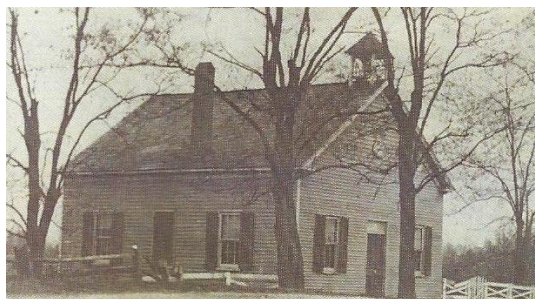


# Salem United Methodist Church

## April 2017 Newsletter

«184 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2017

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,  
**Building Spiritual Muscles:  
Accountable Discipleship**

“Practice makes perfect” is a cliché that means if we do something over and over again we will learn to do it well. Sport teams practice every day so they can win games. Musicians practice so their music is perfect. Those who are on stage practice so they know their parts for a performance. Have you ever considered the need to practice one’s faith? Following Jesus is more than just coming to church on Sundays. It is making Jesus the center of every part of one’s life. And that takes practice. We tend to fail at this easily and move ourselves to the center. This is why we need coaches or team meetings to

encourage us to keep on practicing and to help us discern how we can better serve Jesus every day.

John Wesley saw practicing our faith and checking in with each other on a regular basis as the building blocks of faith development. He strongly encouraged everyone who became part of his revival movement to be in a small group which he called a class meeting. These small groups met weekly to check in with each other to see how people were being successful at living their faith or being challenged. These groups were not Bible Study or prayer groups. Sometimes they may have included some study or prayer, but basically they were check-in times. One of the questions they would ask each other was, “How goes it with your soul?”

Being a part of a small group like the class meeting can help a follower of Jesus develop spiritual muscles. With the help of others in the group, our faith can grow deeper in Christ and wider into the world. These groups are called accountability groups. Each group develops their own discipleship covenant that they promise to uphold. They agree to meet regularly, usually weekly, for one hour. Each group decides on what areas of discipleship they need to work on. Some

may choose to be held accountable in the areas of worship, devotion, compassion, and justice. Another may choose the areas of presence, prayers, gifts, service, and witness.

As we move into the Easter Season and discovering our new life in Christ, these accountability groups can not only breathe new life into our personal lives as disciples, but they can also breathe new life into our church and community. Would you consider participating in one of these groups?

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Sue

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Lenten Worship Series:

#### Living Our Baptismal Calling

Sunday, April 2 Fifth Sunday in Lent: Believe!

Communion Sunday

Sunday, April 9 Palm Sunday

### Holy Week:

Holy Thursday, April 13 at Ashton UMC;  
7:30 pm

Good Friday, April 14 at Salem; 7:30 pm;  
Tenebrae Service

(anyone interested in singing in a combined  
choir for Good Friday, see Rose)

Easter Sunday, April 16

Easter Sunrise in Salem Cemetery 7 am  
(led by Youth Group)

Continental Breakfast in Community Hall  
7:30 am

8:15 and 10:00 am Youth Bell Choir playing

Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 am

Easter Breakfast at Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 23 Samantha Larson, preaching

### Easter Sermon Series:

#### Growing As a Follower of Jesus

Sunday, April 30 When We Discover Christ  
Samantha Larson's last day at Salem

**Rev. Sue will be on vacation April 17-24**

## YOUTH GROUP

### Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening

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

### Youth Schedule

6:30 -7:00 pm Youth Bell Choir

7:00-8:00 pm Time Together

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April 2 Living Our Covenant

April 9 What is Holy Week and Easter?

April 16 Lead Easter Sunrise Service in Cemetery  
at 7 am and play bells for both worship  
services

April 23 Rev. Sue on vacation. Alex and Sam will  
run youth group

April 30 6:30 pm Youth will present information  
about ASP at the ASP Benefit Concert with  
Encore and Kelltones and host a reception  
following the concert.

