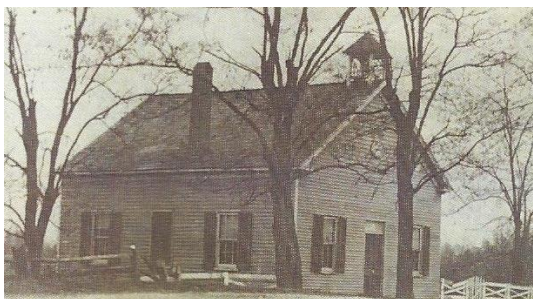


Salem United Methodist Church

November 2018 Newsletter

«184 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2018

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 we enter into November, our thoughts turn to giving thanks to God for our many blessings. Even though we may give thanks every day for all the gifts we recognize are from God, during Thanksgiving we will gather with family and friends to offer a formal thanks to God.

November also indicates that the New Year is just around the corner. As a church we begin to plan financially for the upcoming year by asking our givers to access why they give and commit to giving back to God from our plentiful resources.

This November our Leadership Team is planning a Stewardship Campaign called: "Why I Give?" This question makes us stop and think

about what motivates us to give. Do we give because giving to the church saves us some dollars on our income tax? Do we give to keep the staff's salaries and utilities paid? Or do we give out of gratitude for what God has done for us? Do we give from the heart?

Jesus spiritualized the material into an expression of our loving relationship with God and our unselfish giving to help those in need. Our giving reflects our love for God in Christ. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is, he responded, "To love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor."

A credit card commercial asks, "What's in your wallet?" Jesus would ask, "What is in your heart?" What is in our hearts affects what we give. How would you answer the question, "Why I give?"

I give because I love Jesus and am thankful for his saving and transforming love in my life. I would not be the person I am today without his grace and mercy. I give so that the church exists for others to know both with their minds and hearts the great love God gives us through Jesus. Why do you give?

Yours in Christ, Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Nov 4: All Saints Sunday

Nov. 11: Sermon Series: Why I Give? Part 1

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 145; Mark 12:38-44;
Ephesians 2:4-10

Nov. 18: Jo Schonewolf preaching

Nov. 25: Sermon Series: Why I Give? Part 2

Deuteronomy 16:13-17; Proverbs 3:9-10; Luke
6:37-38; John 18:33-37; 2 Corinthians 9:7-10

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

In September we informed the congregation of a great shortfall in our finances. We invited our givers to bring their giving up-to-date. At the time of the publication of this newsletter, we are pleased to announce that Salem continues to be a church that when a need is known Salem meets that need. Because of the generosity from our givers, we are well on our way to closing the gap of the budget shortfall! **THANK YOU, SALEM!**

Our continued giving in the next two months will determine if we will finish 2018 meeting our budget, entering 2019 with a shortfall, or beginning the New Year financially healthy. Your giving is making a difference!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening

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

Youth Group: 6:30-8:00 pm

Nov. 4: The Church and the LGBTQ Community. As we wrap up a sermon series based around the UMC's current discussion around ordaining gay clergy, we will take time in youth group to discuss how Christians interact with individuals who identify as LGBTQ+. Bring any and all questions and Jo and Reverend Sue will do their best to offer insights into this challenging discussion.

Nov. 11: Judges. We return to our discussion of famous figures from the Bible to talk about people like Gideon, Deborah, and Sampson.

Nov. 18: David. The gospel writers tell us that Jesus is in the line of David, but who was this king of Israel and why is he such an important figure for us today?

Nov. 25: Happy Thanksgiving!

There will be no youth group tonight.

YOUTH CAR WASH

Sunday, Oct 14 Salem's youth held their annual fund raiser for their sponsored Compassion Child named Felix, who has been their mission project for many years. The car wash was to help raise money to sponsor him. The sponsorship costs \$40 a month, which helps Felix with schooling, food, medical, and Christian education.



Enduring the rain, the young people worked very hard raising a total of \$383 that equals to 9 ½ months of support for their Compassion Child. If you would like to contribute, they would be most grateful to complete the other 2 ½ months of their commitment.

GROWING IN OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

THANK YOU, REV. SUE!



October is coming to an end, so is Pastor appreciation month. BUT do we need a special month to show our appreciation? They are on call 24/7. They have duties they do without complaining. They bring us uplifting and soul-searching messages and hundreds of other things most lay-people know nothing about, all in God's

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service. You don't have to bring them flowers every day (although sometimes it wouldn't hurt), but a warm thank you, or I'm praying for you (and do it!) would go a long way.

