

Salem United Methodist Church

July - August 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,

As of the Baltimore-Washington's Annual Conference on May 31-June 2, I have been appointed to serve as Salem's pastor for a tenth year. I can hardly believe it. Where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday that we pulled into the parsonage and unloaded boxes to begin our ministry here. For the past nine years, I have been honored to serve as your pastor and privileged to live in the town of Brookeville.

Salem is a joy-filled church that serves willingly from the heart of God. We continue to glorify God, introduce others to Jesus the Christ, and grow in faith, knowledge, love and service. As we grow in our faith we strive to express God's love to all people.

In the past nine years, a lot of ministry has happened at Salem. We have continued with these ministries:

- two worship services,
- Adult Bible Study class on Sunday mornings,
- Wednesday morning Upper Room devotional group,
- Disciple Bible Studies and other similar Bible studies,
- book studies on a variety of faith topics,
- an active youth group,
- collecting food for holiday baskets and a variety of items for those in need,
- sending ASP teams, eight of these nine years,
- serving the Lord's Table,
- Christmas Bazaars,
- serving the Sandy Spring Lions Club and other group dinners.

We began some new ministries, too:

- Salem Prayer Partners, a prayer group that maintains the church's prayer list and meets weekly to pray for those on the list,

- Book Club which meets monthly over the school year to discuss books that have a faith theme,
- Prayer Shawl ministry, which consists of crocheted and blessed shawls that can be given to anyone who needs the embrace of God's love,
- Opening our Community Hall to groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

And we are currently discerning new ways to be in ministry. One of these is the formation of Covenant Discipleship Groups. These groups help us to hold ourselves accountable for how we live our faith as disciples of Christ. (See p. 4 for more info.) Another new ministry we will try is called Faith on Tap. We will meet on Friday nights at the Brookeville Beer Farm to discuss faith issues (See p. 3 for more info). Other possible new ministries involve fresh ways to connect with our community (See p.5 for these ideas.)

Also in the past nine years, Salem was a vital part of Brookeville's Bicentennial Commemoration of its 1814 Capital for A Day on Labor Day weekend. We served food, provided shaded places on our front lawn, and opened our air-conditioned worship space as a sanctuary to some of the thousands of visitors. In addition, with bequests from saints of Salem, we have been able to remodel our Community Room in the Orndorff Hall and maintain the exterior of our buildings.

Many changes have occurred in the congregation these past nine years as well. God has called many of our faithful to their eternal rest. Our deacon was appointed to a larger church. Children have grown up and moved away. Several members have retired and moved away. And some have found new faith communities while a few have just dropped out of church. However, many who worship at Salem today have become part of our church community in the past nine years. Some have accepted Jesus as their Savior for the first time. Others have come to us from other congregations, while some reentered church after many years of not attending. We give thanks to God for the gifts of ministry all have given and are currently giving to Christ through this congregation.

In addition to pastoring at Salem these past nine years, I have gotten involved in the community. I became a member of the Sandy Spring Lions Club and serve with them in different ways in our community.

When B'nai Shalom's building was desecrated in 2009, I encouraged the clergy in our community to form an interfaith ministerium. Today the Greater Olney Interfaith Ministerium includes Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith communities. We host an annual interfaith Thanksgiving service along with classes and discussion groups on interfaith issues. I am one of the few founding clergy of the ministerium who are still in the area. And I remain active in building interfaith community relationships in the greater Olney area.

I am grateful that I was sent to serve at Salem. We are a congregation that knows God creates, heals, restores, saves and empowers. We are a church that loves God and God's people. We are a church community that respects each other even though we are different. We are a church with the heart of Christ.

