



Rev. Bertina J. H. Westley, Pastor
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"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing."
(Joel 2:12-13, NRSV)

In the passage listed above, the prophet Joel is calling God's people to repent and turn back to the Lord. That same call applies to us today. Wednesday, February 26, marks the beginning of Lent. It is during this forty day season that we engage in serious reflection on our need to turn back toward God in order to be fully present in the wonderful blessing of Easter and resurrection. It is during this season that we strive to let go of the hurts, habits, and hangups that keep us from practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying scripture, corporate worship, and engaging in authentic fellowship with other believers. In this Lenten Season let us embrace habits of holiness that help us to fall more in love with God and with our neighbors.

As we enter this journey toward Easter, I invite you to join me in offering the following prayer each day in Lent:

For Holiness of Heart
By Howard Thurman
(401 UMH)

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
Here is the citadel of all my desiring,
where my hopes are born
and all the deep resolutions of my spirit take wings.
In this center, my fears are nourished,
and all my hates are nurtured.
Here my loves are cherished,
and all the deep hungers of my spirit are honored
without quivering and without shock.
In my heart, above all else,
let love and integrity envelop me
until my love is perfect and the last vestige
of my desiring is no longer in conflict with thy Spirit.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. Amen.

Together, let us intentionally invite God's Spirit to renew and revive our faith that we may live and love as God's people.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Bertina

Stewardship Report

Year End Summary, 2019

Salem United Methodist Church, Mathews
For: 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Posted & Unposted</u>
100 General Fund	139,434
110 Mortgage Fund	17,729
Totals →	157,163

Fund	Weekly Requirements	Average Received (Weekly)	Over/Under vs. Budget (Weekly)	ANNUAL Over/Under vs. Budget (ACTUAL)
GENERAL	3,179*	2,681/Week	498 UNDER	25,874 UNDER
MORTGAGE	308	341/Week	33 OVER	1,712 OVER

Summary:

This is a year-end summary of our stewardship for calendar year 2019.

For our General Fund there was a small surge in the end of the year contributions that somewhat improved our total contributions, but we still ended with a significant shortfall for the year. The shortfall versus our budget was \$25,874. Due to the shortfall we were unable to pay our assigned apportionment. A significant portion (\$4,430) of those end-of-year contributions were specifically directed to our unpaid apportionments. In spite of our overall shortfall for the year, we have been able to pay our necessary expenses by restraining our expenditures wherever we were able.

Our contributions to our Mortgage Fund for the year were well in line with the past years and were ahead of our required minimum mortgage payments. We were able to pay several extra amounts toward reducing the principal. With our December payment (see the attached statement) we reduced our outstanding debt to \$185,295. We are thankful that we have been able to continue to reduce our debt as we have enjoyed using our wonderful Fellowship Hall in serving Our Lord'.

Alvin Ingram

* Based on a yearly requirement of \$164,3148 or \$3,179 each week

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 28th and 29th

HOPE OUT LOUD MINISTRY IS COMING TO MATHEWS

Saturday Evening March 28th a light dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a service following at 7:00 p.m. This will be held at the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School. NO CHARGE!

Sunday morning March 29th they will conclude their weekend with a closing service at Salem during the morning worship service.

Hope Out Loud Ministry was formed as a result of a horrific accident that changed the Barrick family forever. Below is a summary of their story. They will share their love of Christ and his amazing grace with us March 28th and 29th.

On November 5, 2006 while driving home from church, the Barrick family was struck head-on by a drunk driver going 80 miles per hour. Andy, Linda, 15 year old Jen and 11 year old Josh sustained life-threatening injuries. All four were rushed to different hospitals. Jen was not expected to live through the night, but God miraculously intervened. She was in a coma for 5 weeks and had severe traumatic brain injuries and multiple skull fractures.

The process of emerging from the coma took weeks and the doctors warned that Jen would be cursing and screaming in confusion. Instead, she was praying out loud and singing praise songs continuously.

Jen did not remember that $2 + 2 = 4$. She didn't know that she was hurt. She didn't even know she had a brother. However, she knew every word to every praise song and every scripture she had hidden in her heart. It was amazing! The power of the Holy Spirit was so alive in her.

Although still recovering and still suffering from memory loss and "Cortical Blindness," Jen is an awesome example of God's grace. This teenager, who was once a quiet, deep thinker, is now expressing her passion for God out loud to everyone she meets. She is uninhibited in her worship and excitement for the Lord. Jen says, "I will never doubt my Lord and my Savior. He is the one healing me daily."