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Basic Lay Servant Class

Rev. Sue will be teaching the Basic Lay Servant Class for the Central Maryland District on Saturday, April 29 and Sunday afternoon, April 30. This class will be held at Oakdale Church in Olney. Two other FREE WORKSHOPS are being offered to anyone on Saturday April 29 at Oakdale. If you are interested in taking any of these, contact Rev. Sue. They are:

#### Media in Ministry Workshop

with Wendy Feaga, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

We are a digital age. People connect on Facebook and Twitter, and now "show me the video" has been the norm. As we work to draw people to church through church websites and Facebook pages, these new visitors come expecting technology. Studies have shown that only 10% of what is said will be remembered, but 50% of the visual media is remembered. In order to share a message, one must at least remember it. This 3-hour free course is designed for churches that either have no media, or have used it only sparingly.

#### Biblical Storytelling

with Wendy Feaga, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

This is an abbreviated introduction to the ancient-future art and spiritual discipline of telling the sacred stories of Scripture. Participants will learn to prepare, learn, and tell a biblical text.

## FROM OUR INTERN

It is coming to that part of the year when the congregation will say good-bye to another Wesley seminarian serving Salem UMC. Like anyone that has come to be a part of one's community and dear to one's heart it is always

Salem News April 2017

hard to say good-bye. Sam has learned in ministry that saying hello and good-bye is best served by embracing all the feelings that come along with letting go of someone. Feel deeply the sadness but also think about and reflect on how Salem, and as part of the Salem community, you have helped to shape Sam's experience as she continues her journey to becoming a clergy person.

Sam's official last Sunday will be April 30 and she will have her last worship leadership and preaching opportunity on April 23. She will take that time to formally say good-bye and reflect on the experience at Salem UMC on April 23. Sam invites anyone who feels called to share how she has impacted your congregational life this past year to write her a letter or an e-mail sharing those reflections. Not only will this help her understand how you have encountered her leadership in ministry, it also helps her understand how she will continue to grow and work on her ministry leadership as she goes beyond her time at Wesley and at Salem.

Sam and Alex are deeply appreciative of their time at Salem. Learning from passionate people who continue to learn and live out the gospel message of Jesus Christ in a complicated world. We hope to continue to hear from and be privy to the ongoing ministry and ways that Salem engages the world as a worshiping body of Christ.

With all our love,  
Sam and Alex

Sam's contact information:  
[Samantha.Gangwer@gmail.com](mailto:Samantha.Gangwer@gmail.com),

### FROM THE CONGREGATION

This is a repeat from the March 1996 Salem News:

#### Poem : Drop A Pebble In The Water

**Drop a pebble in the water:** just a splash, and it is gone; but there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,

Spreading, spreading from the center, flowing on out to the sea.

And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.

**Drop a pebble in the water:** in a minute you forget,  
But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet,  
And those little waves a-flowing to a great big wave have grown;  
You've disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone.

**Drop an unkind word, or careless:** in a minute it is gone;  
But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on.  
They keep spreading, spreading, spreading from the center as they go,  
And there is no way to stop them, once you've started them to flow.

**Drop an unkind word, or careless:** in a minute you forget;  
But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet,  
And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears you've stirred,  
And disturbed a life was happy ere you dropped that unkind word.

**Drop a word of cheer and kindness:** just a flash and it is gone;  
But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,  
Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave  
Till you wouldn't believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.

**Drop a word of cheer and kindness:** in a minute you forget;  
But there's gladness still a-swelling, and there's joy a circling yet,  
And you've rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard  
Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.

Written by James W. Foley

*Thanks Carole Roberts for lending me your collection of Newsletters.*



## APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) 2017

The 2017 trip to West Virginia is scheduled for June 18-24. Upcoming Fundraisers:

**April 13: A special night out at the Green Turtle. There will be a 20% discount and those funds will go to the ASP trip fund. Perhaps your family could have dinner as you are on your way to the worship service at Ashton UMC at 7:30 pm. Be sure to get your ticket to receive the discount.**

**Saturday, April 29 -ASP Yard Sale**

**Sunday, April 30, 6:30 pm; Benefit Concert Music of the Dance –The Kelltones, a Celtic music ensemble, and The Encore Singers, will perform together in the Church. Rose Eide-Altman is the director. Debbie Ambrose and Rev. Sue sing with The Encore Singers.**

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Good times, good music and fellowship and knowing you are a part in helping those who are unable to help themselves; even if you personally are not able to be there.

## A TIME FOR CHILDREN



Debbie Ambrose led the Children's Sermon with the message of turning your back on temptations. As you can see in the picture the children were very attentive, even little Matthew Savage. Signs with the words describing various temptations were given to members of the congregation to hold. As the children were facing the signs, Debbie asked them to turn around so their backs would be facing the temptations. And they would be facing the cross. The message: When we face temptations, turn around and face the cross.