So where will God's Spirit lead us in ministry in our tenth year together? I hope you will join me in prayer as we discern and answer the call to continue to be a signpost of grace and hope not just for us, but also for those in our community. Restating from Paul's letter to the Philippians (4:13), we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July sermon series:

Where the Rubber meets the Road



July 2 "Meeting Conflict" Matthew 7:7-14;
I Corinthians 1:4-17

July 9 "Meeting Confrontation"
Matthew 18:15-20;
I Corinthians 10:23-33

July 16 “Meeting Spending Choices”
Luke 12:22-48; I Timothy 6:6-10
July 23 Erin Wheeler, preaching
July 30 Erin Wheeler, preaching
*Rev. Sue will be on vacation
from July 17 - July 31*

August Sermon Series: The Faithfulness of God

This sermon series will focus on Paul’s message of God’s faithfulness that he sent to the church at Rome. The letter to the Romans has been called “The letter that changed the world.” Many lives have been changed by the reading of this letter. Church leaders such as St. Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Wesley have written how Paul’s knowledge of who Jesus is, the grace of God, and God’s faithfulness through the covenant changed their thinking and understanding about their faith in Christ. The letter to the Romans is an epistle in which we, too, can come to understand God’s faithfulness through Jesus and our response to it. This sermon series was suggested by Brandon Savage. If you have a suggestion for a sermon series, contact Rev. Sue.

Aug 6 “The Call”
Romans 1:1-7; 16-21; 24-25 and
Romans 3:21-31
Aug 13 “The Hope”
Romans 5:1-5 and Romans 8:18-39
Aug 20 “The Mission”
Romans 10
Aug 27 “The Unity”
Romans 12 and Romans 15:7-13

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening

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

**Youth Group is taking a summer break,
Stay tuned for the fall schedule!**

A WAY TO CONNECT

Faith on Tap Fridays

As we find ways to connect with our community, we are trying some new ways to be in our community with our faith. Each Friday in August, Rev. Sue will be at the Brookeville Beer Farm at 6 pm ready to discuss important issues to our faith. Bring a lawn chair and invite a friend. The Beer Farm does have non-alcoholic

beverages, too, as well as pizza. Here is a list of suggested topics for conversation:

Aug 4 When are Christians unchristian?
Aug 11 Why does God allow suffering?
Aug 18 Right or Left? Does it matter?
Aug 25 Can Science and Religion co-exist?

FROM OUR SEMINARY INTERN

2016-2017 SEMINARY INTERN

SAMANTHA LARSON

June 24, 2017

Dear Salem UMC Members & Congregants,

Thank you so much for journeying with me over my last year in seminary. You have been an integral part of my learning and vocational discernment of my calling to ministry.

I also want to extend my gratitude with all of you in the ways you are supporting Alex and myself as we prepare for a huge transition for our family. We are beyond blessed for each dollar given, each prayerful thought & your ongoing concern about our well-being.

Alex continues to search for a job but has had several promising interviews this week. We will continue to send updates.

We send this with our love & gratitude in the peace of Jesus Christ,

Sam & Alex (Larson)

2017-2018 SEMINARY INTERN

JO SCHONEWOLF

Since our new Intern will be joining us in September, as publisher I thought it would be a nice reminder to rerun her Bio.



Hello everyone! My name is Jo Schonewolf and I’ll be starting the second year of

my Masters of Divinity studies at Wesley Theological Seminary in the fall, part of which is a placement here at Salem UMC as a ministry intern. I'm excited to get to meet everybody and help out however I can!

I like to think of lives as a series of related facts waiting for a story to be made from them. For myself, the related facts are that I grew up in a small town in Western North Carolina (outside of Hickory, if anyone knows the geography or bought furniture from there before the late 90's). I spent much of my time as a kid involved in the music ministries at my church and have more or less always found a way to be involved in the music and the ministry of the church ever since. I went to college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I graduated in 2011 with a degree in physics and astronomy, with a concentration in education and a minor in religious studies. I worked with the planetarium in Chapel Hill for several years before moving away from North Carolina for grad school, first to Scotland for a Masters of Science in Science and Religion at the University of Edinburgh and then here to the DMV and Wesley. I still keep up with astronomy news and worked for a semester at the National Air and Space Museum in DC, so the upshot of all of this information is that I'm always excited to talk about space, theology, and music.

I'm looking forward to hearing all the facts that make up the stories of your lives and of the life of Salem UMC as I begin to meet everyone in the fall. Anytime you see me, feel free to come up and say hello, introduce me to someone I haven't met yet, or tell me something I don't know. The best things in life start that way!

