



Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton, Pastor
Church: 725-5862
www.salemumcmathews.org.

In the United Methodist church, pastors are sent to churches through a process called itinerancy. The Conference Bishop and the District Superintendents match the gifts and graces of a particular pastor with the ministry needs of a specific congregation. Thus, the appointments are made for one year at a time so that the gifts and graces of the pastor as well as the needs of the church can be annually reassessed. While the end of June is the traditional moving period for pastors and churches, occasionally situations arise where there are mid-year moves.

Due to a vacancy created by a pastor on medical leave, our York River District Superintendent Rev. Seonyoung Kim has prayerfully discerned, with the Virginia Conference Bishop and Cabinet, to send me to serve as the associate pastor at Williamsburg United Methodist Church, to begin Wednesday, November 1.

Josh and I believe it is God's call and the next faithful step on our journey. My final Sunday in worship at Salem is October 22, and I hope you will be present for worship and reception, so we can offer blessings and peace to one another. I conclude ministry with Salem on October 31, and soon we will begin a new chapter of life and ministry at Williamsburg UMC.

Pastor Kim intends to appoint an intentional interim pastor to Salem for the remainder of the Conference year, and that name will be shared in the near future. Until that time, please stay tuned to social media, the one-call-tell-all system and the local newspaper for announcements regarding worship and preaching leadership and other Salem activities and events.

As Josh and I prepare to depart, we leave deeply grateful for the partnership in ministry with you, the Salem community of faith. What a blessing it has been to serve alongside such loving, dedicated and generous people and within the Mathews community. There is also sadness as we part because relationships undergird true ministry. Thank you for the sacred privilege of walking with you in many seasons of life, the painful and the happy moments. Thank you for welcoming my teaching, preaching, praying, counsel and administration. Thank you for the overwhelming kindness and support extended to Josh and me, especially as welcomed James Eno into our lives. While I will no longer be your pastor, we remain connected as brothers and sisters in Christ.

God says, "I am about to do a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:19) I am confident God is always at work, and I know God is up to something in this move. Josh and I are excited about the future, for us, and for you all. A church committed to serving God will thrive and greatly impact the community for the transformation of the world and the glory of God. May it be so!

May God's peace be with you.

With love and gratitude,
Meghan, Josh and James



I was planning to write a farewell letter to you all pending the end of my tenure at the end of December. However, circumstances have led me to resign at the end of September, so I am writing my farewell letter earlier. In retrospect, I have led the Administrative Board for nearly three years, and it is time for me to step down and allow someone else to lead the church going forward. Hopefully they will have more success in some areas than I have had. These three years have had many times of happiness and joy, but

have also been hard and stressful on me. I have taken some time away to recharge my batteries and hope to return soon.

Through God, we have accomplished a lot in the last three years. We refinanced the fellowship hall at a lower interest rate and lowered our monthly payments; we have made much needed repairs to the sanctuary stained glass windows, replaced the rotted gutters, repaired termite damage and hired an exterminator to ensure we do not have the problem again. We are instituting a scheduled maintenance plan to ensure our beloved building does not fall into disarray. We have embraced a Pre-school that is well respected in the community and has a waiting list for students. We have a lot to be proud of here at Salem. However, none of this would be possible without God, and you, the body of Christ. Each of you has contributed to making Salem our Christian home.

However, that is not to say that we don't still have issues, and decisions facing us going forward. We have declining attendance, declining income, and more building maintenance issues to tackle, and have trouble meeting our budget on a monthly basis. We have to establish a budget for 2018, which is difficult with our declining attendance and income. We need everyone's participation and help as the Body of Christ to overcome the obstacles Satan has placed in our path.

As the Body of Christ, it is the responsibility of each and every one of you to inquire from your Board members information about the issues we face, and give them your voice so they know how the Body feels. If you remain silent and don't get involved, then the Body has no room to grow. Your input is critical in the guidance of the board members. Get involved, attend meetings, and help the Board to discern God's plan.

I do want to thank several people specifically for what they have done, and continue to do for the church; both in front of and behind the scenes. There are too many people to thank here in this space, so I am going to list only a few here, and if I miss you I am sorry, but everyone has made a difference in the church:

- Pastor Meghan for her love of Salem and its members, and always being there when we needed her. She came in during a difficult time in our church, and gave us strength to move forward. Her compassion and caring has been her strength. Being the first female pastor at Salem, she has shown us that gender equality in the pulpit is here to stay.
- Sonny Daniels for his oversight of the church building and grounds and his love for Salem. He keeps our building functioning and in good repair, often at his own expense.
- Faye Respress for her devotion to keeping the parsonage, and our church, functioning and well kept.
- Glenna Hudgins for her love and devotion to the church, and always being a sounding board for me and letting me know when I needed to make the hard call.
- Paul Bing for the many things he does behind the scenes, and for keeping the kids on such a sugar high each and every Sunday.
- Rusty Mitchem for leading the Trustees and always offering sound advice.

