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Greetings,

The 2018-2019 school year is upon us! It is a time for new beginnings and fresh starts. It is time to get fired up! Many years ago, I was fond of shouting "Fired up for Christ!" all of the time. It's funny how small things stick with you. When I was in high school, there was a store-front church on my route to school. I would pass it each day, and each time I would read the "Fired up for Christ" sign on the awning. As I grew in my faith, I also grew in my understanding of what that phrase means. It means having a desire to have an intimate and all-consuming knowledge of God and wanting to share it with the world. I don't want to be a lukewarm Christian. The Bible tells us about lukewarm faith. In regard to the faith of the church in Laodicea it is written "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:15-16 NRSV)

One of the ways in which we stoke the fires of our faith is by studying the Bible, the Word of God. As we begin a new season of school and church programming, I invite you to feed the fire burning in your heart. On top of reading the Bible daily, I encourage you to join a Sunday School class, participate in one of the Bible studies that will be offered . . . or if you have an idea for a small group ministry, let's get it going!

The mission of Salem UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Yes, we are to reach people beyond our doors, but we are also to grow in our own discipleship! At the 2017 Virginia Annual Conference, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis shared her vision of discipleship. She said a disciple is "a life-long learner who influences others to serve." "Fired up for Christ" isn't just a catchy saying or slogan - although I have spent a lifetime fond of it - it is a prayer that all of God's children will have a desire to lead lives on fire.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Bertina



Hello Salem!

It's hard to believe it's been a year since I've seen all of you. I hope this update finds you well. My first year in Nome has been packed with all kinds of memorable experiences, and overall I am really loving life here. Summer in Alaska is nothing like summer in Virginia. There was still snow on the ground in some places until the middle of June. I can't say that I miss the hot and humid summers of Virginia, and I've really enjoyed that even our hottest summer days here are only in the 60's.

For many people, summer is a time to slow down and relax, but not for US-2's in Nome! Over the summer, we ran a free meal program at the Boys and Girls Club, serving lunch, snack and dinner Monday through Friday. It was quite an undertaking for our small staff, but we made it work. Each week we had Field Trip Friday, which was always a fun yet exhausting excursion. Some of our adventures included playing on the beach, paddle boarding, hiking and swimming. Piling upwards of 20 children and teens into our big vans and driving them all out into the tundra is an adventure I won't soon forget.

It's also been a hectic summer at the Food Bank. We've been feeding an average of around 300 people per month so far this year, and I am always searching for new ways to keep up a steady flow of community donations. One of my favorite events of the summer was a Salmon Donation Day for the Food Bank. Subsistence living is a crucial part of Alaskan Native culture, so I am hoping to continue to find ways to incorporate subsistence foods into the Food Bank moving forward.

I know that Alaska may seem worlds away to many of you, and at times I feel the same about Mathews. I truly feel that I belong here at this time in my life, but I would also love to stay connected with Salem, which will always be a part of my story no matter where life takes me. You are always welcome to Facebook stalk me, and read my blog which I hope to update more frequently now that I'm about to transition back out of the summer schedule. I also love getting snail mail, and if you send me a note, I will do my best to get an Alaska postcard sent back to you.

Jennie

## REVIVAL DONATION



Salem UMC presented a check for \$2,104.47 to Hands Across Mathews. The money came from our Tent Revival meeting in June where many Mathews Churches participated and contributed. ALL of the contributions, after expenses, went to Hands Across Mathews. Pictured, left to right are John Kupiec from Hands Across Mathews and Ray Owens and Kevin Hogge from Salem. Not shown is Rev. Kevin English, the prime mover for the revival. We want to thank everyone who contributed to this wonderful event.