Blessings,
Jo

**FROM THE CONGREGATION
A NEW MINISTRY
COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS**

For many weeks, Rev. Sue had been including remarks about Accountability Groups or Covenant Discipleship groups and the results of such a ministry in her sermons. So, during coffee hour, I believe it was Sunday, June 11th; Rev. Sue met with a small group who were interested in this new ministry. Those present were Yvette, Kulley,

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Debbie A., Joyce H. and Velma. It was decided that there is interest in two groups. One would meet on Wednesdays at 8:30 am, replacing the Upper Room devotional group. The second one would meet between the 8:15 and 10 am services on Sundays. Both groups are still forming.

Our first meeting was held on June 14th: Debbie A., Rev. Sue and Velma were the only ones there; the other interested people had other commitments they could not break and couldn't attend. With this being vacation time we don't expect everyone to be there every time but it was good to "get our feet wet" so to speak. The program sounds exciting and it would take much room to explain the whole experience.

If you are interested in a challenge to grow in your faith, please talk with Rev. Sue or me.

By: Velma Durant & Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling

2017 APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT



June 18, 2017 – ASP teams before they leave

June 18-24, 2017

Guyan Valley ASP Center, Brenton, WV

The participants were:

ADULTS: Barbara Achstetter, Maggie Dougherty, David Ranshaw, and Hisashi Yamagata

YOUNG ADULT: Blake Roberts

YOUTH: Joe Brantley, Sandy Chandradasa, Cameron Dougherty, Alexa Nguyendinh, Amy Roberts, Aiden Thompson, Donovan Thompson, and Jacob Weinberger.

Since Bob Brown was physically unable to attend this project, our team made sure he went along in the form of a poster. (See picture above.)

Salem News July - August 2017

This is the first ASP trip he has missed in many years. Salem News is pleased to share some pictures with you from the site. Please enjoy them on the last pages of this edition. You will find many more on our Facebook Pages.

The staff at the Guyan Valley ASP Center gave all the teams names based on video games. These are Salem's team names with their projects.

A Game of Wii Tennis Team: As of Wednesday, this crew finished a floor in a middle room and started repairing some floor joists in the kitchen so 2 girders could be installed under the kitchen and a bedroom. They have also planted flowers to help with insects. – Hisashi, Maggie, Blake, Jacob, Cameron, Joey & Aidan.

A Short Jog Team: David worked on wiring the whole attic with lights and plugs while the rest of the crew worked on installing insulation and drywall. – David, Barbara, Amy, Alexa, Sandy, and Donovan.

Thanks to everyone who went on this adventure from all of those who couldn't go and thanks to all to worked so hard throughout the year and gave, more than once, to see that our ASP Teams could once again serve those in need in Appalachia!

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

1+1+1=1

On Pentecost Sunday Rev. Sue's children's sermon was explaining the Trinity to the younger congregation. She asked help from Mary Morell and her parents, Rob and Nancy.



As they joined Rev. Sue up front, she asked that they form a circle holding hands. Here they were three individuals but one family, as she

explained how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were three parts of one God - the Trinity.

Rev. Sue explained how when the family is facing each other and holding hands they are doing a type of circle dance. Then they asked them about their trip! They face outward inviting others to join in the dance. The Morells turned around and rejoined hands. Rev. Sue joined them in the circle and invited others from the congregation to join in the circle dance. This dance is like the Trinity. God in three persons dances and invites us to be part of an ever growing circle dance. Many in the congregation did and it was a beautiful sight and example of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord's Table will resume on September 23rd.

The fourth Saturday of each month September through May at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Gaithersburg. To volunteer sign up on the bulletin board or just come.

Thank you Libby Wright and Barbara Achsetter for chairing this ministry and thank you to all who participated.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council Highlights
Sailing into Summer - 2017

Church Council will not be meeting in June or July. Our next meeting will be in August - date to be determined. The focus of the Council for the next several months will continue to be on the three areas identified in our Church Survey for moving us forward in our ministries and missions. Again, those areas are:

1. Simplifying our Ministries and Work
 2. Spiritual Development and Discipleship
 3. Reaching Out into our Community
- We have a tentative plan for reorganization and simplifying of our Church Council and committee activities.
 - Rev. Sue has been working hard to establish several covenant disciple groups.
 - A group has met to consider the long list of community outreach ideas developed by an energetic group a few months ago. We

have selected the following ideas to test out:

- Salem Cinema – we’ve tried this before but think it’s worth another go.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO GET THIS GOING!