Salem UMC is blessed to have a wonderful spirit-filled woman of God as our pastor. Some of the messages she brings makes me wiggle in my seat with an "oh dear, got to work on that" and other times I want to shout "AMEN!" So, Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling, thank you not only for your service to Salem and the Brookeville/Olney Communities, but for your calling. You have been a wonderful help to us on our journey, as we walk with God. Written by Velma Durant

FAITH ON TAP FRIDAYS TRANSFORMED INTO FRIDAY NIGHT FAITH TALKS

With the colder weather, we've moved Faith on Tap into the Fellowship Hall at the church and transformed it to Friday Night Faith Talks! Jo Schonewolf will be leading the discussions.

Friday, November 2: Creation, Big Bang, and Evolution based on these two blog posts:

and

<http://mmcconne5.wixsite.com/conversationstarters/single-post/2017/06/30/Placeholder-title>

Friday, November 16: The Soul based on this blog post:

<http://mmcconne5.wixsite.com/conversationstarters/single-post/2017/08/04/With-All-Your-Heart-Soul-and-Mind>

CHURCH CONFERENCE

**Sunday, October 28,
Oakdale Church**

Each year every United Methodist Church is required to have a Church Conference, previously called a Charge Conference. This meeting is both a report of the ministries of the church for the past year as well as planning for the coming year. The District Superintendent or an assigned elder leads the meeting. The elder who led Salem's Church Conference was Rev. Jane Wood.



Rev. Jane Wood and Rev. Sue

The business of Church Conference is to vote on the pastor's salary package, church leaders, and Certified Lay Servants. The pastor's salary package was approved. The leaders for the Leadership Team were approved. They are Nancy Cox, Rob Morell, Don Rider (new), George Robinson (new), and Libby Wright. The team still needs two persons to complete the seven member team. Two individuals have been asked but had not responded before Church Conference. In addition, the Church Conference voted on Debbie Ambrose to be Salem's Certified Lay Servant.

There were reports from the Pastor, Finance, Trustees, and Membership Secretary.

Copies of the Church Conference reports are available in the church.



Those who attended 2018 Church Conference:

First Row: Hisashi Yamagata, Rev. Jane Wood, Jo Schonewolf, intern, Rev. Sue, Nancy Cox, Mary Abramson; Second Row: Randy Kennedy, Rob Morell, Halsey Smith, Kulley Bancroft, Debbie Ambrose, Rose Eide-Altman



A WORD FROM OUR SEMINARY INTERN

Jo Schonewolf

For two weeks in early January, I will be travelling with a dozen or so of my fellow seminarians and other community members to South Africa on an intercultural immersion. Immersions are a required part of the Masters of Divinity curriculum for students at Wesley and while immersions to everywhere from the US-Mexico border to Liberia have been offered, this South African immersion offers me a unique opportunity to not only experience a new culture, but to hold a mirror up to our own.

The struggle against apartheid has always fascinated me. It is removed enough from our own experience with racism against African Americans here in the United States that it appears foreign, and yet you can't help but feel the connection between the fight against legalized and institutionalized discrimination in both countries. There is so much inspiration to be drawn from those leaders in South Africa who, when apartheid had ended, chose forgiveness and reconciliation over continued hate, but who also worked as long and as hard as they could to resist evil and injustice in the forms in which they encountered it.

I am eager to be immersed in these stories, to draw encouragement from them, and to learn every lesson that I can. We will be visiting Liliesleaf Farm, where Nelson Mandela and other liberation leaders took refuge, the Apartheid Museum, and the township of Soweto, where both Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu lived, as well as staying overnight on Robben Island, where Mandela was imprisoned. We will also visit sites that help us learn about the history of slavery in South Africa and to see one of the first ships to embark on the Middle Passage, bringing slaves from Africa to America. I expect each one of these experiences to be profound and moving, and I look forward to sharing them with each of you when I return.

We will be doing more than investigating South Africa's past; we will be engaging with South Africa as it is now, in this post-apartheid era. We will be meeting with religious leaders in South Africa, visiting townships and community centers, and seeing the work that is being done to preserve not only South Africa's history but also its wildlife and nature. Perhaps most exciting for me, given my background in science and religious studies, will be visiting the archaeological sites around Sterkfontein Caves, which are rich in anthropological discoveries. By all accounts from those who have gone on this immersion in the past, these are deeply enriching experiences that give you a broader picture of life in South Africa beyond apartheid.

