows us that His light guides us through each moment of our lives and God is still on the Throne.



Our worship table at the conclusion of the Blue Christmas Service

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



This year's Christmas Bazaar was bitter-sweet for Salem United Methodist Church. Our faithful servant Connie Somerville, who had lead the effort and worked so tirelessly to make the bazaar a success, left her earthly world to be with the Lord just days ahead of the event. Our church was devastated by the news, yet Salem's ladies pulled together and worked feverishly to finish the work that needed to be done because we knew Connie would want it that way. Connie's wonderful organizational skills helped us to get it done and make the bazaar a success.

And what a success it was! The bazaar brought in more than \$5,000 and more money is trickling in by folks whose eyes were bigger than the amount of money that was in their wallets. There were such valuables to be had! There were 99 gift baskets that were put together before the bazaar and by 2pm on Saturday, only 4 were left. Hand-made scarf's flew off the table, home-made scrumptious sweets were snapped up, crocheted pot scrubbers and earring holders will be filling Christmas stockings, and many unique treasures found a new home. Even our favorite 4-legged family members found new, fun toys!



Thank you to everyone who worked to make the bazaar a success and as a tribute to our beloved Connie. Many hands worked to convert our community hall from an extensional church for Connie's funeral service, to a memorial luncheon in her honor, to our Christmas bazaar in one day.

And thank you Connie, for looking over us and your spirited presence to make our bazaar such a triumph.

Submitted by Libby Wright



FROM THE CONGREGATION

For this column, we are going to do something a little different. We are going to print part of an article from the Frederick News-Post that appeared Wednesday, December 7th. This article is about one of our dearest members, Bob Van Druff. Our 97 year old patriarch was at Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941 when the Japanese bombed our Naval Base there. You can read the whole story written by Ian Duncan (from the Baltimore Sun) at fredericknewspost.com.

Last survivors remember Pearl Harbor attack 75 years ago

- By Ian Duncan, The Baltimore Sun (TNS)
- Dec 6, 2016

It looked like it would be a quiet Sunday aboard the USS Aylwin for Robert Van Druff. The young Navy fire controlman second class was reading the funny pages in a Honolulu newspaper.

The Farragut-class destroyer Aylwin was moored at sleepy Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The date was Dec. 7, 1941.

“The general alarm went off,” Van Druff, 97, recalled recently at his home in Montgomery County. “We were being attacked, planes flying around and dropping bombs.”

A Japanese fleet bearing aircraft had steamed across the ocean to launch the surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet. By the time the waves of bombers and fighters subsided, 2,403 Americans were dead, 1,178 wounded and more than a dozen ships destroyed or badly damaged.

The attack drew a previously reluctant United States into World War II.

As the nation commemorates the 75th anniversary of the attack Wednesday, Van Druff is one of the last survivors left to tell the story.

The date that will live in infamy is passing from living memory into history. The responsibility for keeping the story alive now falls to historians, museum curators and the descendants of survivors.

Carmen Harding, Van Druff's daughter, edits a newsletter for the families of Pearl Harbor veterans.

“It’s important to remember so we don’t become passive and not think about what has happened in the past,” she said, “because history has a tendency to repeat itself.”

...

Van Druff said he was inspired to join the Navy while sitting in a movie theater in Colorado Springs watching the 1936 musical comedy “Follow the Fleet” starring Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire.

“I thought that seemed a good thing to do — join the Navy — so I did,” he said. Van Druff enlisted on turning 18, and was soon assigned to the Aylwin and sent to Hawaii.

There were no senior officers aboard the ship on the morning of the attack, Van Druff said, so the enlisted men took charge of responding to the Japanese. Van Druff took his position on the fire control director, a system that operated the ship’s guns, and shot back at the Japanese planes.

At one point, an aircraft passed low enough over the Aylwin that the crew could make out the pilot’s face, Van Druff said. The plane peppered the ship with gunfire, ineffectually, before the pilot crashed into the waves nearby.

Aboard the Taney, Howard Hayes — the last known surviving member of its crew from that day — rushed as fast as his feet could carry him to his battle station manning a range finder high on the ship’s mast.

“I was up there waving at the Japanese,” he recalled on a visit to Baltimore this year.

Hayes plans to mark the anniversary at a ceremony in Carson City, Nevada. He said Monday he hopes younger generations remember the attack and the war that followed — “because they should appreciate what they’ve got right now.”

The attack came early in the morning in Hawaii, but it was already afternoon in Baltimore.

The news reached the mainland by radio. The *Sun* put out an extra edition, reporting at 4 p.m. that Japan had declared war.

The impressionistic account that an Associated Press correspondent in Hawaii phoned

in to San Francisco in the midst of the attack unspooled across the page, sentences stretching across eight columns.

Congress voted to declare war on Japan the following day. The nation was plunged into a conflict that raged for nearly four more years, killing more than 60 million people, most of them civilians, before the Japanese surrendered in August 1945.

SALEM BOOK CLUB

Salem’s Book Club will meet Tuesday, January 17 at 7:30 pm at Suzanne Friis' house. We will be reading "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance. Considered by *The Economist* as "the most important book you will read this year" *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

ASP 2017

The first of the many fund raisers, our ASP Breakfast, was December 4th after the 10 am service. It was a very successful enjoyable event.



Our annual Cookie Bake-off took place on Sunday Dec. 18 after the 10 am service. It was

very hard to choose which cookie to vote for, some people voted for them all.

This IS a fund raiser for the June 18-24, 2017 ASP trip. The site yet unknown but wherever it is, people in that area will get the help our crews provide to make their lives just a little more comfortable.



