



Rev. Kevin English, Pastor  
Church: 725-5862-Pastor's Cell: 302-236-9993  
[www.salemumcmathews.org](http://www.salemumcmathews.org).

## *A Proven and Delightful Recipe for Church Joy and Growth*

"Many of them believed his message and were baptized, and about three thousand people were added to the group that day. learning from the apostles, taking the fellowship meals and the prayers. were being done through the filled with awe. All the believers



They spent their time in part in the fellowship, and sharing in Many miracles and wonders apostles, and everyone was continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed. Day



after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.



Do we have all the necessary ingredients in the proper measure to make an awesome, joy-filled "church growth pie"? Yep! So let's get cookin'!

Generous amounts of Spirit-filled and Bible-centered **Worship and Praise**. Attendance is up over 100 average. **Sunday School** especially for our kids is bubbling with brand new "Celebration Sundays" Sunday School for younger children 3 and up, the just launched "Go Team" for grades 3-6 and Mrs. Rogers Youth group. In addition to the **Thursday night study**, pastor-led "Victory in Spiritual Warfare" has begun on Tuesdays at 1 Pm and again at 6:30 PM at the parsonage. With study comes individual and small group **prayer** opportunities. But what about the **Fellowship**? I propose a monthly covered dish supper, cook-out or picnic. Who likes to cook a whole meal when you can bring a dish and share? Everybody's Birthday Party, movie night, family game night, a 2nd of JUNE picnic and a 1<sup>st</sup> of July cookout? You name it! All for "us to enjoy and to share" with our community in outreach and missions. Mix thoroughly and bake with tender loving care and Christian warmth.

## **“VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

Spiritual warfare is defined as “the battle between Ultimate Good and Ultimate evil, between God and the devil, angels and demons, that goes on not only all around us, but also within us as well.” It is nothing less than the battle for the earthly lives and eternal souls of every man, woman and child in Creation for control of Creation. Spiritual warfare is “the elephant in the room” that dare not be ignored in many individuals, families and even “church families” Otherwise, it becomes a “bull in the china shop” of our lives wreaking havoc within, among and all around us. It is a spiritual “DIS-EASE” that attacks our minds, bodies, spirits and relationships Like the flu, it’s causes are unseen, although its effects are undeniable, miserable, contagious and potentially deadly. This spiritual “DIS-EASE” requires a true diagnosis and responds only to a “spiritual” cure. Before one takes the cure however, one must first trust Jesus, our Divine Physician and accept the diagnosis; that is that spiritual warfare is for real. Have you got the fever? God’s got the cure. The following are some of the primary symptoms and signs that you are under spiritual attack and in trouble, for your self diagnosis:

1. A troubled soul - only going through the motions of worship, prayer, Sunday school, study, fellowship and service, habitually, mechanically and joyously. The fire is warming or has gone out. This is experienced as a pulling away from God and His people for a bit or leaving altogether.
2. A troubled spirit- “Malaise”, a general feeling of discomfort, discontent, uneasiness or pain that is experienced as anxiety, melancholy, unhappiness and depression about the people and things around you.
3. A troubled mind- confusion or doubt concerning what is right and wrong (loss of your moral compass). This is experienced as misunderstanding and misinterpreting the will of God and the motives of others; taking things out of context and making mountains out of mole hills.
4. A troubled heart-an unshakable sense of hopelessness and helplessness that devolves into fear, and is often expressed through unforgiveness, anger, judgmentalism, gossip and criticism of others.
5. A troubled life- it appears that most, if not all your life resources are drying up; (actually you are being robbed by demons). This is experienced as an overwhelming sense of hopelessness and helplessness that manifests itself in worry rather than worship.
6. Troubled relationships-brokenness between you and God (vertical relationship) and between you and others (horizontal relationship) expressed by harmful words spoken in anger, fear, envy, etc.

This is the “DIS-EASE”. What is the cure? Join us for “Victory in Spiritual Warfare”. The current study will end mid-April. Another will begin shortly thereafter in mid-June. You got the fever? God’s got the cure!



## FAMILY WEEK LUNCHEON



On **Sunday, May 20, 2018** we will celebrate Family Week with a covered dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite dishes to be shared. This is a special time for our church congregation as we gather to share a meal and wonderful fellowship. Plan to join us.

## WORSHIP AT THE BEACH!

This year our beach services will begin on **Sunday, April 29th at 8 a.m.** at Haven Beach. Our April speaker will be Amy Bohannon-Stewart. Please plan to join us for worship on the last Sunday of each month through October as we share in the gospel in one of God's most beautiful settings, beside the shore of the Chesapeake. Please spread the word and invite others to come.