As you can imagine, a trip like this carries a not insubstantial cost. Between airfare, accommodations, entry fees, and expert guides, the total cost comes to more than \$5000. While I have received substantial support already that has paid for more than half of the cost of the trip, there are still more funds to raise. On Sunday, December 2nd, we will collect donations to help me cover the cost of the trip during the offering. As with any cause, every little bit helps and I will be deeply grateful for whatever you can give.

Of course, this experience is not something I want to keep just for myself. While I'm travelling, I will be updating my blog at allowedandawaiting.blogspot.com with descriptions of the day's events and reflections on what I'm gleaning from the trip. I will also be happy to do a short presentation at some point in the spring for any who are interested in hearing about the trip and asking questions about my experience. Beyond that, though, I expect this immersion to impact my ministry for the rest of my life, emboldening me to live more fully into my baptismal promises and encouraging others to do the same. I look forward to sharing the fruits of this journey with you all!

***Note:** Salem's Discretionary Offering for November and December will go to support Jo's learning trip to South Africa.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE TO ALL

APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT (ASP)

Hi All: Just a quick update: we received the confirmation from ASP that our trip will be for the week of 6/16/2019. Our site will be somewhere in West Virginia. We'll update you as we hear from ASP.

The kick-off/planning meeting will be Sunday, November 4th in Salem Community Hall. We plan to start promptly at 6:00 P.M. and finish by 6:30 P.M. This meeting is MANDATORY for all youth volunteers and their parents. Please let one of us (Jesse, Bob and/or me) know if you are not able to attend. Missing the meeting without notifying us may result in losing your spot in the crew.

Thanks very much, Hisashi, Jesse and Bob

COMMUNITY VIGIL FOR VICTIMS FROM TREE OF LIFE SYNAGOGUE IN PITTSBURGH



Rabbi Jonah Layman of Shaare Tefila congregation lights a memorial candle with Congressman John Sarbanes and other elected officials. Rabbi Dina Rosenberg of B'nai Shalom congregation is reading the names of the victims from the podium on the left.

Olney's two conservative Jewish congregations hosted a Communal Gathering Vigil on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at B'nai Shalom of Olney to remember the tragedy at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday, Oct. 27 when a gunman invaded their holy worship space and killed eleven congregants.

On Tuesday, Oct. 30 about 1000 people of different religions, political persuasions, races, and ethnicities gathered as one to stand with our Jewish neighbors during this time of national grief.

The vigil consisted of prayers, song, and the lighting of candles in memory of the victims.

Rev. Mansfield "Casey" Kaseman, Interfaith Community Liaison for Montgomery County spoke. The Montgomery County Police Department provided security. We entered feeling hopeless, and left more hopeful.

GREATER OLNEY INTERFAITH MINISTERIUM'S THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The ninth annual Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, November 20 at 7:30 P.M. at Shaare Tefila Congregation, 16620 Georgia Avenue, Olney, MD 20832.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM OF NATHAN JAMES SAVAGE



October 14th was a very special day in the Savage household. Their third son, Nathan James, was baptized. As family and friends gathered, special songs of the Savage family were sung, including the song sung as the children left the Sanctuary for their own special worship service, "Climbing Jacobs Ladder" in honor of their son, Jacob, who succumbed to liver disease just last year. There were few dry eyes as we remembered that brave young child.



Brandon with Matthew and Debbie with Nathan

CONGRATULATIONS



Mary Morell

Mary was selected as Student of the Month (October) at Rosa Parks for her outstanding effort! We at Salem know Mary is outstanding. Good to know others recognize this, too.

SOMETHING HAPPENING AT SALEM

COMMUNITY PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY



Friday, October 26 was a busy and fun night at Salem's Community Hall as children in our Church and Community gathered to carve and decorate pumpkins of all sizes. Along with the carvings there was plenty to eat with popcorn, cookies of all sorts, candies, and juice, water and punch was also plentiful. Kully Bancoft handled the craft table while Rob Morell helped clear the pumpkins of their seeds after Joyce Howes and Barbara Achstetter with their carving skills opened them up. Mary Morell and members of her Girl Scout Troop were on hand to help with the different activities that Nancy Morell had so skillfully arranged. When 8:30 came no one seemed interested in leaving and the clean-up crew

had to work around the activities, with Kim and Myron Shear in the kitchen deep in dishwashing.



