

The Salem Scoop



the monthly newsletter of Salem United Methodist Church ♦ Morganton, North Carolina

February 2012

Volume 18, Number 2

The season of Lent starts soon, and I am excited to share with you my approach to our Sunday worship services for the season.

Remember: Lent is the forty-day preparation for the joy of Easter. During Lent, we look within ourselves, not because we are self-centered, but rather to do the spiritual work of repentance.

When we are attentive to our spiritual need for renewal and regeneration, then we open ourselves to the movement of the Holy Spirit. And staying attentive to the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus helps us appreciate God's love all over again.

So how will we follow the steps of Lent toward Calvary this year?

Three years ago, I read a terrific book entitled, *Power & Passion: Six Characters in Search for Resurrection*. The book was written by Samuel Wells, a minister of the Church of England.

Over the past seven years, Wells has garnered quite the reputation as the Dean of the Chapel at Duke University and Research Professor of Christian Ethics at Duke Divinity School. This summer, Wells will journey back to England to lead St. Martins-in-the-Fields, a dynamic congregation in London.

In this book, *Power & Passion*, Wells offers a compelling picture of several different people related to Jesus' suffering and death: Pontius Pilate, Barabbas, Joseph of Arimathea, Peter, and Mary Magdalene. He even offers an imaginative take on "Mrs. Pilate," which is quite interesting.

During our Sunday worship in Lent, we will focus on one of these characters. Each Sunday we will take a close look at each character, how he/she relates to Jesus, and how we might be like that person. As we do, we hope to dive more deeply into the story of Jesus' great love for us.

This all culminates in Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday (April 1). That's no joke! We will turn decisively toward the cross, toward Jesus' pain and anguish on our behalf.

It all starts with Ash Wednesday on February 22. On this night, we will have a special worship service, 6:45 – 7:30 pm, in the Sanctuary. We will hear the call to reverent obedience unto Christ, and we will be reminded that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return."

Mark

Keep These In Your Prayers



Winfred Garrison
 Charles Whiteside
 Grant Causby
 Ethel Ledbetter
 Rick Pruett
 Obie Carswell
 Adell Franklin
 Lorece Wakefield
 Ruth Anne Beaver
 Carol King & Family
 James Hardy
 Philip & Mitzie Wilson

Alvin Roper
 Joe Roper
 Betty Gibbs
 Carrie Jones
 Edward Shuping
 Elsie Roper
 Mabel & Johnny Hoke
 Leila Garrison
 Pat Martin
 Betty Bunch
 Ben Franklin
 Clayton & Wanda Johnson

Jeannie Tyhurst,
 Dawn Grindstaff & Family
 Portia Smith
 Geneva Pollard

January Celebrations

Anniversaries

27 Bob & Pauline McGhinnis
 28 Fred & Kathryn Duckworth



If we have missed your celebration or have it listed incorrectly, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Birthdays

1 Courtney Luckadoo
 2 Cheryl Garrison
 5 Joe Roper
 6 Vickie Stevens
 7 Betty A. Gibbs
 8 Conner Conforti
 9 Glen Roper
 14 Rhonda McCoy
 14 John Avery
 17 Ashley Carswell
 17 Jennifer Putnam
 18 Amy Causby
 20 Phyllis Garrison
 23 Bob McGhinnis
 26 Doris M. Garrison
 26 Linda Snyder
 27 Jessica Huffman
 28 Jerry Harmon
 29 David Dale



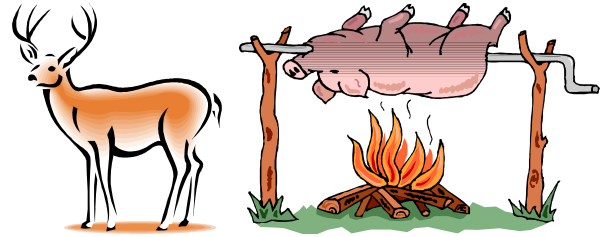
Finances



| | General Balance |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beginning Bal(12/31/11) | \$39,699.92 |
| Deposits | 20,499.12 |
| Distributions | 25,262.09 |
| Ending Balance.(1/31/12) | \$34,936.95 |

Annual Pork & Deer BBQ

The whole family is invited to a fellowship meal Sat. February 11 @ 6:30 in the fellowship hall. Please bring your favorite covered dish, dessert & drinks .The meat will be provided by the United Methodist Men at no charge to you.



