



Rev. Bertina J. H. Westley, Pastor
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Greetings,

The 2019-2020 school year is upon us! For teachers, staff, and administrators this is a time of new beginnings, hopes, and possibilities. As a congregation, families are returning from vacations and settling into their schedules; Bible studies are beginning; and ministries that have been on hold during the summer are back in full swing. During this time when we are getting back into the flow of things, perhaps it is a good time to remind you of the ways I would like to be in ministry with you and your family.

As your pastor, I am here to preach, teach, and lead the church in ministry with the community. I feel blessed to do so! I am also concerned with you and what is taking place in your lives. I invite you to call, text, email, or stop by the church to let me know what is on your heart. I often hear about the events that are taking place in your lives during joys or concerns or in passing conversations with others, but firsthand information by way of conversations is always best.

Perhaps this list, although not exhaustive, will be a helpful idea of times to **reach out to me**:

- When you would like to know more about joining the church
- When you would like to know how you can live out your discipleship through service in the church
- When you have a joy to share, like a birth or other celebration
- When there is a death or other loss in your family
- When someone close to you or a member of the congregation is ill or in the hospital
- When there are familial concerns
- When I or someone in the congregation has done or said something hurtful
- When you have a suggestion for the congregation
- When you have a question about the Bible, Christianity or the United Methodist Church
- When something in your life is troubling you
- When alcohol or drug dependency is a problem for you or someone close
- When you just want to talk to someone
- When you want to be specifically remembered in prayer

I am here to listen, pray and help as I can. Let's stay in touch!

Peace be with you!

Pastor Bertina

Stewardship Note, August 2019

Dear Congregation and friends,

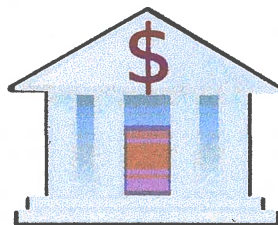
From time to time, we like to bring news of how our stewardship and contributions are going. This is to keep you informed and aware of our Church's financial status.

Our Mortgage Fund is doing well. For the last several years we have been meeting our regular monthly mortgage (minimum) payments and have been paying extra towards the principal when our contributions allowed that. In fact, we paid the extra (principal) amounts in both June and July this year. Our overall mortgage debt has been reduced to somewhat under \$191,000. Our original debt was \$400,000. We should also remember that in 2022, we will renegotiate our mortgage rate with the mortgage holder.

The news regarding our General Fund is not so good. At about 60 % of our 2019 budget year, we have fallen short by a quite significant amount. On average, our General Fund contributions have been about \$620 short each week. Should this continue, we will be short of our budget requirements by about \$35,000 by the end of the year. In view of our shortfall, we have avoided as many of our expenditures for our normal needs as possible. Although we have managed to pay our critical expenses, such as salaries, utilities, and insurance, we have been struggling to pay our apportionments. In fact, soon we may have to resort to our savings or other sources to meet our apportionment. Should we encounter an unexpected expense, our financial condition would worsen.

Our General Fund contributions over the last few years have gradually diminished. It seems to be due to dwindling regular attendance, not less giving by our regular attendees. We are much concerned about this trend. We ask that each of us prayerfully consider our reach inside and outside of our community and give what more we can to support our Church. As a Church that strives to spread the Good News of Jesus, please remember that the financial health of our Church is a major portion of our mission.

Alvin Ingram





Oh fall is upon us. It is a wonderful time of year where the weather goes from real hot and humid, to less hot and rainy. Fall brings with it the changing of leaves, football, and a brand new school year. Yes the youth are headed back to school, and I know they are just beyond excited to go back. Well, excited may not be the best word to describe it. Regardless, we have had a really fun summer, and we would like to thank everyone here at Salem for all the support you have given us. School can be a trying time for students and teachers alike, so let us make sure we uplift them, and keep them in our prayers as they settle into the new year.

Now just because summer is over doesn't mean will be slowing down. Along with our biweekly meetings, we will still be having our weekly Sunday School meetings. We are always planning for the next thing we can do as a group, and for new opportunities for us to give back to this wonderful church.

Some Dates to Know

Youth Meetings Will Fall On

- September 1st, 15th, 29th
- October 13th, 27th

Sunday School Specials

- On October 8th the Youth Sunday School will be having breakfast together as a reward for making it through the first week of School.
-



5 Talent Academy Fall Event

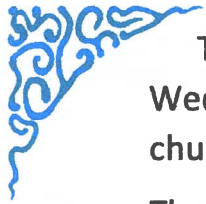
On **Thursday, November 14, 2019**, the 5 Talent Academy of the VA Conference will be hosting **Engage 2019: Community Transformation**. The event is being held at Woodlake UMC and livestreamed to 11 satellite locations around the conference. The York River district will gather at **Williamsburg UMC**. Bishop Ken Carter, the Florida Area Resident Bishop, will be preaching and speakers will be Rev. Michael Adam Beck wildwood UMC, Wildwood, Fl; Rev. Jacqueline Lewis, Middle Collegiate Church, New York, NY; and Rev. Andy and Rev. Anjie Woodworth Neighborhood Church, Atlanta, GA. They will address what it looks like to be a neighboring church, what is a community partner, and what is a fresh expression.