It was a fun-filled night for everyone! Our heart-felt thanks go out to Kulley Bancroft and Rob Morell who came up with the idea and to Nancy Morell who brought it to full enjoyment. We appreciate the many hands, too numerous to mention, for all the hard work in pulling it all together, cleaning up afterwards, and filling in wherever needed.



An interesting science project
"Making witches brew"

SPECIAL MUSIC

On October 26, our Music Director, Rose Eide-Altman arranged for Dr. Cecil Lemon to sing in our 10 o'clock worship service.



Dr. Lemon sang "Follow Me" and "When God Is Near," such beautiful songs and so well presented. Thank you, Dr. Lemon, for sharing your talent with us and we hope you will join us again.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, DEC. 8



We are in need of people to help in the kitchen, provide baked goods, donate items for the Unique Treasures sale, make gift baskets, and assist with the Children's crafts. Contact Kulley Bancroft if you can help in any way.

FROM THE CONGREGATION

I, Velma Durant, usually don't publish personal experiences but, by request, I submit the following:

Before I begin, I need to give you a bit of background. My dad came from a long line of family depression and it seems I inherited this gene. Several weeks ago, I awoke so depressed I didn't want to get out of bed. However, since I am responsible for the shopping, I had to "face my day."

As I was driving, I was complaining to God that nobody cared about me. I couldn't satisfy the family in anyway. Why was I put in this position, and on and on...All at once a song we used to sing in Children's Church in Newport, RI came to mind. I hadn't thought of this song for over 50+

years:

High, high as the mountains
Wide as the Heavens above
Deep, deep as the deepest sea
Is my Savior's love
Though I feel so unworthy,
Still I'm a child of His care,
And His word teaches me
That His love reaches me everywhere.

As I began to sing these words, a peace came over me and the depression was gone. Needless to say, I spent quite a while thanking God for His love.

GOOD-BYE SUMMER

As Summer 2018 is now a thing of the past and Fall has become a reality; Rick Myers sent me a beautiful picture of the Church's Fall Garden for your enjoyment. Remember to thank Joanne Ranshaw and Joyce Howes for all of their hard work in adding this beauty for the glory of God.



BOOK CLUB

Following is the revised book club schedule for the newsletter. Note the meeting days are now on Wednesdays and that we moved the November meeting into December AND changed the book!

Wednesday, December 12, 7:30 P.M. at the home of Suzanne Friis. We will be reading "The Art of Living: The Classic Manual on Virtue, Happiness and Effectiveness" by Epictetus.

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 P.M. Location TBD. We will be reading "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande.

Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 pm at the home of Joanne Rider. We will be reading "Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People" by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

SALEM UNITED METHODIST MEN

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 on Nov. 10.

SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers during the 2018 worship year, please signup on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hallway or contact Carole Roberts.

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 November Birthdays are:

Bancroft, Kulley	11/04
Ungelsbee, Anna	11/06
Blaine, Connie	11/09
Bittner, Betty	11/17
Smith, Curtis	11/17
Miller, Savannah	11/19
Brown, Adrienne	11/21
Meisner, Thomas	11/21
Eide-Altmann, Rose	11/23
Howes, Joyce	11/24

There are no November Anniversaries

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 contact Joyce Howes.

OLNEY HELP NEEDS HELP

Here is a list of food items they need now: Canned chicken, sloppy joe sauce, instant mashed potatoes, canned chili, beef stew, canned fruit (no sugar), juice, pasta sides (Knorr/Roni), and vanilla or strawberry Boost or Ensure. Please place items in the box marked for Olney Help in the church hallway. No glass jars.

OUR COMMUNITY

American Legion: Veterans Day Luncheon November 12, Salem's Community Hall. If you can help with this meal, contact Mary Ellen Eaton.

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next meeting is November 26. Help is needed to prepare the dinner, set up, serve and clean up. If you can help, please contact Joyce Howes.

Eyeglass Collection: Salem continues to collect used eyeglasses, cell phones and hearing aids to donate to Lions Club. Please leave in the designated box in Salem Community Hall.

Spirit Club: A fitness group for those with disabilities meets Wednesdays in the Community Hall from 6:00-7:00 P.M. Our own Philip Weinberger is an avid participant.

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

Alcoholic Anonymous Groups: Meet in the Community Hall on Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30 P.M. and Thursdays, 8:00-9:00 P.M.

PRAYER SHAWLS



Know someone who could use some spiritual comfort? Give them a prayer shawl. Prayer shawls are located above the coat rack in the church hallway.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Church telephone 301-774-7772

Reverend Sue's e-mail

pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org

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