- Worship on the lawn – Rev. Sue is working on this.
- Welcome bags for people new to the community.
- A speaker forum to be hosted periodically at Salem.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO GET THIS GOING!

- Sponsoring Children’s Activities at Salem on the day of the Brookeville Community Picnic. September 17

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK ON THIS!

Please know that movement forward for our church can only happen with the participation of the entire congregation. We ask everyone to prayerfully consider the above activities and where YOU might fit in. Please contact Rev. Sue or Debbie Ambrose if you are willing to help organize or carry out any of these ideas. Help us to move ahead with our vision for Salem as a signpost of God’s grace for this community.

Peace,
Debbie Ambrose, Chair

FROM THE TRUSTEES

From the Trustees (of the toolroom)

Salem United Methodist Church building is close to being 110 years old in its present location. During that time, the church has both grown in size and has aged in place; much of the original building still stands strong. The Trustees have during this time maintained and improved the buildings to ensure the safe, inviting, and pleasant meeting and worship of all congregants and the community.

Through the very generous support of the congregation to the legacy fund, and the estate of Flo Johnston, we have been able to complete

major exterior repairs and repainting of the church and other buildings. Beneath the exterior skin we have also removed and replaced structure that had served the church well but had reached the end of its serviceable lifetime. We will continue to work “behind the scenes” so that you, the congregation, and the community, will have a place to worship that you are proud of, and that serves your needs in all ways.

Fred Ambrose, Chair of SUMC Trustees

More New Paint!

Have you noticed the fresh new paint inside the church, too? The hallway and the room behind our worship space all received a fresh coat of paint. Suzanne Friis, Libby Wright, and David Eide-Altman volunteered their time to freshen up our interior. A huge thank you for their initiative and expert work!

Remembering Salem in Estate Planning

The giving of our offerings to God is not just reserved for our Sunday morning gifts. We can also give thanks to God through our estate planning. In 2016 Salem received a tithe from Flo Johnston’s estate. She tithed, that is gave 10% of the value of her entire estate, to Salem UMC. With this money, we were able to do repair and painting to the exterior of our buildings that we would have been challenged financially to do without her generous and wise gift. Please be in prayer about how God may be leading you to plan your estate with a gift to Salem UMC.

CONGRATULATIONS

Emily Odbert



To Emily Odbert we extend our congratulations on her graduation from Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA with a B.A. in Psychology. During her time at Mercyhurst, she was a member of the Psychology Club and Social Justice Coalition Club. She served as the secretary of the University's PSI CHI chapter (international honor society in psychology) and the Martial Arts Club. She is also a member of PHI ETA SIGMA (the freshman honor society).

Her plans after graduation are to work with the Erie United Methodist Alliance (EUMA) through Americorps. As the EUMA VISTA (volunteer in service to America) she will be working with Erie's homeless population and conducting research for the end of the year statement for support.

**A Diamond Wedding Anniversary
Celebrating 75 Years**



Bob & Helen Van Druff
1901-1974-1974

Bob and Helen Van Druff will be celebrating 75 years of marriage on July 3! Wow! The 75th anniversary is considered to be the diamond anniversary. Having a faithful partner for 75 years deserves diamonds! When asked, "What is your secret to a long, successful marriage?" Bob responded, "Fear! Fear that she would shoot me if I did anything wrong!" Helen replied, "I liked the guy. I never would have married him if I didn't like him!" Happy Anniversary, Bob and Helen! Bob, Helen didn't shoot you yet. And she still likes you after these 75 years! There is no need to fear.

BOOK CLUB

Salem Book Club will resume in the fall.

SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

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 church. Contact Suzanne Friis with questions.

COFFEE HOUR

HELP WANTED: People to sign up to serve for Coffee Hour for July and August as well as the rest of the year.