Pastor Bertina hopes a group from our church will attend. Every fifth person in a group registration goes free. The fee for the event is \$35. Registration increases after September 30. To register, visit www.vaumc.org/5talent. For more information, contact Pastor Bertina.



PRAYER BREAKFAST

Men's Prayer Breakfasts will be held on Sunday, September 8th and October 13th at 7:30 am. Come and join in the time of fellowship.



The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 11th at church to pack the Snack Packs.

The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 9th at 7 pm at the home of Danna Ingram.



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE



September Acolytes

01st Colten and Sam
08th Melody and Harmony
15th Seth and Michael
22nd Lincoln and Adam
29th John Stephen and Andrew

October Acolytes

06th Adam and Sam
13th Colten and Michael
20th Seth and Andrew
27th Lincoln and John Stephen

Bishop's Convocation on Prayer

The laity and clergy of the Virginia Conference are invited to the Bishop's Convocation on Prayer. The event will be held on Saturday, September 21, (9:00-3:30) at Trinity UMC in Richmond, VA. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. The registration deadline is September 13th. For more information, see the VA Conference website at vaumc.org or contact Pastor Bertina.



SCHOOL

School bells are ringing loud and clear;
Vacation's over, school is here.

We hunt our pencils and our books,
Ad say goodbye to fields and brooks,
To carefree days of sunny hours
To birds and butterflies and flowers.
But we are glad school has begun.
For work is always mixed with fun.
When autumn comes and the weather
is cool, nothing can take the place of
school.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On Sunday, September the 1st, 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 briefcases, and tote bags to worship for a blessing in preparation for the exciting new school year.

NURSERY

Being in the choir over the years has limited my availability to help in our nursery. Since the choir took a short break this summer I used the month of July to help there during worship. Each week a friend from the Agape circle of our UMW helped me. I was so blessed by this little bit of time I gave to the little ones. It is vital to our church to keep volunteers weekly to be there. Consider helping and go look at the calendar in the nursery and sign up.

Christy



"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." - 1 Peter 5:7

STRESSED OUT:

A biblical approach to stress and anxiety

Tuesday evenings beginning September 10th
through October 8th from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

at Salem UMC, Diggs, VA

We will be studying from Todd Friel's "Stressed Out" series
and Joan Guntzelman's *Surrendering Our Stress*.

No cost to participate.

Quality childcare will be available for your children, so please join us.
Workers will complete crafts with the children each night.

Visit <http://bit.ly/sumc-stressed> to register

online, or email

khogge@mathewssalemumc.org.



ARE YOU INTERESTED

When God Doesn't Fix It" Study, by Musician Laura Story

This was such a great study and I encourage others to borrow it and do a small group like a dozen women did with me this summer.

For the 5 week study we met weekly at the Daily Grind on Saturday morning. It was a good start for our day and weekend. We had great discussions along with good drinks and other delights. This coffee place is a blessing to our community.

Let me know, if you are interested in doing one in the future.

Christy

Upcoming Bible Study

This fall, Pastor Bertina will lead a nine-week Bible Study on the Revelation to John. The Study will use the book "Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation" by Bruce M. Metzger and revised and updated by David A Desilva. The study will meet at 6:30 pm beginning on Thursday, October 10th and will be held on Thursdays through December 19th. The study will not be held on October 31 or November 28th. The cost of the books is \$11.00. A sign-up sheet is available. Please sign-up by September 22nd.



Autumn's Caress

the calm brush of a breeze
 with the scent of home fires burning
 inviting, the spell of leaves falling
 in a swirl they touch your face
 and provoke a smile.

The gentle caress of autumn
 steals the sultry heat of summer
 precludes the melancholy of winter;
 promises of evenings spent
 enthralled within his arms
 as he eases you with nature's kisses.

Within the changes of seasons
 comes the promise of his visit
 and within his embrace, the promise
 your heart will be kept warm
 and your soul lulled into rest
 before the chill of winter steals
 his caress away from you.



UPDATE:

As I write this, I have less than two weeks left as a US-2. These were the fastest two years of my life, and in many ways the most impactful. I hope to have a full newsletter to send out soon, but I wanted to give you a brief update on my future plans. I have accepted a new job here in Nome, working with another organization that connects people in the community with various resources to improve their quality of life. I am excited to continue

living in this community and have another chance to do work that matters to me. I have learned a lot from this experience, and gained a great group of friends. I want to thank you for your support along the way. I have appreciated every card, text, and e-mail. For now, Nome is my home, but the people of Salem will always hold a special place in my heart.