Since the tragic wreck the Barrick family's commitment to serve God and proclaim His Faithfulness is stronger than ever!

Please plan to attend.....God has great things in store for us!



PRAYER BREAKFAST

Men's Prayer Breakfasts will be held on Sunday, February 9th (Ladies are invited) and March 8th at 7:30 am in the fellowship hall. Come and join the time of fellowship.



The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30 pm before the Unit meeting at 7 pm at church.

The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 11th at the church at 7 pm.



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE



February Acolytes

02nd Seth and Sam
09th Harmony and Melody
16th John Stephen and Adam
23rd Michael and Lincoln

March Acolytes

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



Pot Pies for Sale

Nelda and Diane are selling individual Chicken Pot Pies as a fundraiser to raise funds for the "Hope Out Loud" ministry event coming in March. We will be taking orders through February 9th and making deliveries the following week. The individual 5 ½ inch pies are \$7.50 each. They will be wrapped and ready for the freezer. "There's nothing like a cold winter night and a good ole Chicken Pot Pie"! Thank you for you for your support.

God's Valentine Gift

By Joanna Fuch

God's Valentines gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book

To while away the hours.
His gift was to become man,

So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us.
So you and I could live.

He give us sweet salvation, and
instruction , good and true—
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, Too.

So we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.



Ash Wednesday Service will be offered twice on Wednesday, February 26th. The self-guided services will be from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. It will be a time of quiet prayer, scripture readings, and an invitation to receive the imposition of ashes.



A Prayer for Lent

Your Word reveals to us a simple truth,
That sin entered this world through human folly
in believing we could be you, and permeated
history though envy, selfishness and greed. Yet
sin, which holds us tight within its grasp cannot
resist a heart that is touched by your grace
through Jesus Christ, cannot contend with Living
Water pouring into hearts and souls Your Word
reveals to us a simple truth, that sin is defeated
and we can become the people we were always
meant to be by your grace through Jesus Christ.

LENT

Pastor Bertina will lead a weekly Lenten Study beginning on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 pm. The four-week study is "The Women of Easter Encounter the Savior with Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene" by Liz Curtis Higgs. The cost of the books is \$11:00. The deadline to signup is Sunday February 16th; the signup sheet is on the green information desk in the hallway.

During the season of Lent, you are invited to a weekly time of prayer. During this time, we will pray for the individuals on our prayer list, our community, and beyond. We will meet on Tuesday at 6:30 pm starting on March 3rd and concluding on March 31st. If you have any questions please contact pastor Bertina.

Bishop Sharma Lewis is inviting laity from around the conference for a time of connection following her return from medical leave; the event is "Re-Connect: Laity Day Apart with Bishop Lewis." The gathering will be held on Saturday, February 8th from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at Woodlake UMC (15650 Hampton Park Dr., Chesterfield, VA 23832). There is no charge for this event and lunch is provided. To register go to vaumc.org.

Thank you from the UMW circles of Salem!

For years it has been the pleasure and task of our UMW groups to take care of a large number of school children in need on the weekends by providing some good nutritious snack packs to tide them over until they return to school. This has only been possible to accomplish with the support of many people at Salem and also within the county. We have had many individuals and groups all over that provide us with monetary donations or purchases of supplies, and most importantly, have come to help us during the packing sessions. Men, women, and children of all ages, in fact are helping us. We also have had big donors, and a grant that has been a huge help to buy these goods. It costs over \$800.00 monthly at present! My car is filled to the brim when we make the trip to buy the contents for the bags. It actually is easy, and quite fun as well. Volunteers within the church also see to it that the 65 plus packed bags (consisting of blue totes holding 6 each which equals a trunk load!) get to school before Friday each week so that the teachers can discretely place them into the children's back packs. The church does not get credit as this is as anonymous as we can possibly make it. This project has been well received and is very valuable. The children look forward to it. Also so important is that these bags represent love and compassion.

Over time we have had many various people, male or female, turn out to help us put the bags together, so we thank you very much. It means a great deal. For the men who come and open up the cases, break them down, sort cardboard, plastic, etc, you make our packing easier and less time consuming. Many hands do make for light work!

Lastly, perhaps you are reading this and now are interesting in lending a hand next time. There is a group doing this every month September through June. We would love for you to join us some time. It is a good way to be in mission and aiding God's kingdom right here in Mathews!