The Go! Team would like to thank everyone who contributed money to our "Collect the Change" fundraiser. We were able to collect a little over \$200! With the money we were able to go to Wal-Mart and buy enough items to totally outfit a first, second, third, and fourth grader with school supplies and a backpack to start the year! We also want to thank everyone who donated school supplies and backpacks at church. All of the donations were dropped off to Pastor Patrick Billups at Relevant Church for use in the No Walls Community Day. In September we will be passing out treats to every employee we can in the Mathews County Public School System to say "We hope you had a sweet first week!" from the Go! Team at Salem UMC. In October we will be meeting on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> to make a special treat for the congregation to thank you for all of the support you have given our group. During November, we will be putting together shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child that Salem participates in each year. I am so fortunate to work with this amazing group of youth! Again, thank you all for your support as we go forth!

Christina Tomcany



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

On Sunday, August 12, your Sunday School Superintendent met with representatives from each of the Sunday School classes to discuss several issues concerning Sunday School at Salem: decreasing attendance and the need for more teachers. Several ideas were discussed to address the needs of those who do not attend Sunday School, and we are looking to conduct a survey to find out what people are looking for that would get them to attend. We will conduct this survey in the near future. We will offer an electronic survey on-line as well as a paper survey while in worship.

It was decided to do a combined Sunday School class on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. This combined class will be held in the Sanctuary, and we will get each class to take a turn having one of its teachers leading the lesson. The lesson will come from the Quarterly.

Each class expressed a desire to continue operating as it does now, with the membership remaining as it is, and the teaching materials remaining the same.

It was also concluded that each class should solicit teachers internally as the need arises, and if unsuccessful, the Superintendent would attempt to locate a teacher from elsewhere in the church.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to improve our Sunday School, or increase our attendance, please let Glenn Mantell or Pastor Bertina know.

## **UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES**

There will be two Bible Studies held this fall at Salem. Both will start on October 16<sup>th</sup>, and will run every Tuesday for six weeks. Pastor Bertina will lead a study entitled: "A Disciple's Path". This study helps us look at discipleship from a distinctly Wesleyan point of view. She will hold two sessions each Tuesday: one starting at 10:00 am and the other starting at 6:30 pm. You are welcome to attend either session. Both sessions will be held at Salem.

The other Bible Study will be led by Glenn Mantell, and is entitled: "The Problem of Evil – Why do Bad Things Happen?" This study follows in the study path started by Pastor Kevin, but while Pastor Kevin's studies focused on Satan's deceit in the world, this study focuses on where God is in all this. It will discuss what evil is and why you can trust God when bad things happen to us. This study will begin at 6:30 pm, and will also be held at Salem. The cost of the student book for this class is \$4.00.

Sign-up sheets are now available on the front pew for both studies. It will be difficult to decide which class to take with two being offered at the same time, but please find the time to participate in at least one of these wonderful studies.



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

The Agape Circle is once again collecting Samaritan's Purse OCC Christmas Shoeboxes. Starting in October there will be instructions 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 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Back To School Blessing

Dear Heavenly Father,  
For all the children returning to school, send Your Holy Spirit as their guide and protector.

Keep them free from danger and unnecessary harm.  
Put our sons and daughters in the right place, at the right time, to receive Your grace.

Let them learn and grow strong. May the presence of Your Spirit fill their hearts. Help us to mature as parents and caregivers.

Bless every family, oh Lord.

We entrust our children to You, dear God.  
Since from the beginning, they are yours to keep.

In the name of the greatest Son of all, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



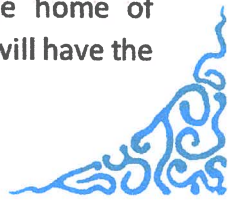
## BLESSINGS OF THE BACKPACKS

On Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are sending students, faculty, and staff back to school with our prayers and blessings. All students (Preschool through College), faculty and staff are invited to bring their backpacks and tote bags to worship and join us for this special time of blessing as they prepare for an exciting new school year.



The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at church. Host for the evening will be Laura Holmberg.

The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the home of Melanie South. Faye Respress will have the program.



## THURSDAY'S KITCHEN

Thursday's Kitchen will look a little different this fall. Instead of meeting each week, we will gather together once a month for a time of fellowship and fun. Please bring a dish to share on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Thursday of each month; the meal will be followed by a time of music and a guest speaker. Meals will begin at 6:00 pm and the music and speaker will begin at 7:00 pm. Please invite your family and friends!

