



2023 Salem Scriptures

April Issue
Salem UMC
2057 Salem Road
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From the Pastor's desk:

It is never easy writing the article that announces my time has come to leave a beloved congregation. Yet, here once again, this pastor finds herself struggling to adequately say what is on her heart because of the great love of Christ that we have shared so beautifully for five years. Goodbyes are never easy. This time, it is because my birthday has reached that magical age whereby the Virginia Conference dictates that I must retire.

Needless to say, I want to stay and you have graciously said you want me to stay, but sometimes circumstances are beyond our control. The Virginia Conference determines that once pastors reach a certain age (and I'm there), their service is no longer needed and retirement is mandatory. You and I will always be brothers and sisters in Christ and it is my hope that we will always remain friends. The UMC, in its inestimable wisdom, says that the outgoing pastor cannot return to the church for a year, so I will be MIA after July 1. You will still be on my mind, in my heart, and in my prayers.

Your new pastor was introduced to the Staff-Parish Committee on Monday, March 27. It is my distinct pleasure to welcome your new pastor to this loving and compassionate congregation at Salem UMC. I hope that you extend the same warm welcome to this family that you have given to me. The official announcement Sunday is April 23, at which time Charles Higgins will notify the congregation of the new appointment.

I will say more about this in the May newsletter. Meanwhile, you are aware that Stan Moss and I will be married on April 22 and there will be a whole lot of packing and moving to keep us both busy for a while.

*A quote that many have claimed but is attributed to Seneca tells us about the unending possibilities offered by life. It says that every ending will lead to a new beginning. A new beginning can usher in a new spring season, which embraces us every year. Marianne Williamson, in her book, *Everyday Grace*, added to the Seneca quote: "Every ending is a new beginning. Through the grace of God, we can always start again."*

Let us all embrace our new beginning and trust God to make something beautiful from it!

Altar Flower Sign-Up Chart

A new 2023 flower chart is up in the Narthex. Sign up for your special dates: birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, or just because. Bring your flowers in on Sunday morning, they can be store bought or from your garden. Contact Evelyn Swanberg at 757-471-4957 or more information.

March MEETINGS

Finance and Church Council

April 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm

**The Quilters meet on
Wednesdays
in the Quilt Room from
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Bring a fellow quilter, your lunch,
your needle/thread,
and join this happy group!
We have great discussions,
laughs, fellowship, and truly enjoy
our time together!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, April 1, 2023 @ 8:00 am

UMM Breakfast in the Social Hall

March 31—April 2 / Quilters Retreat

Friday, April 7, 2023

Good Friday Service / 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday Service / 10:00 am

Sunday, April 16, 2023 / Following Service

UWIF Meeting/Adult SS Classroom

Monday, April 17, 2023 / Social Hall

Finance Church Council Mtg

April 27-30, 2023

Tidewater Emmaus Walk / Men

Church Bazaar Quilt

Just a quick
peek at the
gorgeous Ba-
zaar quilt! It
is king size
and hand
quilted
with love. 



WELCOME to our VISITORS

We are so very glad you have chosen to worship
with us here at Salem UMC.
We would love to get to know you better!
Perhaps you have a desire to become
part of the church family here.
Pastor Nancy will contact you if you like and set
up a time to get together for coffee or lunch.
Of course, you may contact her
(leave a message) at 757-630-7136.

April Birthdays

4/1 Bill Waldeck	4/16 Dan Spagone
4/6 Erin Reddy	4/17 April Haughey
4/7 Debbie Burks	4/17 Amanda Quick
4/8 Zachary Johnson	4/26 Nathan Gra- beel
4/10 Evelyn Jones	4/29 Robert Nolin
4/10 Jean McKown	4/29 Jayden DeGuz- man
4/10 Patty Unterstein	
4/12 Delores Bradberry	
4/12 Jeff Quick	
4/15 Sharon Nolin	
4/15 John Reddy	

A typical Wednesday for SUMC Quilters! Quilting
from 10-2, with lunch from noon to about 12:30. Shar-
ing stories, recipes, laughs and fellowship. All wel-
come. **QUILTERS RETREAT / MARCH 31-APRIL 2**



**The United Methodist Men
will meet in the Social Hall for
breakfast on Saturday,
April 1, at 8:00 am.
Come enjoy some Christian**



**The UMW will meet in the Adult
Sunday School class following the
service on Sunday, April 16.**

Salem UMC Trustees / Church Council Info

The finance report showed total tithes for February of \$6,298.23, with expenditures of \$10,957.85.

The exhaust fans in the upstairs restrooms have been repaired...thank you, Charles!



On Sunday, March 26, 2023 Pastor Nancy Vaughan returned to her home church of Charity UMC to deliver the 5th Sunday Lenten Cluster message entitled, The Foolishness of the Cross. Salem UMC was well represented and the sermon was well received by all the visitors. Yes, we saved the best for last!

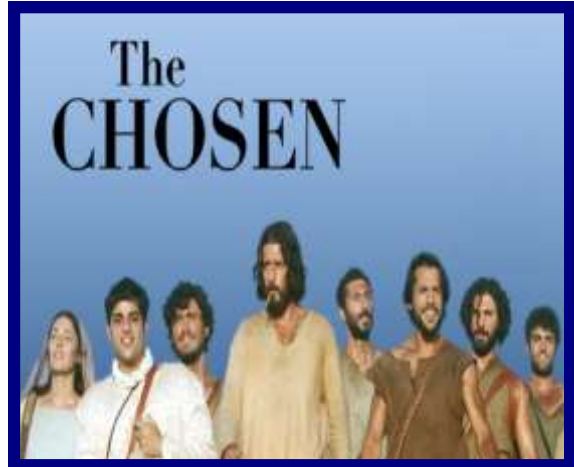
Great Job!!

PASTOR'S PEN

A word from the heart

Rev. Nancy Vaughan

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY / We are continuing the study of The Chosen, Season 4. (Date to be determined) Class is held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Coffee and Pastries served!



CHURCH CHUCKLE

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one actually knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "well, they certainly will in a minute!"

Church Bazaar Suggestions & Thoughts

Over the past few weeks, we have asked for input regarding the Church Bazaar. Do we want to hold it "as usual"? Should we change the format? Possibly hold a couple "vendor" shows where outside vendors could rent tables to display their crafts in the Social Hall one weekend. We need someone to take charge and spearhead this event. This is no minor undertaking. Please contact Pastor Nancy with any suggestions or if you can volunteer to assist or head up the event.

Please send any church event pictures to salemumcvb@gmail.com to include in our newsletter. We love to see your smiling faces!!

Salem UMC Lenten Cluster dinner—March 5, 2023 The ladies prepared and served an awesome meal of Spaghetti Pie, Salads and desserts, which was enjoyed by around 80 church visitors and members. We are so blessed to have such a talented group of women!!! Also, Reiner Braun serenaded the crowd during dinner. Great music and food—a perfect combination!



Pictured above Margaret Haché, Carol Higgins, Evelyn Swanberg, Deb Grabeel, Janet Peck, Carol Higgins, Margaret Heché, and Rainer Braun.

Back Bay Lenten Cluster Service—March 12, 2023. Salem UMC was represented at the BBCA cluster service. The sermon was presented by Christa Springstead from Tabernacle Church. While the weather was dark and rainy, the atmosphere inside was quite warm and welcoming.