If you feel led to share a word in a very casual environment, this is the perfect opportunity to give witness of how God has blessed you. We are always done within 30 minutes so those who need to get back to church are able. If you are in need of more information, please call Christy Brown at **694-9582**.

## UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Sunday, April 8, 2018 (3-5:30 p.m.), Renewal for Existing Church - "Fresh Expressions" at Chestnut Memorial UMC.

Sunday, April 22, 2018 (3-5:30 p.m.), "Navigating Social Media" at St. Luke's UMC.

Thursday, May 3, 2018 (7-9 p.m.), "Local Church Internal Controls and Audit" at Bethany UMC.

For more information about these classes go to:  
[YorkRiverDistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:YorkRiverDistrict@vaumc.org).



## "LET THERE BE LIGHT"-ENTERTAINMENT!

Remember our old lip syncs? Talent shows? Musicals? Aren't you ready for some good fun times once again? Wait no longer!

The UMW of Salem will host an evening of fun and entertainment on **Saturday, May 5th, beginning at 7 p.m.**

For all ages, we hope that you or your group will put together a song, skit, or other means of sharing your talent with us. Whether it is serious or funny, it should be pleasantly entertaining.

Don't wait but plan now to be a part of our show. Encourage your children to take part.

Contact Christy to enter your act as soon as possible.

## A Note from Stewardship

It is important that we all stay informed of the financial health of our Church. This note is to make everyone aware of what has happened since we borrowed and built our wonderful Fellowship Hall.

You may remember that we borrowed \$400,000. You may also remember that, in 2016, we refinanced our loan with the United Methodist Development Company (UMDEVCO) to get a lower interest rate. At the time of the refinancing, we had already reduced the original principal by 41% to \$229,514. Since then, we have made minimum as well as extra (principal) payments, except for the latter part of 2017. For those payments, we paid only the minimum monthly amount due to a decline in contributions. By the end of 2017, we had reduced our overall debt to \$211,552. That is an ***overall reduction*** of 47.1% of our original debt.

Our loan with UMDEVCO has what is called a “balloon” payment that is due on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. At that time, we will renegotiate the interest rate, which will probably be slightly higher than the current rate. For now, however, we are seeing slightly higher contributions and are hopeful that this trend increases, and we will be able to resume extra principal payments. The extra payments go directly to reducing our principal, avoiding significant interest payments and providing a tremendous reduction of our debt.

We are blessed as a congregation to have this wonderful Fellowship Hall where we and our community can meet, worship, and have fellowship. We ask that all of us that read this consider adding a “little extra” to our contributions.

In His Grace,

*Stewardship*

# EASTER WEEK ACTIVITIES



## Easter Egg Party

Please join us for our Children's Annual Easter Party. It will be held on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018 during the Sunday School hour. Don't forget your child's Easter basket and we look forward to seeing you there!



## Sunrise Service

The Sunrise Service will be held on Easter Sunday, April 1st at 6:45 a.m. at the home of Ed Clayton at 1205 Aaron's Beach Rd. Join the early risers to worship as the sun rises up on the beautiful Aaron's Beach.



## GOOD FRIDAY

God's Son came to Earth's abode  
On Calvary He shed His blood.  
Once the Sacrifice was complete  
Death He'd have to defeat.

For man His life He gave.  
Resolved that sinners He'd save.  
Ideally was God's plan displayed,  
Dutifully the Son obeyed.  
Anguish and pain He would endure  
Yet victory He'd lovingly procure.

Dr. James E. Martin

## Maundy Thursday



On Thursday, March 29, 2018, Maundy Thursday, there will be a covered dish supper at church at 6:30 p.m. The meal will be followed by communion in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for this special time in our lives as Christians.

## Holy Week Services



Holy Week Services will be held each day at 12 noon at Westville Christian Church starting on Monday, March 26, 2018.

## EASTER SERVICE



Sunday, April 1st at 10:50 a.m., come celebrate the joy of the resurrection at Salem United Methodist Church! Worship will include the sharing of the Good News, festive music, prayer and communion.





Ready for a Ride of a Lifetime with God? Come join us for Vacation Bible School, Rolling River Rampage. Kids learn Jesus is with them all the time, even in the rapids. Along the river, children will discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything!

Vacation Bible School will be held **June 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**, from **5:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Children ages 3 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited. Dinner will be provided each night. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Tyler Murphy @ **804-384-2330**.