### COVERED DISH DATES

**September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**

**November 08<sup>th</sup>**

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**



"God has a plan for your life.  
The enemy has a plan for your life.

Be ready for both, and wise enough to know the difference."



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ~ UNITE NEWS

On August 8, 2018 United Methodist Women met at the home of Christy Brown at 7:00 pm. Sara Hogge presented our Pledge Program and our pledge to Missions was \$3500.00 for the year 2019. We changed the date for our November prayer breakfast from November 10<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendar. ~ We need more women from the church congregation if we are to keep the work going. We pack about 50 plus Snack Packs each week for the school year. We give a scholarship to a graduating senior. We provide the Christmas Store for the residents of the Riverside Convalescent Center. And our pledge supports missions here in our own county, state, country, and around the world. Won't you help us make a difference? You will find yourself blessed!

### LILLY HOPKINS CIRCLE

The Lillies will have their September meeting at the Riverside Convalescent Center on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. This will allow our members who reside there to join us for fellowship and refreshment. We look forward to being with them.

The October meeting will be on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The place will be announced at a later date.



Being a Christian is like being a **PUMPKIN**.

God **PICKS YOU** from the patch, brings you in, and **WASHES OFF** all the dirt. Then He cuts the top and **SCOOPS OUT** all the yucky stuff. He **REMOVES THE SEEDS** of doubt, hate, and greed. Last, He **CARVES YOU** a new smiling face and **PUTS HIS LIGHT INSIDE** Of you to shine for all the world to see!

## Boyd Gunn Class News.....

The Boyd Gunn Class will meet on Sunday, September 9, 2018 after Worship for a covered dish lunch and class meeting. We will be making plans for our Annual Yard Sale which will be held on Saturday, October 20th. in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. So we are asking the church family to save up your yard sale items for us. And remember our motto ~ "No Junk." And do not bring items that are **NOT** priced. We will also have baked goods and jams and pickles. We need all to bake. It is for a good cause. The money will be put to reduce the debt on the Fellowship Hall. Items can be left at church on Thursday night or all day Friday. Any help will be appreciated. ~ We continue to have Bible based Sunday School lessons that enrich and inspire us. We welcome any and all who would enjoy Christian fellowship and Bible study,

### WHERE ARE WE? "Mortgage Fund"



We are glad to announce that we have paid almost half of our original debt on our Mortgage Loan. Since refinancing, we have paid \$26,262.53. As of June 30, 2018, the balance stands at \$203,251.21. If you have any questions, please contact Alvin Ingram.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



Diversity - that is the new buzz word. We hear it everywhere. We hear it at work, at school, in the paper, on the news, on talk shows; just about everywhere. Nearly every television show today has someone who is homosexual on the program. Some new television programs coming out in the fall even have its main characters as openly gay. Remember Will and Grace? Now it is in a reboot, just as popular as it once was. So, what does diversity mean to us as part of the Christian church? It comes down to one simple word: LOVE.

Diversity does not mean that you have to agree with what a person says, does, or stands for. What it does mean is that we LOVE the individual as a person, as a brother or sister in Christ. We respect the person as an individual. We listen to what they have to say. We LOVE them as Christ loves each of us. Sound hard? Sometimes it is extremely difficult.

One of the biggest issues facing the Church today is the subject of diversity, in particular the acceptance of the LGBT community. This is a subject that will be decided next year in a special called conference, and can have a far ranging impact. So, how do we, as Christians, deal with this issue?

First, we listen and treat each other with respect. Whether you support or are against this issue, we need to treat everyone with Christian LOVE. I know there are those out there who can quote scripture that homosexuality is a sin. There are others who can quote scriptures that point to Jesus' acceptance of all people, which would include homosexuals. So, what do we do? What do we believe? We pray for guidance. We pray for discernment. We pray for calm. We pray for direction.

