

Salem United Methodist Church

January 2018 Newsletter

«183 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.

A New Year brings the hope of new beginnings. As followers of Jesus we understand new beginnings. God's grace not only forgives us, but directs our steps down a new path. Last year in the beginning of 2017 we undertook a new path as we went through an involved visioning process. Three visions emerged: 1) Finding new ways to connect with our community; 2) Finding new ways to deepen us spiritually; 3) Streamlining our leadership roster. We have developed some ways to make vision 1) and 2) into more of a reality. There is still much more that needs to be accomplished, so stay tuned as we continue to develop these areas.

The third vision, streamlining our leadership, is one that is in process, and the focus of this letter.

Several leaders met in 2017 to look over our leadership roster to see how we could do this. We consulted the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline and with our District Superintendent, Rev. J. W. Park. The Book of Discipline allows for a new leadership model for churches. We no longer have to have administrative and ministry area committees, or a Church Council. We are allowed to have one leadership team that would handle all administrative areas of the church: finance, trustees, staff-parish relations committee, and leadership development, as well as ministry areas, such as worship, missions, education, and connecting with our community. This leadership team would set the course for the church and find people to serve in the ministry areas.

Salem has been evolving towards this leadership model in the past few years. Committee meetings are practically non-existent. The Church Council has been acting as a leadership team with Chairs of Finance, Trustees, and Staff- Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) taking the lead in their respective areas. When others were needed to serve in any ministry area, we asked and received the necessary assistance. The difference between the new leadership team model and the Church

Council is that every person on this seven member team would act as the Trustees, Finance, SPRC, and Leadership Committees when it came to planning and acting on these matters.

The Church Council at their November meeting approved this new leadership team model. The Lay Leadership Committee, as their last act as a committee, is seeking seven people to serve on this team. Once seven people have agreed to serve on the new Salem Leadership Team, we will announce their names to the congregation and set a date for a Church Conference in which the congregation will vote on their new leaders.

Please be in prayer for our church as we make this leadership transition in the New Year.

“I am about to do a new thing...” Isaiah 43:19

Blessed New Year,
Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In the New Year we encounter the Season of Epiphany which begins with the arrival of the Magi to see the newborn King on Jan 6. Epiphany can be defined as an experience of sudden and striking realization. The Season of Epiphany is a season in which the Son of God is made real to us, perhaps through a spiritual encounter. During this Season of Epiphany our worship will be focused on Encountering God in Worship. We will explore how Jesus is present with us in song, prayers, scripture, and the preached Word.

Epiphany Sermon Series: Encountering God in Worship

- Jan 7 “Ah Ha!” Epiphany And Baptism of The Lord Sunday
Matthew 2:1-12; Mark 1:4-11
- Jan 14 “Come and See” Jo Schonewolf, preaching
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; John 1:43-51
- Jan 21 “Come and Follow”
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
Mark 1:14-20
- Jan 28 Debbie Ambrose, leading worship
- Feb 4 “Come and Talk”
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11;
Mark 1:29-39; I Corinthians 9:16-23

Feb 11 “Come and Listen” Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;
Mark 9:2-9; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

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

- Jan 7: What the Bible means when it tells us to love other people.
- Jan 14: What love and service look like with our family and friends.
- Jan 21: What love and service looks like with our community.
- Jan 26-28 ROCK weekend in Ocean City.

Stay tuned. We need sponsors to both pray for us and provide necessary finances for ROCK. Would you consider sponsoring a “rocker”? See Carole Roberts.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2017

December 9th dawned with a hint of snow, and snow it did; however, it did not keep the shoppers away. From the moment (almost) the doors were opened until the doors were closed people were buying. Thank you Salem, our community for shopping with us, and Olney News for including our bazaar in your Community Calendar, as well as, all who posted flyers through-out the community. We owe a lot of our success to you.

Great News!

Our ladies came up with 105 theme baskets; our heartfelt thanks to all who worked so diligently to accomplish this task.