- A big thank you to Kevin Hogge as our Treasurer. Most do not know the untold hours he puts into keeping our financial records straight and paying the bills. He manages God's money as if it was his own, and tries to keep us on the straight and narrow.
- My wife, Karen, who is my biggest sounding board who offers me advice. Sometimes it is not what I want to hear, but it is always sound.
- Others such as Sara, Stacie, Christina, Craig and Laura, Joe and Bev and many others who give so freely of their time and talents to the church. Thank you all for everything that you do.

Again, to those whom I have missed due to space constraints, I want to thank you too for all you have done. It is difficult to single out just a few people when so many make so many contributions to the church.

As always, please feel free to attend any Administrative Board meeting and offer your voice in God's service. Get involved, volunteer to be on a committee, come to Sunday School, lead or attend a Bible Study, or just be there for each other. Show compassion and love towards each other, your brothers and sisters in Christ.

I want to thank everyone again for everything that you do for the Church and our community. God Bless.

Glenn Mantell



Boyd Gunn Class News.....

The Boyd Gunn Class hopes that by the time you receive this newsletter the steeple will be repaired and the cross in it's place. Sonny Daniels has worked very hard on this project securing someone to do the job. We owe him a debt of gratitude. ~ We wish to thank all who contributed and helped with our yard sale. It is always hard work but good fellowship. The proceeds will be donated to the Mortgage Fund. We will be making plans in the near future for our Christmas meeting. We welcome new members who are interested in Bible Study and supportive community, to say nothing of the fellowship. Join us and grow in your knowledge of God's plans for your life!



Mark your calendar. On Saturday, November 11th we will have our annual prayer breakfast at the church at 8:00 a.m.. Sara Hogge will present our program which will be our World Thank Program, that we always celebrate in November. Let's give THANKS! We'll have a short planning session after the meeting.



We are participating in the Snack Pack Program again this year. We are fixing 52 Snack Packs each week. So any and all help will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a donation please make your check out to Salem United Methodist Women. Also if you are shopping and can pick up some of the items that would be appreciated too.

Thanks to all who contributed to our Candleburning. We had over \$500.00 for our mission work.

Mark Saturday, December 16th. on your calendar. That is the date for our Christmas Store at the Riverside Convalescent Center. Start now to gather your gifts and gift bags, etc. Items for the store may be left in the Boyd Gunn Class Room. We need them by December 10th. It is the special event of the year for us and for the residents at the center! We also need help on that day!



LILLY HOPKINS CIRCLE



The Lillies will meet on Wednesday, November 8. at the home of Shirley Snow at 7:00 p.m. Carolyn Morris will present the program. Bring you gifts for the Social Services Christmas Store.

The December meeting will be on Wednesday, the 13th. at 7:00p.m. Labenia (Sis) Thomas will be the hostess. Shirley Snow will present the program.



On Wednesday, November 8th. Agape Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Host is Faye Respress.

Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a Church-Wide Baby Shower. See related article.



Thanksgiving Luncheon

On Sunday, November 19th we will celebrate Thanksgiving as a church family. After worship we will have lunch in the Fellowship Hall. The turkey, dressing and gravy will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Please join us and share in the wonderful fellowship and tasty food.

Agape Circle Ongoing Projects

The Agape Circle continues to collect stamps for UMCOR. They can be placed in the box sitting on the desk in the hallway.

The Agape Circle is collecting Samaritan's Purse OCC Christmas Shoeboxes. Instructions are on the front pew at church on how to pack the shoeboxes. With each shoebox, a \$9.00 donation is needed to cover shipping and other expenses. Shoeboxes can be dropped off in the Mary Jo Robins Class or see Sharon Morgan. Deadline is **Sunday, November 12th**.

The Agape Circle is also collecting items for the Avalon Center, formerly the Laurel Shelter. They will have a place for the items on the table next to the HAM baskets in the old fellowship hall with the list of needs for residents of the shelter.



BABY SHOWER

Agape Circle is sponsoring a Church-Wide Baby Shower to support Mathews Social Service on Wednesday, December 13th. at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring diapers (all sizes) and wipes. Sara Hogge is hosting the shower.

POINSETTIAS

If you wish to place a poinsettia in church for Christmas in memory or to honor someone, please contact Shirley Daniel at 725-2772 by Sunday, December 3, 2017. The cost of each TBA.



Prayer Breakfast

Ladies are invited to Men's Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us for the Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 3, 2017 during the Sunday School hour. We will have a craft, story time and refreshments. We look forward to a morning of togetherness as we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus.



Children's Christmas Program

Thursday's Fellowship kids have been busy this fall. We have been learning new songs and new speaking parts for our play "We Three Spies". This year the message is "changing hearts" with kindness and love. What a beautiful message for our children to learn and use at such an early age. The play is scheduled for Sunday, December 10th at 10:45. All children ages three and up are invited to join us! We look forward to an exciting time together.

Community Outreach

Christmas Boxes for the community will be prepared on Sunday, December 17th. Bring your goodies, soup, etc. to the fellowship hall before Sunday School.