The Windows have been installed in the sanctuary building!!!!

In Memory of Annie Mae Goodnight by Charles & Dian Goodnight

In Memory of Roscoe and Mozelle Byrd
by Alan and Joann Byrd

In Memory of Bill & Doris Roper

By Norman & Doris Garrison

In Honor of Charles & Leota Garrison

By Jerry & Marcia McCall.

Endearing Gifts

* We currently have 20 of our 31 windows paid for. Please consider donating to this worthy cause. If you would like to purchase a window in honor or memory of a loved one or someone special, please contact the church office.

We had good attendance at the first meeting of the 2012 year which was a joint meeting of all the circles. At this time yearly reports were reviewed and the budget for 2012 was presented and approved. Our budget for 2012 was set and approved for \$12,000. We have been blessed to have the funds to increase our budget by \$1400 this year. All but a very small amount used for administrative expenses go to fund mission projects. These projects span from our community, state and nation to world wide. Well done faithful members and all who helped by assisting in our fund raising projects. All of our nickels, dimes and dollars do add up. Thank you.

The circles will have a joint meeting in the fellowship hall on February 2nd at 7:00 pm. The program will be on “A Call to Prayer and Self Denial”. Ladies please come and join us. Any lady, young or young at heart, interested in learning more about UMW and the Purpose of UMW is invited to attend and is very welcome. The night circles generally meet in individual homes on the first Thursday of each month. The day circle meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at the church. For more information, contact any member of the UMW.

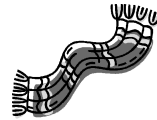
Lynda Woody, President Salem UMW

The Purpose of the United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the Global Ministries of the Church.

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Mission Opportunity



The UM Women invite you to join them in a mission opportunity for Burke United Christian Ministries, our hands-on mission project for February. They have expressed a need for children of elementary age cold weather items. New or gently used coats, toboggans, jackets and gloves are requested. These items can be placed in the bins in the new education building and behind the sanctuary through Sunday Feb.19. Thank You for your interest.



Some Valentine Humor

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



A young man called his mother and announced excitedly that he had just met the woman of his dreams. Now what should he do?

His mother had an idea: "Why don't you send her flowers, and on the card invite her to your place for a home-cooked meal?"

He thought this was a great strategy and arranged a date for a week later. His mother called the day after the big date to see how things had gone.

"The evening was a disaster," he moaned.

"Why, didn't she come over?" asked his mother.

"Oh, she came over, but she refused to cook."



A young lady visited a computer dating service and requested, "I'm looking for a spouse. Can you please help me to find a suitable one?"

The matchmaker said, "What exactly are you looking for?"

"Well, let me see. Needs to be good looking, polite, humorous, sporty, knowledgeable, good at singing and dancing. Willing to accompany me the whole day at home during my leisure hour if I don't go out. Be able to tell me interesting stories when I need a companion for conversation and be silent when I want to rest."

The matchmaker entered the information into the computer and, in a matter of moments, handed the results to the woman.

The results read, "Buy a television."



Join us for

Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 22
6:45 pm in the Sanctuary

Hearts On Fire
A Series of Inspirational
Worship Services
Starts Sunday, March 11



Salem United Methodist Church
1206 Salem Road
Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 433-6600

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Return Service Requested

Wonderful Wednesdays

Meal at 6 pm with classes to follow

Choir Practice—7:30 pm

United Methodist Men

The UMM meet the 1st Sunday of each month @ 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

United Methodist Women

- Evening Circles meet 1st Thurs. of each month @ 7:00 pm.
- Day Circle meets the 3rd Tues. @ 10:00 am.

Deeper Water—Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10-11:30 am.
Launch into deeper water with us.

Christ Bread— Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 11 am

Intercessors Prayer Group—Meets each Tuesday @ 6:30 pm.

Kids Klub— Meets the last Friday night of each month.

United Methodist Youth (6-12th grade)—Meet each Sunday @ 5:00 pm. Other activities as scheduled.

Blood Pressure Check—1st Sunday of each month, 9:15 until 9:45 am, in the fellowship hall.

Sunday Worship

*Contemporary Worship 9:00 AM

*Sunday School 9:45 AM

*Traditional Worship 11:00 AM

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mark Conforti, Pastor

Erica Miracle— Director of Children & Youth

Virginia Robinson, Director of Music

Sue Bunch, Pianist

Tori Cole, Congregational Care Visitor

Tammy Severt, Administrative Assistant