We are very thankful that most of them were sold. There are a few left; stop by Salem’s

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Community Hall and take one home at a reduced price. A perfect gift for any occasion and the receiver will love it!

The bake table was a big hit, from breads, cakes, pies and cookies to homemade fudge and special purchased candies set in displays that catch the eye and sold quickly.

As always the soup and other “fixings” were a big success. I have heard comments that the soup was the best part of the bazaar! Unfortunately there are no pictures of the “Kitchen Crew.”

The craft table along with “Treasures Old and New” was stocked with many interesting items, all lovingly made by our ladies and soon disappeared in the hands of shoppers.



As always Santa was a big hit. A picture with Santa is always a treasure. And the Children’s Craft Center was a busy feature.

We are very pleased to announce the Ladies Bazaar went over the top. They reached their goal money-wise (\$5,000.00) and may have exceeded it. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so diligently in the preparation, making or sponsoring baskets, baking all the wonderful items for the Bake Table, all the crafts, the soup and all the ladies in the kitchen, the cashier(s), everyone who gave up their Saturday to “man their station” and Santa for the fun and joy he brought to the bazaar – THANK YOU!

Submitted by JoAnn Keister

FROM THE CONGREGATION

With Charlene’s permission we are rerunning her article from January 2013, only the year has been changed.



Sharing My Thoughts

**From
Charlyne
Lewis**

This brand new year of 2018 brings with it all kinds of unexpected “surprises” for all of us...we only have to be open in our minds and hearts to receive them when they come our way!!

The Epiphany is truly a wondrous thing, isn’t it? Wouldn’t it be neat if we could be ‘little mice’ and be at a stable when Magi arrived on that eventful day, and saw the Babe for the very first time? What a picture that must have been...they were truly in awe of Him! We are so blessed each year to celebrate His birth and a ‘new beginning’ ahead for each of us.

My all of you, dear ones be loved and blessed in this New Year.

Charlyne

Matthew 2:7-12

SALEM BOOK CLUB

Stay tuned, Salem’s Book Club is in the organization format: more information in February.

ASP 2017

The first of the many fund raisers, our ASP Breakfast, was December 3rd after the 10 am service. It was a very successful enjoyable event.



Our annual Cookie Bake-off took place on Sunday Dec. 10th after the 10 am service. It was very hard to choose which cookie to vote for, some people voted for them all.



What a great turn out! All the cookies were delicious. The choice was hard, but someone had to win! And the winners are:



First Place: Andrew Sterling with his Christmas wreaths. Second place: Carole Roberts with her Magic Oreo Bars. Third place: Bob Brown with his Peanut Butter Heaven. \$192.00 will be added to the funds for the ASP trip this summer. Congratulations to all of you. Looking forward to the Chili Cook-off coming up January 6th.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

There were so many ‘special’ services for the children it was hard to choose. I, Velma, chose one from the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, the morning’s worship service.

The nativity is placed on the altar during the Advent season, but how does it get there?



Rev. Sue led the children to the back of the church where they found Mary and Joseph. The children retrieved them and put them on the altar. Then searching the sanctuary, other parts of nativity were found and placed in the Nativity scene on the altar. As each piece was found, Rev. Sue talked with the children about the piece and asked questions, giving the children the opportunity to participate.



Taken from a distance, you can see the completed scene.

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 17, 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 and our Intern Jo spoke to us about remembering. Our hearts were filled with hope and the joy, overshadowing the darkness of loneliness and sorrow.



As we placed a flower on the wreath for each of our loved ones gone before us, we knew our loved ones were safe in the care of the One who made us all. We lit the candle of light to show us His light is guiding us through each moment of our lives and God is still on the Throne. In sharing communion we surrounded ourselves in His love and bringing peace to our hearts.

**THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
5:00 PM**

Christmas Eve 2017, the children and their parents along with others who wanted to worship with the children gathered at Salem for the 5:00 pm worship for and with the children. As a warning, this article will be full of pictures, as that is the only way it can really be reported. Thank you for your patience.