We, as individuals and as a Church, need to let our leaders know how we feel and how we want them to vote at this special called conference. However, we should treat all individuals, regardless of race, creed, religion, sexual orientation or other form of diversity, with the respect and Christian LOVE that we would expect ourselves. We can disagree with the lifestyle, but LOVE the individual. THAT is the message Christ was delivering to us. WE ARE ALL SINNERS. Yet, God LOVES us all. As for me, I believe in LOVE.

Until we meet again ..... if not here on Earth, then when we get to Heaven.

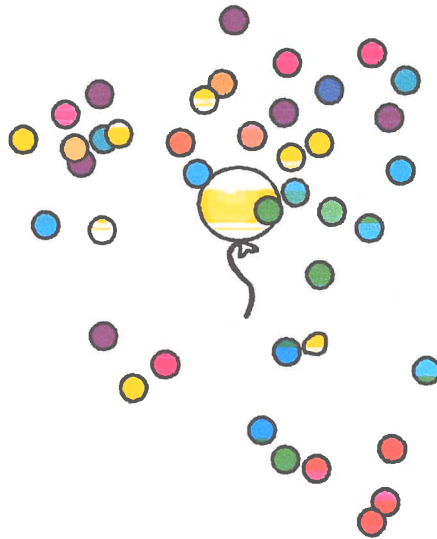
Ye Ole Christian



# Happy Birthday

## SEPTEMBER

03 Eric Fritzius  
05 Carolyn Rowe  
06 Kathryn Tattersson  
10 Lee Burroughs  
10 Rachel Sterne  
11 Lindsay Haywood  
12 Cassi Fritzius  
12 Kara Royall  
13 Blain Callis  
14 Glenn Mantell  
14 Ellen Rowe  
16 Adam Greve  
18 Lillian Hudgins  
19 Warren Waddell  
22 Michael Munn, Jr.  
23 Hannah Davis  
23 Robert Ramsey  
24 Joyce Pierce-Cherry  
24 Julia Royall  
24 Richard Smith  
25 Adam Murphy  
25 Harmony Smith  
26 Christina Tomcany  
27 Christy Brown  
27 Quinton Shepherd  
30 Anne Carole Daniels  
30 Austin Sadler  
30 Michael T. Stewart



## OCTOBER

01 Ryan Morgan  
02 Vincent Westley  
02 Toni Thorp  
03 Stevie Shaw  
03 Stacie Lane Thomas  
05 Joe Diggs  
05 Cory Richardson  
07 Sterling Ray Hudgins, Jr.  
07 Richard Lee Stewart  
08 Ashby Morgan  
11 Jason Powell  
11 Janet Dehoux  
13 Brittany Owens  
15 Sonny Daniels  
15 Kim Hubbard  
19 Coltan Sadler  
20 Tyler Murphy  
21 Blair Williams  
22 Roland Foster  
22 Debbie Richardson  
25 Sandy Diggs  
26 Bev Diggs  
26 Junaita Long  
26 Teresa Stewart  
28 Ben Williams  
28 Graeme Willaims  
31 Mary Jo Robins

## PRAYER LIST



Jonnie Adams	Darlene Jarvosz
Cheryl Baranski	Mike Jenkins
Tate Bennett	Alvin Knight
Talon Busic	Margaret Leonard
Rev. Rita Callis	Sharon Morgan
Bert Faulkner	Carolyn Morris
Suzanne Fisher	Kim Person
Joe Forrest	Ellis South
Ruby Ingram	Michael South

Mary Stewart  
Ricky Stewart  
Tami Stewart  
Harry Ward  
Jennifer West  
Ben Williams  
Donna Wilson  
Becky Zeller

## NURSING HOME BOUND

Betty Durkovich  
Martha Ellen Hall  
Alice Hatcher  
Judy Mitchem  
Patty Morgan  
Mary Jo Robins  
June Rowe  
Erma Webb

# September 2018

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# October 2018



Usher: Glenn Mantell

Greeters: Lowry Hudgins Memorial Class

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SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

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