## THE LORD'S TABLE

The next Lord's Table is

**Saturday, April 22, 2017, 1-5 pm**

**At St. Martin's of Tours Catholic Church  
201 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Md.**

**Come and help to create a delicious meal to serve those who are hungry in our community.**

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council Meeting Highlights  
March 23, 2017

- Rev Sue opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.
- Rev Sue updated us on joys, concerns and January and February attendance figures. We then reviewed the Church Calendar for the next two months, especially the Easter season.
- The focus of the meeting was on updating the Council on the ministry and work that has resulted from our Congregational survey. We have three work groups who are exploring and developing suggestions/plans for:
  - streamlining our administrative processes
  - encouraging members of the congregation to examine and participate in acts of accountable discipleship
  - creatively reaching out to the community

This small group work continues. Please prayerfully consider joining in and sharing your ideas.

- Joyce Howes shared that new Memorial Bricks for the Memorial garden will soon be purchased.
- Fred Ambrose shared the recent work of the Trustees. Fred and Buck Bartley are currently co-chairing the Trustees following the untimely death of Connie Somerville. We thank them for stepping up to continue the important ministry of caring for the buildings and grounds of our beautiful church. They are currently soliciting bids for outside work – repairing

columns in the breezeway, painting, and other tasks. This work should begin soon.

- The meeting was closed with prayer.

Next Meeting –May 25, 2017. All are welcome!!

Debbie Ambrose, Church Council Chair

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sue Daley upon her appointment as President of the Brookeville Town Commissioners.

Congratulations to Debbie and Doug McKeever on the birth of their newest granddaughter. Debbie writes: “Blake and Lori McKeever and brother Cole welcomed Kyla Rose on March 21! She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces!!!!”



Congratulations to JoAnn Keister and her family as her great-granddaughter was baptized on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Kaydin Brook Claggett is the daughter of Jerimy and Ann Claggett.



Congratulations to Janet Howes on her move to a new home. Contact Rev. Sue for her new address and phone number.

Congratulations to Amy Roberts for being inducted into the National Honor Society on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Carole Roberts wrote, “Applicants must submit an application and essay, and are



admitted based on evidence of Scholarship (Sherwood requires a GPA of 3.7 or higher), Community service, Leadership, and Character. Four teacher recommendations were required along with a supervising adult providing an explanation of how the student has shown leadership.”

Congratulations to Sam and Alex Larson. Sam writes, “Alex and Sam will be moving to Minneapolis at the beginning of July where Sam will complete a year-long chaplaincy residency at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. She will be both practicing as a hospital chaplain as well as training for independent practice as a chaplain after her year in residency. Alex is looking forward to being back in his homeland of Minnesota where his family is located. Sam is looking forward to learning about a new area of the country and exploring chaplaincy after completing her Masters of Divinity in May.”

## BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Book Club will be Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Our selection is:

**THE REASON FOR GOD: Brief in the Age of Skepticism** by Timothy Keller. Non-fiction.

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.

## 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 or please go to

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090949a9aa2aa1fc1-coffee> or contact Joyce Howes.

## 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](mailto:velma_durant@yahoo.com). We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

### Our April Birthdays are:

Roberts, Carole	04/04
Rhinehart, Patti	04/10
Dean, Joyce	04/11
Summerville, Connie	04/14
Weinberger, Phillip	04/14
Benson, Kenny	04/17
Rider, Don	04/17
Ennis, Anne	04/18
<b>Van Druff, Helen</b>	<b>04/22</b>

**Helen will be 98 years old! Please send her a birthday card to her home address.**

Boyd, Dale	04/28
Currier, Katelyn	04/29

### April Anniversaries:

Shear, Myron and Kim	04/04
Ercolani, Al and Judy	04/13
Loverly, Bill and Bobby	04/16
Odbert, Fred and Carol	04/19

## OUR COMMUNITY

**Sunday School:** We are short a Sunday School teacher. If you can volunteer monthly, on the fifth Sunday or even now and then (or as a sub) please contact Deb Ambrose.