I hope you find this informative, appreciative, and inviting to join us! Thank you!
Christy Brown



BOYD GUNN CLASS NEWS.....

The Boyd Gunn Class had their Christmas Class meeting on Sunday, December 8th at the home of Glenna Hudgins. After the meal the class met. Danna Ingram led us in a Christmas devotion. The same officers were re-elected for another year. In our business session we voted to designate \$1,000.00 for the children's playground. Then we voted to give two love gifts of \$200.00 each. We also voted to purchase an alpaca through the Heifer Project at the cost of \$150.00. In January we were made aware of another need and voted to give another \$200.00 love gift. We continue to have good Sunday School lessons and great fellowship. We miss our Snow Birds. We hope they will be back soon.



The Daniel Dilemma Bible Study By Chris Hodges

Have you ever struggled with going to see an "R" rated movie, or how to vote on issues that contradict your Christian faith, or how to discuss your faith with your coworkers? This is the dilemma we face each and every day. The Daniel Dilemma Bible Study will help us to discover how to be a believer and follow our faith like Daniel did while in captivity in Babylon. Even under threat of death, Daniel and his friends never compromised their faith. We too can be like Daniel, and not let the pressures of the modern world affect our decisions and our faithfulness to God.

The Daniel Dilemma Bible Study is a six week video driven course lead by Glenn Mantell that will delve into the difficulties we encounter daily in being faithful to God in an unfaithful world. This study will be held on Thursday nights at 6:30 and end before 8:00, starting on February 20th and ending on March 26th. The cost of each study guide is \$7.50. Each session will begin with a short video, followed by discussion of various questions found in the study guide. During the week, there is a Personal Study time with questions to answer.

A sign-up sheet will be placed on the front pew. Depending on the number of people who sign up, this study will be a home study if a small number sign up, or will be held at church if a larger group signs up.

I look forward to seeing you there.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ~ UNIT NEWS



The United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 in the Church Fellowship Hall for The Call to Prayer Program at 7:00 p.m. The Program will be presented by Anne Carole Daniels.

The Christmas Store at the Riverside Convalescent Center was a great success. We wish to thank the Church family for your generosity. We had wonderful gifts and a great supply of wrappings. We left what wasn't used for the aids at the center. They, too were most appreciative. We are so grateful for your support! We made a difference in the lives of a few people.



The Snack Pack Program is again in full swing. We are packing 67 each week. That's 10 more than last year. We are so grateful for all those willing souls that come when called to help pack the packs. We also appreciate all the donations that are made by the church family. If you wish to make a contribution please give it to Sara Hogge. The average cost of each snack pack is about \$6.00. So you can see it is a costly undertaking But it seems that the Lord always provides

LILLY HOPKINS CIRCLE



The Lillies will meet on Wednesday, February 12. at 6:30 p.m. before the Unite meeting.

The March Meeting will be on Wednesday, the 11th at church at 12:30 p.m. Sis Thomas will be the hostess.

Mary Jo Robins Class News

Help! We are shrinking! Where are you?

I don't think our class is alone, but Sunday school is not the same as it once was. It still means so much to me. I enjoy being among friends and studying our quarterly each week. I gain more knowledge by sharing the scripture with someone else and hearing what they get out of the same verses. We each hear and feel them differently depending where we are in life at the moment. It helps us to form bonds and build friendships around the body of Christ.

Does the notion it is "school" intimidate you? It shouldn't. It seems no matter how often we may study a portion of the Bible, we get new insights and revelation to the Word of God. We will always be learning, never graduating. No one is too smart, too old or young, or ever too "green" in their faith to fit in somewhere. You don't have to speak, or read, unless you want to, in case you are shy. Perhaps it would be better to rename our weekly gathering to something more suitable. Either way, any "class" at Salem has an open door, always ready to invite and make welcome anyone who wants to join us. It's a new year, why not try it in 2020?

On a similar note, we are always looking for someone to lead a class, as a substitute, on permanent basis, on several classes, adult or children. Perhaps you would consider that too!

Cordially,
Christy Brown

Are you getting the newsletter? Do you know if a family member is missing it? Over time, people change their addresses. With the directory, we tried to update all of them that we could, and yet I know there are still some errors and omissions. Ask around and if you know of somebody needing an update, reach out and get these corrected and submitted so we can continue reaching out to people about what we are doing at Salem.

