



salem Connections

HAVANA, FLORIDA

Salem United Methodist Church

Rev. Curtiss Cain, Pastor **September 2018**

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Update from Salem's Finance Committee

Last May, the Finance Committee sent a letter to all members of Salem, explaining that church expenses were outpacing contributions, placing the church in a precarious financial position. As we all work together, the Finance Committee promised to keep you updated on steps taken to remedy the situation.

The last time a line item budget was prepared for the church was 2011. After that, annual budgets were adjusted for known dollar increases such as staff salaries, plus a general factor for inflation. This was a reasonable approach because the previous accounting system made it difficult to monitor specific cost. However, some costs have risen more than inflation and we're incurring new costs not contemplated or not fully covered in the 2011 budget.

For example, due to a termite infestation in 2015, the church entered into an annual termite protection contract. The cost of that contract for 2018 is \$760. The age of the church's heating and air conditioning units made a quarterly maintenance contract necessary, which costs \$2,000 a year, (this helps us be prudent in catching and repairing problems early). We also pay \$240 annually to enable the use of copyrighted music and materials. We pay another \$240 annually to be able to show copyrighted movies for children, youth and families, and even for study groups. Maintaining our church's webpage, a necessity in today's digital age, costs over \$350 per year. Telephone and internet services cost \$2,880 per year. In 2014, we opted to move from paper records to electronic records to keep track of our members and enable us to more easily communicate with each other. In 2016, we went from paper records of contributions to electronic records to allow better tracking of different types of contributions, both for internal use and conference reporting. Both activities are accomplished through a program called ChurchTeams, which costs \$480 annually. These costs are all in addition to the normal increases in office supplies, copier expenses, utilities and maintenance expenses.

In January of this year, the church implemented a new accounting software system. While the old accounting system did not easily track individual cost components, the current system was designed to record individual types of costs and budget items. We can now see an overall category of costs such as maintenance, educational programs and general administration; or look at individual expenses such as how much was spent on insurance, copier costs, VBS, kitchen supplies, or hospitality events. Detailed spending reports by budget category are presented to Church Council at each regularly scheduled meeting. This allows us to better identify areas in danger of exceeding their budget, and to target cost savings measures where they will be most effective to avoid cost overruns.

While QuickBooks tracks costs, the ChurchTeams program provides the revenue (or income) side of the budget. Not all contributions are available to pay for general operating expenses. Contributions designated for a particular purpose can only be used for that purpose. ChurchTeams easily identifies the funds available for general operating costs on a weekly or monthly basis to compare to the actual costs incurred. This allows us to make short term adjustments to avoid or minimize potential cost overruns. Detailed cost data also allows us to more reasonably project future costs and revenues on a short-term basis so that we can take steps to avoid or minimize problems before they become critical.

Just as with your household budget, spending more money than you have coming in is not a sustainable situation. Because of overspending in the past, our bank account is no longer able to support continuing budget shortcomings. A budget constructed on a realistic estimate of both revenues and costs is critical to bring our finances back to a healthy footing. We have already used the tools described above to prepare a more comprehensive expense budget for 2018. Going forward, the Finance committee can monitor expenses and contributions as frequently as weekly to reduce the likelihood of budget deficits in the future. The Finance committee appreciates your patience and support as we work together to stabilize Salem's financial situation. We especially appreciate the dedication and love for this church you have demonstrated by the increased financial support. We will continue to closely monitor the church's finances to ensure that we are good stewards of the funds you have entrusted to us for God's work through Salem.

Respectful submitted in Christ's love,

Connie Kummer (Treasurer) & Bev. Crawford (Chair of Finance Committee)

News From The Nursery!

We have been busy in the nursery growing, using more words in our vocabulary, learning our scripture on our posters, sharing and taking care of our friends! This month is exciting because we will be studying from Genesis 1:31 "God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good." We will study that God planned a beautiful world- along with singing, playing, sharing, dancing and coloring to learn of God's great love for us all!! The nursery looks forward to seeing and spending time with your little one in teaching God's love with Bible story picture cards, music and love. We provide a lite snack and lots of fun with learning about Jesus, so please have your little ones join us at 8:45 coffee house service or 9:50 for Sunday School or 11:00 am Traditional Service- would love to see them at one or all three services 😊

Blessings from the nursery,
Lindy



Family Ministries Fun

Watch-It-Wednesday brought lots of new faces to our church as delicious smells of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs gravitated around the streets of Havana. The Fellowship Hall was decorated in a picnic theme, and the tables were full of a variety of different people. Pastor Curtiss shared a beautiful prayer and a heartfelt devotion. I looked around and was able to witness little ones listening for the word of God. What a delight it was to see these special creations get loving treatment. After ice cream, we all went into the sanctuary and got comfortable while watching the movie Ferdinand. The night allowed new bonds to be formed, and personal relationships to be built. This month we were also able to celebrate the upcoming arrival of Rocky Bell. He is a new addition to one of our newest families here at Salem. The Fellowship Hall was decorated, and the cake and punch was served. Games were played, presents were open, prayer was given, and laughter and joy filled the space. A big thank you to all who helped with these events.