*When you pass through the water, I will be with you (Isaiah 43:2)*



**Celebrate 'Son' Days** is off to an amazing start! The children are eager to learn about God as we continue to study the Fruits of the Spirit. The children enjoy starting our time together singing praise to our God, and recently sang during worship service. Many crafts have been made, games have been played, and scriptures have been memorized. We look forward to leading worship service on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped create a fun, meaningful experience for the children at Salem, and thank you to the congregation for your support and prayers that God's word will continue to fill the hearts and minds of His children. It's never too late to join us! We would love to have you on **Sunday mornings from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.** Tell a friend; bring a friend! (Ages 3 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 1:4)*

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



Have you often wondered how two Christians can have diametrically opposed views on a subject, and both state that they feel that they are being “led by God”. How can two people both be saying they are being led by God? Truth be told, they can’t. That does not mean that they are not both being spoken to by God, but one is not interpreting the message correctly, or someone is making them think the message is different than what is intended.

Today the church is experiencing a lot of internal conflict about many issues, such as homosexuality within the church, transgender rights, legislating morality, and apathy within. There are those within the church who are actually being led by God, the “prophets,” who are speaking for God about these issues. There are others who are hearing God’s message, but are being misled by the forces of evil. Satan is a master of deception and is confusing a lot of us with lies and misdirection.

How often have you said to yourself something similar to “I won’t claim this on my taxes, and nobody will ever know?” or “I’ll leave work a little early and nobody will be the wiser.” While both of these are what we call “little white lies,” they are still lies and not the truth. So, how do we know who is the true “prophet” and who is under the influence of Satan and his dark forces? The answer lies in the Bible. The Bible is the truth, speaks the truth and always will be the truth. While Eve had the words of God spoken to her, she still listened to Satan. We have the Bible to give us the written words of God. We have the truth. We have the “belt of truth” to put on to guide us. Whether or not we listen to the truth is a choice each and every one of us has to make on a daily basis.

We can easily justify our little white lies, saying that they don’t harm anyone, we won’t do them again, or nobody will ever know. God knows. God knows what is in our hearts. He knows if we are sincere and if we are acting for the right reasons. There are many Christians who are squeaky clean on the outside, but are filthy on the inside.

Those who are God’s “prophets” need to keep speaking his word, regardless of how others react. Don’t be afraid. Those of us who are not “prophets” need to hear these messages and recognize the truth. That is the hard part, knowing what the truth is and what the “little white lie.” is. Fortunately for us, we can find the truth in the pages of the Bible. All we have to do is read, come to church, fellowship with other Christians, and perform the hardest task of all: listen.

Take care and God bless.

Ye Ole Christian

## AGAPE CIRCLE

The Agape Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 11, 2018** at the home of Teresa Stewart at **7:00 p.m.** Remember to bring your health kit items.

The Agape Circle will meet at church on **Wednesday May 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** Host is Sharon Morgan.

## LILLY HOPKINS CIRCLE

The Lilly Hopkins Circle will meet at the home of Shirley Daniel on **Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** Sara Ann Brooks will present the program.

The Lilly Hopkins Circle will meet on **Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Anne Carole Daniels. Shirley Daniel will be responsible for the program.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ~ UNIT NEWS

The Snack Pack Program continues to be a project for the United Methodist Women. We are fixing 52 (averaging about \$6.00 each) Snack Packs each week. So, any help will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check out to Salem United Methodist Women and give it to Sara Hogge. Also, if you are shopping and can pick up some of the items, that would be appreciated too. We wish to thank those who help in getting the items and those who help pack them.

We will be sponsoring a special program ~ a talent show ~ on **Saturday, May 5, 2018**. Details to be found elsewhere in this newsletter. It will be a fun night if we choose to participate, and the congregation supports it.



## BOYD GUNN CLASS NEWS.....

The Boyd Gunn Class will have a covered dish luncheon and class meeting on **Sunday, April 8, 2018** in the Fellowship Hall after Worship. ~ We will be sponsoring the Mother's Day bulletin again this year. The form to provide your names in memory or in honor will be in the bulletin several Sundays prior to Mother's Day. They may be given to Faye Respress or Glenna Hudgins. We invite anyone without a class to join us for Bible study and fellowship.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## APRIL

01 Eddie Bridgers  
 02 Dean Hudgins  
 04 Robert A. Hudgins  
 05 Natalie Clark  
 05 Megan Pruitt  
 06 Seth James  
 10 Stacie Wiatt  
 11 Kayla Robins  
 12 Lorraine Hollandsworth  
 14 Mary Ann Thomas  
 15 Troy Richardson  
 15 Zoe Sadler  
 16 Laura Holmberg  
 16 Adam Morgan  
 16 Emma Wood  
 20 Nelda Gibbs  
 21 Dale South  
 22 Gage Gaskins  
 22 Morgan Sterne  
 23 Faye Respress  
 25 Ronnie Mitchem  
 27 Allie Robins  
 29 Greyson Dehoux  
 30 Wayne Brown  
 30 Becky Livermon  
 30 Lydia Wetterling