Have a
Merry
Christmas



November Birthdays

02 Michael Rowe
02 Dawn Sterling
12 Glenna Hudgins
14 David Shuber
20 Marsha Morgan
21 Marhsall Hudgins
21 Richard F. Stewart
22 Elizabeth Stewart
23 Carolyn Dixon Watkins
23 Darlene Talbott
25 Trimmie Riachardson
25 Laura Brandon
26 Ruby Ingram
26 William Morris
28 Johnathan Dehoux

Happy Birthday
To All!



December Birthdays

01 Curtis Watkins	15 Dale Mitchem
01 Robert Thomas	16 Stuart Gibbs
02 Janet Herndon	16 Melody Smith
04 Ed Clayton	17 Garry Livermon
05 Jerry Davis	19 Stephen Mantell
05 Teresa Rowe	20 Shelby McCall
06 Greg Robins	21 Lindsey Stewart
07 Leslie Foster	26 Hugh Brooks
10 Judy Emanuel	26 Sara Hogge
12 Guy Thorp	26 Chase Murphy
13 Ethan Hudgins	31 Charlyn Hudson
14 Ginger Shuber	31 Lois Jenkins

January Birthdays

01 Steve Dixon	18 Paul Bing
01 Sharon Morgan	19 Jerry Ligon
04 Emily Persinger	19 Aaron West
04 Blake Edwards	20 Phillip Morgan
05 Roy Respress	22 Buck Matthews
05 Hannah Robins	22 John Stephen Shaw
08 Thoms Foster	25 Andy Daniels
09 Emma Hudgins	27 Betty Edwards
12 Michael Diggs	28 Denna Waddell
12 Karen Norris	
14 Natalie Davis	
15 Kim Diggs	

PRAYER LIST

Tommy Adams
Durwood Anderson
Kathy Bae
Cheryl Baranski
Josh Belvin
Sonny Colonna
Horace Cannon
Ross Carmine
Rev. Bill & Connie Clark
John Covaney
Kitty Demaco
Betty Edwards
Spenser Grandstaff
Henry Guill
Jason Hudgins
Loretta Hudgins
Lowry K. Hudgins
Roy Insley
Lois Jenkins
Michael Jenkins
Carolyn Kennedy
Louise LeBron
Judy Mitchem
Patty Morgan
Carolyn Morris
Lyn Nutt
Abby Rowe
Ellen Rowe
Myrtle Shepperd
Janice Slaughter
Allen T. Ward
Mike Wellborn



November 2017



Greeters: Boyd Gunn Class

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		December										
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
October	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
	T	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
	W	15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
	T	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
	F	29	30	31								
	S				3	4	5	6	7			
	M		10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
	T		17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
	W		24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
	T		31									
Communion									1	2	3	4
									8	9	10	11
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 a.m.									15	16	17	18
									22	23	24	25
Thanksgiving Covered Dish Luncheon									29	30	31	
Food Bank Sun.												

Choir 7 p.m.

Choir 7 p.m.

Choir 7 p.m.

Choir 7 p.m.

Administrative Board 7 p.m.

Agape Circle 7 p.m.

Lilly Hopkins Circle 7 p.m.

Thursday Fellowship Covered Dish 5:45 p.m.

Thursday Fellowship 6:30 p.m.

Thursday Fellowship 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving



Thursday Fellowship 6:30 p.m.

UMW Prayer Breakfast 8:00 a.m. at church.

December 2017



Greeters: Mary Jo Robins Class

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	November							January						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	26	27	28	29	30			28	29	30	31			
Communion	3					4								5
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program 10:45 p.m.	10						11							12
Christmas Boxes for Community	17													13
Christmas Eve	24													14
														15
														16
														17
														18
														19
														20
														21
														22
														23
														24
														25
														26
														27
														28
														29
														30
														31



January 2018



Greeters: William Davis Class

Happy New Year!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Years Day 1	2	Administrative Board 7 p.m. 3	4	5	6
Communion 7	Choir 7 p.m. 8	9	Agape Circle 7 p.m. Lilly Hopkins Circle 7 p.m. 10	11	12	13
Men's Prayer Breakfast 14	Choir 7 p.m. 15	16	17	18	19	20
	Choir 7 p.m. 21	22	23	24	25	26
Food Bank Sun. 28	Choir 7 p.m. 29	30	31			27

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Angels

Every word listed is contained within the group of letters on the next page. Words can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may be read either forward or backward. As a bonus, can you find the names of 2 angels not listed in the word bank?

ARCHANGEL

MESSENGERS

BLAZING GLORY

PROTECT

CHERUB

PROVIDE

DELIVER

REVEAL

ENCOURAGE

SERAPH

GOOD AND EVIL

SERVE GOD

GUIDE

SPIRITS

HOLY

Hidden angels: _____

D S T I R I P S Y D L G A
M E S S E N G E R S O O T
U R E V E A L V O D W O C
P V G A B R I E L J L D E
U E N C O U R A G E M A T
R G T H E D I U G V E N O
E O O E D O G N N M D D R
H D R R E V A L I U I E P
C P P U M H E C Z H V V C
A D A B C R H G A I O I R
R I V R I A C A L R R L A
C U A I E T E E B E P T Y
H G S L A S D V R S S E M