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. We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

Our July – August Birthdays are:

July

McKeever, Doug	07/01
Ennes, Ellen	07/02
Durant, Velma	07/05
Odbert, Carol	07/05
Lange, Robert	07/06
Smith, Virginia	07/06
Poe-Yamagata, Ian	07/06
Wheeler, Erin	07/06
Gundersen, Kristian	07/07
Weinberger, Jacob	07/14
Roberts, Amy	07/15
Weinberger, Ginny	07/20

Gundersen, Sue	07/21
Benson, Rebecca	07/28
Ennes, Mark	07/30

August

Wahl, Ginny	08/07
Shear, Myron	08/08
Meisner, Bridey	08/09
Roberts, Blake	08/14
Smith, Halsey	08/16
Thurston, Yvette	08/18
Lewis, Charlyne	08/19
Bittner, Cloyd Jr.	08/29
Weinberger, Cooper	08/29
Lyon, Marie	08/30

Our July - August Anniversaries are:

July

Sterling/Shorb-Sterling, Charles and Sue	07/03
Van, Druff, Robert and Helen	07/03
Smith-Durant, Curtis and Velma	07/07
Howes, John and Joyce	07/15
Ranshaw, Dick and Joann	07/17

August

Savage, Brandon and Debbie	08/07
Eide-Altman, David and Rose	08/10
Rhinehart, Roger and Patti	08/22
Brown, Bob and Maryellen	08/27
Friis, Mark and Suzanna	08/27

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Jacob Savage's Tree Dedication



A tree has been planted in memory of Jacob Savage at the playground. The dedication was held June 25th to the glory of God at the conclusion of the 10:00 worship service. Isaiah 55 was the scripture of the day. Rev. Sue recalled the

twins Jacob and Esau as she reflected on our Jacob's life. The service was concluded with the singing of the Spiritual "Jacob's Ladder."



Brandon and Debbie with Matthew standing beside Jacob's Tree

Salem Men's Meeting: The Salem UM Men meet the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 am for a breakfast meeting. All men are welcome to attend.

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next dinner will be on Monday July 24th and August 28th 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.

SALEM COMMUNICATIONS

Worship Services: Available on CD for those who are unable to attend on Sundays. To receive a CD contact Bob Brown call him or e-mail at rmia@gmail.com.

Church Emails: Salem sends out regular email updates through a free service called MailChimp. If you are not receiving these emails and would like to be included, send an email requesting this to Rev. Sue at pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org.

Newsletter: Any info or pictures of any Salem events or ministries can be sent to Velma Durant, velma_durant@yahoo.com by the third week of the month.

Church Website: www.salemunitedmethodist.org

Friend us on Facebook:

“Salem UMC Brookeville”

Tweet us on Twitter:

Salem UMC (@SalemBrookville)

“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. **Olney Help**

Food Needs: At this time Olney Help **MOST NEEDS:** Boost or Ensure, jelly (28-32 oz.), canned fruit, canned chicken, beef stew, canned meats, cold cereal, juice, pancake mix, pancake syrup. In low supply: rice & pasta side dishes and evaporated milk. They currently have enough boxed pasta, boxed spaghetti, canned beans. No glass jars. Gift cards appreciated.

SIX SHORT STORIES

From The American Legion Post 68 July Newsletter:

Once a village decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

THAT'S FAITH

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.

THAT'S TRUST

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we set the alarms to wake us up.

THAT'S HOPE

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

THAT'S CONFIDENCE

We see the world suffering but still get married and have children.

THAT'S LOVE

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence: “I am not 80 years old, I am 16 with 64 years experience.”

THAT'S ATTITUDE

PRAYER SHAWLS

On June 18th a new set of Prayer Shawls was dedicated and are ready for distribution.



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 God's love is represented in these shawls and that someone cares is sometimes just the right medicine. They will thank you!

PASTOR INFORMATION

Reverend Sue takes a Sabbath Day on Mondays for rest and renewal. Please contact her on that day only in an emergency.

Contact Information:

Church telephone 301-774-7772

Reverend Sue's e-mail

pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org

*The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters,
and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.*

Proverbs 8:4 KJV

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

ASP IN ACTION



Joey and Jacob



Jacob and Hisashi



Donovan



Blake



Barbara, Alexa, and Amy