## May

01 Alice Hatch  
 01 Polly Rowe  
 02 Kelly Williams  
 03 Leslie Armstrong  
 04 Wilson Cherry  
 04 Mark Dehoux  
 04 Sam Tomcany  
 05 Jonathan Holmberg  
 05 Carolyn Smith  
 07 Joanie Daniels  
 08 Jamerson Dehoux  
 09 Anna Thorp  
 09 Tyler Thorp  
 10 Nancy Ashberry  
 10 Craig Holmberg  
 11 Oona Mae Tomcany  
 11 Madalyn White  
 12 Ray Owens  
 15 Kris Long  
 15 Jack Ramsey  
 16 Violet Brownly  
 16 Harper Tomcany  
 17 Adam Livermon  
 21 Caitlyn Dixon  
 24 Mark Tomcany  
 25 Jeanette Armstead  
 25 Geneva Munn  
 26 Karen Mantell  
 27 Daniel Mitchem  
 28 Robin Dehoux  
 28 Cathi Persinger  
 31 Lauren Fleharty



## PRAYER LIST

Stella Barstrone  
 Cheryl Baranski  
 Tate Bennett  
 Sonny Clonna  
 Amanda Cooper  
 Mildred Diggs  
 Peggy Farmer  
 Suzanne Fisher  
 Spenser Grandstaff  
 Joe Harper  
 JoAnn Jones

Ruby Ingram  
 Jerry Wayne Jagger  
 Leia Karwiski  
 Carolyn Kennedy  
 Mary Ann King  
 Robert Minter Lewis  
 Christine Montgomery  
 Julie Nicholls  
 Charles Petruskus  
 Frankie Pruitt  
 Leland Respress

Roy Respress  
 Jayce Robins  
 Janice Slaughter  
 Adam Smith  
 Sharon South  
 Tami Stewart  
 Sis Thomas  
 Darnell Wells



## NURSING HOME BOUND

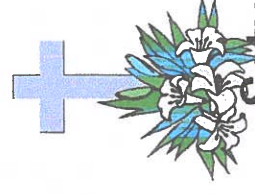
Mildred Diggs  
 Betty Durkovich  
 Martha Ellen Hall  
 Alice Hatcher

Judy Mltchem  
 Mary Jo Robins  
 June Rowe  
 Erma Webb

# April 2018

Usher: Ray Owens

Greeters: Mary Jo Robins Class




Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunrise Ser. 6:45 a.m. Easter Sunday Children's Easter Party 9:45 a.m.	1	2	Bible Study: 1.p.m. Parsonage 6:30 p.m. Church	Administrative Bd 7p.m.	3	4	5	6	7
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 a.m.	8	9	Choir Practice 7 p.m.	Agape Circle 7 p.m. Lilly Hopkins 7 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14
Mortgage Sunday	15	16	Choir Practice 7 p.m.		17	18	19	20	21
Food Bank Sun.	22	23	Choir Practice 7 p.m.		24	25	26	27	28
Beach Service 8. a.m.	29	30	Choir Practice 7 p.m.						

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	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

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	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		

A close-up photograph of a bouquet of red roses. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep red petals and others more open, revealing lighter centers. The bouquet is set against a dark, blurred background, and the lighting highlights the texture of the petals.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th colspan="7">April</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	April							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	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						<table border="1"><thead><tr><th colspan="7">June</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr></tbody></table>	June							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	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					
April																																																																																																								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																		
1	2	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																																																																																																							
June																																																																																																								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																		
					1	2																																																																																																		
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																																																																																																		
Communion  6	Choir Practice 7 p.m.  7		Administrative Bd. 7.p.m.  2			UMW Entertainment Night 7 p.m. 5																																																																																																		
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 a.m. (Ladies Invited) Mother's Day 13	Choir Practice 7 p.m.  14	8	Agape Circle 7 p.m. Lilly Hopkins 7 p.m.	10	11	12																																																																																																		
Mortgage Sunday Family Week Luncheon 20	Choir Practice 7 p.m.  21	15		16	17	18																																																																																																		
Beach Service 8 a.m. Food Bank Sun. 27	Memorial Day  28	22		23	24	25																																																																																																		
						26																																																																																																		
						29																																																																																																		
						30																																																																																																		
						31																																																																																																		

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER



April/May

Rev. Kevin English, Pastor  
Church: 725-5862-Pastor's Cell: 302-236-9993  
[www.salemumcmathews.org](http://www.salemumcmathews.org).

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 10  
MATHAWS, VA

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 425  
MATHAWS, VIRGINIA 23109