Youth group is getting ready to start back, and we are so excited to welcome our new youth leaders Amy and Travis Barrow! Amy and Travis have created a calendar for the year, and I couldn't be more excited for our young people! This is going to be an amazing year! Our youth group is growing, and very active and well rounded. We encourage you to invite young people grades 6-12 to be a part of the excitement! Youth will be starting back the Sunday after Labor Day (9/9) and begin at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

We had a message in a movie morning in Mrs. Nettie's Sunday school class this month for the children and the youth. The kids were spread out in front of the television with soda, popcorn, and candy. We also built burning bushes out of edible goodies after our Bible study one day this month. The kids are enjoying trips to the treasure chest when they bring their Bibles, snack time, learning songs, prayers, and different books in the Bible, and fun games to help us remember our Bible lessons.

Children's church is so much fun! These little ones love to listen for the Word of God. Our teachers are so remarkable! Many of our children's church teachers were school teachers at one time. I can't tell you how much I have learned myself watching these wonderful ladies of Christ share their gifts and talents. If you have a call to teach, or to be involved in Children's ministry, we are actively seeking teachers, and teachers' helpers. Please let me know if you would like to get involved!
Misty Floyd 1(229)254-3807.

Lectionary Reading

September 2, 2018

Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 or
Psalm 72, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9, 2018

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 125 or Psalm 124,
James 2:1-10(11-13), 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

September 16, 2018

Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19,
James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

September 23, 2018

Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1,
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

September 30, 2018

Ester 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22, Psalm 124,
James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

September Birthdays

Ruby Nell McGriff	1
David McNeill	1
Adam Teuton	5
Mark Stamps	6
Curtiss Cain	7
Debbie Purcell	7
Andrew Moulton	8
Kim Stralow	9
Bill Buckhalt	13
Debbie Revell	14
Brantlee Suber	15
Cassie Turner	16
Gene Loy	17
Sharon Haughton	18
Ben Taylor	19
Jan Miller	22
Judy Davis	23
Jenny Tucker	23
Vince Walsh	23
Cindy Mentry	27
Miller Shelfer	27
Alona McNeill	29

Readings for September 2018

September 1: Ezekiel 18-19
 September 2: Ezekiel 20-21
 September 3: Ezekiel 22-23
 September 4: Ezekiel 24-27
 September 5: Ezekiel 28-31
 September 6: Ezekiel 32-34
 September 7: Ezekiel 35-37
 September 8: Ezekiel 38-39
 September 9: Ezekiel 40-41
 September 10: Ezekiel 42-43
 September 11: Ezekiel 44-45
 September 12: Ezekiel 46-48
 September 13: Joel
 September 14: Daniel 1-3
 September 15: Daniel 4-6
 September 16: Daniel 7-9
 September 17: Daniel 10-12
 September 18: Ezra 1-3
 September 19: Ezra 4-6; Psalms 137
 September 20: Haggai 1-2
 September 21: Zechariah 1-7
 September 22: Zechariah 8-14
 September 23: Ester 1-5
 September 24: Ester 6-10
 September 25: Ezra 7-10
 September 26: Nehemiah 1-5
 September 27: Nehemiah 6-7
 September 28: Nehemiah 8-10
 September 29: Nehemiah 11-13; Psalms 126
 September 30: Malachi 1-4

Our Faithful Giving

Expenses Aug: \$15,833 Contributions Aug: \$15,933
 YTD Expenses Jan- Aug: \$156,095
 YTD Contributions Jan- Aug: \$137,949



You can visit us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SalemUMChavana

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45am - Coffee House Service
 (Holy Communion Each Week)
 9:50am - Sunday School
 11:00am - Traditional Service
 5:00pm –Youth Fellowship
 (meal provided)

September 2018

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

7:45am - Men's Morning Group
 11:00am - Prayer Circle
 12:00pm – Subs & Scriptures
 (Subway in Havana)
 Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>saalem HAVANA, FLORIDA</p> <p>Salem United Methodist Church PO Box 646: 202 E 9th Ave. Havana, Florida 32333 (850) 539-6634 salemchurchhavana@gmail.com www.salemumchavana.org</p>						
<p>2 11a: Holy Communion in Traditional Service 12p: Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>3 Labor Day – church office closed</p>	<p>4 9a: Moses Baskets 7p: Missions / Outreach Committee</p>	<p>5 1:30p: Subs& Scripture/ Beans&Bibles Missions Project at Community Cares</p>	<p>6 3p: Beans-&-Bibles</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Youth Pool Party @ Havana Golf Club 10:30 – 1p</p>
<p>9 Youth Fellowship resumes! 5p at Salem (meal provided)</p>	<p>10 5:45p: UMW</p>	<p>11 Nominations meeting 6:30p</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 3p: Beans-&-Bibles</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9a: Moses Baskets Church Council 7p</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 3p: Beans-&-Bibles</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 1p-5p: Greensboro Thrift Store</p>
<p>23 8:45a & 11a: Community Cares offering & Moses Baskets Dedication</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 3p: Beans-&-Bibles</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 1p-5p: Greensboro Thrift Store</p>
<p>30 Churchwide Fellowship 9:50a – 10:50a 5th Sunday Children's Home offering - both services Picnic in the Park 4p-6p (No Youth fellowship) Hallelujah Night 6p at Sycamore</p>						