This also goes for the One Call Tell All phone system. Please feel free to add, change or even delete contacts. It is a good system and worth having to contact individual groups within the church as well as the entire body.

Drop these in the offering plate, call the church office number, or mail them in. You may also look up the church web page for information.

Respectfully submitted,
Christy Brown



PRAYER LIST

Carina Adams	Todd Hudgins
Joanie Adams	Jerry Jagger
Johnny Bing	Alfis Jones
Lindsay T. Boyden	Blair Loman
Susan Botts	Garry Livermon
Steve Brownley	Ken Olson
Brian Fernald	Sonny & Linda Revere
Suzanne Fisher	Tom Robinson
Joe Forrest	Abby Rowe
Lauren T. Fleharty	Tami Stewart
Ezra Freeman	Robert Thomas
Madeline Gaye	Lydia Wetterling
Kevin Hogge	

NURSING HOME BOUND

Martha Ellen Hall	Mary Jo Robins
Patty Morgan	June Rowe
Stanley Payne	Erma Webb



February Birthdays

01 Betsy Ann Stewart	12 Nichols Wilks
01 Roger Campbell	13 Sue Mitchem
02 Bill Edwards	14 Frankie Pruitt
03 Ryan Persinger	16 Kathy James
06 James Diggs	18 Jo Bridgers
09 Alvin Ingram	21 Lindsey Boyden
09 Brayden Westley	24 Brad Liverman
11 Sydney Morgan	28 Karen Hudgins



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ALL

Wishing you are the greatest birthday ever, full of love and joy from the moment you open your eyes in the morning until you sleep at night.



March Birthdays

01 Lowry K. Hudgins, Jr.	17 Patrick Gibbs
01 Kristen Powell	18 Melinda West
01 Hunter Royall	20 Ted Royall
03 Ellis Robert Bing	20 Lincoln Williams
04 Rachel Dye	21 Patty Morgan
05 Earl Dye	23 Jennifer Gay
05 Mary Beth Burroughs	26 June Rowe
07 Michael Persinger	27 Leonard Jenkins
09 Jeff Sterne	27 Bri Sadler
12 W.G. Mitchem	30 Chandler Rogers
15 Heather Hudgins	30 Meredith Sherman
16 Steve Bing	31 Louis Burroughs
17 Kyle Brown	



An Irish Blessing St. Patrick's Day

May the road
rise to meet you,
May the wind be always
at your back,
May the sun shine
warm upon your face,
the rain fall soft upon your
fields and, until we
meet again may
God hold you in the
palm of His Hands.



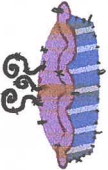


January
S M T W T F S
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31

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

February 2020

Usher: Glenn Mantell





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Communion 2 	Choir 7 pm 3	4	5	6	7	8
Men's Prayer 9 Breakfast 7:30 am (Ladies Invited)	Choir 7 pm 10	Mission Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	Agape Circle 12 6:30 pm Lilly Hopkins Circle 6:30 pm	13	Valentine's Day 14 	15
Mortgage Sunday 16	Choir 7 pm 17 President's Day	18	19	Bible Study 8:30 pm Hope Out Loud Planning Meeting 6:30 pm	21	22
Food Bank 23 	Choir 7 pm 24	25	Ash Wednesday 26 Service 11:30 am and 6:30 pm	Bible Study 27 6:30 pm	Parents' Night Out 28	29

February
S M T W T F S
1
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23 24 25 26 27 28 29

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

March 2020

Usher: Paul Bing

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion 1 	Choir 7pm 2	Bible Study 7pm 3	Administrative Bd 7 pm 4	Bible Study 6:30 pm 5	6	7
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am Daylight Saving Time 8	Choir 7pm 9	Bible Study 7pm 10	Lilly Hopkins 12:30 pm Agape Circle 7 pm 11	Bible Study 6:30 pm 12	13	14
Mortgage Sunday 15	Choir 7 pm 16	St. Patrick's Day Bible Study 7pm 	18	Bible Study 6:30 pm 19	Spring 	21
Food Bank 	Choir 7pm 23	Bible Study 7pm 24	25	Bible Study 6:30 pm 26	27	Worship Service at Harry Ward Auditorium with Dinner at 5:30 pm (No Charge) 28
Special Service Guest Speaker Jen Barrick (Hope Out Loud Ministry) 29	Choir 7pm 30	31				

**SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**



February/March

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