**Salem Men's Meeting:** Saturday, April 8th at 8:00 am in the Community Hall.

**Sandy Spring Lions Club:** The next dinner will be on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Summer Church Camp:** The Baltimore-Washington Conference offers two locations: West River and Manidokan for summer camp. There are a variety of offerings for Grades 3-12: Adventure, Discovery, Explorer, Horseback, Sailing, Music, God Squad, Theatre, and even a camp for grandparents with their grandchildren.

Check out these offerings at [funfriendsfaith.com](http://funfriendsfaith.com). Flyers are on the table across from the pastor's office.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

### 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!

### BIBLE TRIVIA FOR APRIL

#### How well do you know the Bible?

1. When Judas returned the money he had received to the chief priests and elders, what did they decide to do with it?
2. Who is the one person consistently named in the Gospels as first one at the tomb after the resurrection, either alone or with others?
3. Upon hearing that Jesus' tomb was empty, who ran to the tomb to look?
4. After it was reported that Jesus rose from the dead, two followers went home to Emmaus. They were joined by a man. How did they recognize who this man was?

#### Answers below.

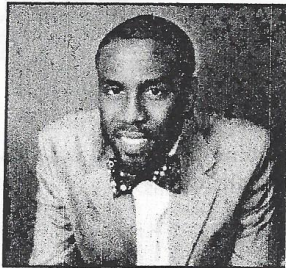
1. They bought a field in which to bury foreigners. (Matthew 27-6-7)
2. Mary Magdalene (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1-2 and John 20:1)
3. Peter, and according to the Gospel of John, another, the beloved disciple. (Luke 24:12; John 20:3-10)
4. They invited the man into their home for dinner. When he broke the bread, they recognized him as the Risen Christ. (Luke 24:30-31)

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

**WEST RIVER CENTER'S - SPRING DAY AWAY**

**April 26, 2017 Wednesday, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm**

**Spring Renewal - Replanting Yourself in Christ**



**Rev. Michael Parker  
Worship / Bible Study Leader**

Back by popular demand, Rev. Parker will bring his enthusiastic and heartfelt style to lead us in the morning bible study. Having heard the call to the ministry at age 16, he did his best to push it aside. After graduating from Coppin State, he taught middle school for four years. But a guest pastor at his local church reignited his calling. Rev. Parker graduated from Wesley Seminary and currently serves St. John UMC Pumphrey in Baltimore. He has served as a Director for the General Board of Church and Society, on the Young Adult Council for the NE Jurisdiction and as a delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conference.

Schedule of the Day

9:30 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
10:00 am	Welcome
10:15 am	Bible Study & Worship
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Workshop 1</b>
12:00 pm	Lunch
<b>1:10 pm</b>	<b>Workshop 2</b>
<b>2:10 pm</b>	<b>Workshop 3</b>
3:00 pm	Closing

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Complete and mail with payment made payable to **BWC Treasurer** to:

**West River Center, PO Box 429, Churchton MD 20733**

Questions call 800-922-6795

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH (no initials) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Tickets Ordering    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Purchase

If you are registering a group, please provide a list of attendees' names along with registration and payment.

Thank you.

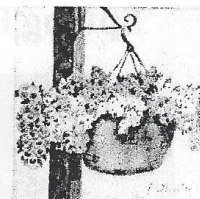
\$28 per person

Registration deadline is April 19<sup>th</sup>



## Afternoon Workshops

**Artist Ruth Bailey** will return with another art project for folks to explore their creative talents, *offered at 11am, 1pm, 2pm.*



**Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts Workshop** Rev. Dr. Mary Dennis  
Sometimes in our lives, we don't feel particularly gifted. Hear the good news! The Holy Spirit bestows gifts on each and every one of us for the building up of the church. Join us to study the scriptures about spiritual gifts and to take an inventory to discover your own giftedness. *Offered at 11am and 1pm session times.*

### **Interfaith of the Chesapeake Bay with Kolya Braun-Greiner**

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake has partnered in many projects with local churches to make folks aware of and improve our stewardship of the lands in the Chesapeake Bay drainage basin. Kolya has written curriculum and IPC is partnering with churches in Prince Georges County to offer a unique vacation bible school program that addresses our responsibility for God's creation. Come and here what possibilities there might be for your congregation or adult fellowship group to address this much-needed situation.

**Gardening for small spaces**

**Boat Rides** on the West River

**Trivia and Games** led by West River Staff

*More workshops are being planned!*

SPRING