Jennie

NEW SALEM DIRECTORIES

The new directories have arrived! Thank you to Christy Brown, Jim Drummond, Glenna Hudgins, Danna Jo Ingram, Sharon Morgan and Ginger Shuber for their dedication in getting the directories completed. If you have not yet picked up a directory, please note that the individuals and families who took/submitted photos have reserved copies. The remaining directories are available while supplies last. One directory per household. For more information, contact Jim Drummond at (804) 815-8858.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Last year, it was decided that the Christmas offering would be divided between the building fund and Heifer International; \$568.50 was the portion designated for this wonderful ministry. For the month of May, children and youth were invited to vote to see what animals would be purchased to help families throughout the global village. The most votes went to purchasing rabbits; geese came in second; ducks, fish, llama, and a heifer had an equal number of votes. Based on the votes, Salem UMC has gifted: 4 trios of rabbits, 1 share of rabbits, 3 flocks of geese, 1 flock of ducks, 1 share of fish, 1 alpaca/llama, and 1 share of a heifer. May God bless these gifts and the families who receive them.



The United Methodist Women met on Wednesday, August 14th.. at the home of Glenna Hudgins at 7:00 p.m. Fifteen members were in attendance. The Pledge Service was presented by Sara Hogge.

The Unit voted to raise the pledge to missiions by \$100.00. The pledge for 2020 will be \$3600.00.

Again this year we will be haveing our Candleburning Ceremony. This will be held on **Sunday, September 15** durning our worship servicce. A form for contributions will be in the bulletin for several Sundays. It is a nice way to honor or memorialize someone special to you. And the money collected will be used for mission work here at home and in any place where there are needs. We appreciate the generosity of the congregation.



We will be participating in the Snack Pack Program again this school year. We will pack snack packs for Lee~Jackson elementary school again. The need is great. We were packing 61 packs when we finished up last June. So we will need the support of the members of the congregation to continue this project. We will need help in packing and also we will need finanical help as well. Eack pack cost about \$6.00. You do the math.

Mark **December 14th.** on your calendar. That is the date for our Christmas Store at the Riverside Convalescent Center. It is not too soon to begin purchasing items as you come across sales.

LILLY HOPKINS CIRCLE



The Lillies will meet on Wednesday, **September 18th.** at the home of Anne Carole Daniels at 12:30 p.m. The program will be preseted by Shirley Daniel.

The October Meeting will be on **Wednesday the 9th.** at the home of Glenna Hudgins at 12:30 pm. Anne Carole Daniels will present the program.

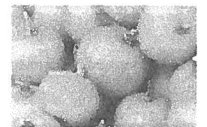
Boyd Gunn Class News.....

The Boyd Gunn Class will be having our annual Yard Sale on Saturday, **October 19th..** So we are asking all of our church family to save your useable items for us. We will be having a bake sale as well. Please bring your items to church on Friday, October 18th. and have them priced. If they are not priced we can't use them. The Sale hours will be 7:00 a.m.~12:00 noon.

If you would like to help we would appreciate that as well and you will enjoy the fellowship.

We will be having Class meeting in September to finalize plans. We have enjoyed the Sunday School lessons these last two quarters and they have been soul searching. We invite you to join us.

PUMPKIN BARS – Peggy Leigh



4 eggs
1 2/3 c. granulated sugar
1 c. cooking oil
1 (16 oz.) can pumpkin
2 c. all purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. ground cinnamon

1 tsp. baking soda
1 (30z.) pkg. cream cheese (softened)
½ c. butter or margarine (softened)
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
2 c. sifted powdered sugar

Beat together eggs, granulated sugar, oil and pumpkin till light and fluffy. Stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and soda. Add to pumpkin mixture and mix thoroughly. Spread batter in ungreased 15 x 10 x 1 inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Cool. Frost with the following:

Cream Cheese Frosting:

Cream together cream cheese and butter. Stir in vanilla, add powdered sugar and beat well. Makes 2 dozen bars.



September

03 Eric Fritzu
 05 Carolyn Rowe
 06 Kathryn Tatterson
 10 Lee Burroughs
 10 Rachel Sterne
 11 Lindsay Haywood
 12 Cassi Fritzu
 12 Kara Royall
 13 Blaine 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
 20 Anne Carole Daniels
 30 Austin Sadler
 30 Michael Todd Stewart



October

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



Nursing Home Bound

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

Prayer List



Jonnie Adams	Joe Forrest
Scott Bartley	Susan Foster
Tate Bennette	Omar Handtach
Joe Bertini	Kenneth Haywood
Susan Botts	Maida Hudgins
Patsy Brooks	Jerry Wayne Jagger
Linda Brooks	Alfis John
Mae Burrell	Carolyn/Horace Kennedy
Marshall Cather	Paul/Va. Owens
Betty Edwards	Lydia Wetterling
Suzanne Fisher	

September 2019



Usher: Ray Owens

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Communion Blessing of the Backpacks Youth Meeting 1	Labor Day  2	Back to Shcool  3	Administrative Bd. 7 pm 4	5	Mathews Market Day 6	7																																																																																																			
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October 2019

Usher: Glenn Mantell



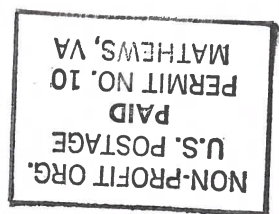
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**SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**



Sept./Oct.

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