What a great turnout! The cookies were all delicious, the soups were great, but room had to be saved for the many varieties of cookies, the choice was hard but someone had to win! And the winners are:



Donavan and Aiden Thompson, Joann Ranshaw and Debbie Ambrose. Congratulations to all of you.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN



On December 18th, the adult sermon was “Down to Earth Obedience,” so our Intern, Sam spoke to the children about Obedience. It’s always great when the children participate and participate they did. The adults seemed to participate as well, as they were very intense in listening.

Another joy our congregation had was the **Family Service on Christmas Eve**. The Children enacted the birth of Jesus with the help of their parents.



After the presentation, they enjoyed a birthday party where they sang “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.



THE LORD’S TABLE

The next Lord’s Table is
Saturday, January 28, 2017, 1-5 pm

The December’s turnout for helping set up, serve and cleanup was very slim to nothing. Many thanks to those who showed up to help serve the 40+ hungry souls depending on a warm meal and fellowship for a while, maybe their ONLY meal of the day. It brings to mind a song, don’t remember the title but the words that stand out are “If just a cup of water He placed within your hands, then just a cup of water is ALL that He demands.” Is St. Martin’s Food for the Hungry that cup He has placed in our hands? Remember this is one of Salem’s Mission!

SCRIPTURES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Psalm 37:7

Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for Him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. (NLT)

Isaiah 40:31

Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. (NASB)

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. (NIV)

Lamentations 3:22-24

The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him!" (NASB)

THE SALEM UMC WOMEN'S GROUP

Community Tree Lighting

On Sunday, December 4: at 6:00 pm



Members of the congregation and community began in the Community Room singing Christmas carols accompanied by our Youth Bell Choir. Then we went outside and gathered around the as the Christmas Tree as we

heard verses from John 1 read. The tree was lit and we sang, "O Christmas Tree."

After the lighting of the tree, everyone congregated in the Community Hall for cookies, hot chocolate, and other Advent activities.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Next Meeting –January 26, 7:15 pm

All are welcome!

Recently the Church Council voted to move forward with the Drive-Thru Coffee and Prayer for Commuters.

Our first effort was not successful. We have decided to regroup, and discuss how we might make this effort more successful. If you would like to participate in this program look for announcements from our Church Council Chairperson, Debbie Ambrose, for our round table discussion.

A WORD ABOUT MISSIONS

HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS



This was the collection site for our joint effort with St. Peter's Catholic and other churches in the area to make sure families less fortunate can have a Christmas celebration.

YMCA MENTORING PROGRAM



These gifts were for the 22 names in the YMCA's "Snowman" effort to make sure underprivileged children are not forgotten at Christmas. The children received their gifts at the YMCA's Christmas party.

SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers during the 2017 worship year, please sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hallway.

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.

COFFEE HOUR

Have you signed up to provide snacks for coffee hour? Please volunteer to provide a coffee hour or two this year. You may sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hall.

MEMORY GARDEN

If you are interested in placing an order for a brick to honor/remember someone please see Joyce Howes for more information.

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 January Birthdays are:

Gundersen, Danielle	01/02
VanHorn, Deb	01/02

Bartley, Rachel	01/03
Lange, Marilyn	01/06
Stahley-Brown, Maryellen	01/18
Gregg, Kristen	01/20
Ranshaw, David	01/20
York, Marcia	01/20
Ennes, Kathryn	01/22
Robinson, Linda	01/24
Poe-Yamagata, Emma	01/27

January Anniversaries

Ennes, Mark and Anne	1/25
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OUR COMMUNITY

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next dinner will be on Monday, January 23rd at 7:00 pm. **There is a standing request for help in preparing the dinner, setting up, serving and cleaning up. If you can help, please contact Mary Ellen 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.

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.

JUST A REMINDER

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

[Café Justo](#) is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico – a ministry of [Frontero de Cristo](#). They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice.

"FOR I WAS HUNGRY..."

Manna Food Center: 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

To volunteer call 301-424-1130 or online at www.mannafood.org.

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.

A Blessed New Year to You and Your Family!

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

PRAYER SHAWLS



Prayer Shawls are available in the Salem entry hall on top of the coat rack. There is no cost. If you know anyone you want to share a prayer with all the time, please help yourself to a shawl. The comfort they give is well worth the effort of delivering one to your friends, family, or co-workers. They do help. Just knowing someone cares is sometimes just the right medicine. They will thank you!

A Thank You

Curt and I wish to thank everyone who has offered prayers for his recovery and for all the delicious meals provided to us when he came home from the hospital.

The operation was a success as all of the infection was removed from the foot bones: however as with most diabetics the healing of the wounds is going very slow,

I also wish to thank Jacob and Ginny Weinberger for the beautiful wreath that made our home look and feel like Christmas as well as Debbie Ambrose and Tom Luke for the beautiful poinsettias that brightened our days as they greeted us each morning.

Velma Durant and Curt Smith

Salem's ASP Cook-Off and Epiphany Auction

Saturday, January 7, 2017

6:00 pm

Salem Community Hall

Two great events in one fun evening!

Chili Cook-Off



Bring your best chili and match it up against the best of Salem. Tasting and voting begin at 6:00 pm. \$1.00/vote



Epiphany Auction

Bid on those must-have items through our silent and live auction. Auction preview and silent bidding begins at 6:00 pm and live auction begins at 7:00.

Please bring items to be donated (yes, those items intended for re-gifting or those that just aren't quite right) to the Hall by 5:30

All proceeds benefit the Appalachian Service Project work crews for their trip June 18-24.