After the Call to Worship, the Christ candle in the Advent Wreath was lit. It is the white candle in the center of the wreath.



Rev. Sue called all the children to the front for a story of Christ's Birth.



After the reading, the children acted out the story. There was a hustle and bustle as children picked their costumes with some parental assistance. Thanks to the adults who stepped in to take part when there weren't enough children willing.



The play began with the angel's visit to Mary.



The angel was very busy. First, she visited Mary who humbly accepted God's will for her life- to be the Mother of the Son of God. Next, the angel visited Joseph who agreed to marry Mary. The story continues as Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem to be counted as ordered by the Roman ruler. That is when Jesus was born and Mary wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger.



Again, the angel appeared-this time to the shepherds with the Good News of great joy. So the shepherd with their sheep went to the stable to see this wondrous child of whom the angels spoke. The scriptures do not make clear when the Wise Men came (Matthew 2:1-12).

However, this lovely story is always added to the Christmas story. So our Wisemen also come to worship the new-born King.



Such a beautiful story told in the simplest way by hearts still glowing in the spirit of the Christ Child Himself.

Rev. Sue gave each child a small flashlight to remind them that Jesus is the Light of the World. They could hold up their flashlights as we lit candles singing, “Silent Night.”

At the conclusion of this family worship service, the children were invited to make two Christmas ornaments for the Christmas tree: a star and a nativity scene. Each family was also given a book about the birth of the Christ Child to take home.

TRADITIONAL CANDLE LIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 7:30 PM

Each Sunday in Advent we added a symbol representing Christ: the first Sunday in Advent- the Advent Wreath, the Second Sunday in Advent: the Chrsimon Tree with symbols of Christ, the Third Sunday of Advent- the poinsettias, the Fourth Sunday of Advent- the Nativity Scenes. So by Christmas Eve, the Sanctuary was ready for this special night when we with our families gather to worship and celebrate the birth of our Lord and King, Jesus Christ.



Rev. Sue and Bill Lavelly presented the Christmas Eve worship with prayers, scriptures, and carols. Rev. Sue preached on welcoming the Christ Child into our hearts and making a home for him.



Our music director, Rose Edie-Altman, arranged the special music with Ian Poe-Yamagata on the cello. Drusilla, Gabriella, and Jane Apola played the violins.

Rev. Sue and Debbie Ambrose (The Salem Singers) sang “One Small Child.”



After Communion, Rev. Sue spoke of Jesus being the Light of the world. Then she shared the light from the Christ candle with the congregation. We passed the light to each other until all the candles were lit as we sang, “Silent Night.”



May the Light of Christ guide us in the New Year.

THE LORD'S TABLE

The next Lord's Table is
Saturday, January 27, 2018, 1-5 pm

The December's turnout at the Lord's Table for helping set up, serve and cleanup was overwhelming. Only 3 people had signed up but God provided as people poured in to help. Many thanks to those who showed up to help serve about 40 hungry souls including two families with children who were depending on a warm meal and fellowship for a while. It may have been their ONLY meal of the day. It brings to mind a song. I 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!

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.



Once again our congregation stepped up and provided so others, less fortunate, could celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

YMCA MENTORING PROGRAM



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

COAT DRIVE

Salem will have a coat drive in January to benefit the needy at the Central Union Mission. Warm coats, jackets, and sweaters for men, women and children are needed. Please place them on the marked table in the Community Hall. Any questions see Randy or Rick or call Randy at, 240-948-6664.

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
Stanley-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
Harischandra, Wathsala	01/29
Myer, Rick	01/30

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 22nd 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.**

Eye-glass 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.

“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.**

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!

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

FREE ORGAN!



The organ is in good shape. I would love for it to go to someone in the Salem Family or a small church. If you are interested please call me, Randy Kennedy, at 240-938-6664.

*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

