



Connections

February 2019

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Dear Salem UMC Church Family,

This month I want to share with you part of a blog our very own Bishop Ken Carter wrote back in 2015 about the difference between an 'attractional' church and a 'missional' church.

"An important distinction in recent reflection about the church has centered around the words "attractional" and "missional." An attractional church sees itself as the center toward which people and resources flow. A missional church sees itself as a gathering from which people and resources flow toward the world. Attractional absorbs people into community. Missional sends them out. And of course most healthy and vital congregations are both attractional and missional.

The categories of "nones" and "dones" (Pew Research Center, U.S.), "non-churched" and "de-churched" (Church Army Research, U.K.) make it clear that the renewal of the church will not occur as we add new and different worship services or develop clever advertising campaigns (the British call them "schemes"!) to attract the outsiders to come in. Indeed, the conversation about "attractional" and "missional" church is at the heart of the Fresh Expressions movement, although a missional church is not a Fresh Expression, and vice versa.

Fresh Expressions are not attractional. United Methodists will remember an advertising campaign with the words "our hearts, our minds, our doors are always open." The flow of this campaign, at least for the U.S. context, was that it assumed an attractional church model, in which outsiders would find the insiders to be nice, tolerant and open-minded people. Upon making this discovery, the outsiders would then join us on the inside. And when this happened, praise God!

But the reality is that a significant number of men and women in the U.S. (and in the U.K.) will never cross the threshold of a church door. This may be due to the actual harm people have experienced from the church through judgment or neglect. It is also the result of conceptions of church in the popular media, where we are portrayed in a consistently negative and irrelevant light. Some of our wounds are self-inflicted, and some of the challenge is what George Hunter calls "the end of the home field advantage."

If the next generations have not inherited our church (because of mobility and limitations of the parish system), and if they have inherited a faith that is less robust than a generously orthodox, trinitarian and biblical one, where are we? Confining our missionary strategy to the traditional parish is clearly not bearing fruit, in either the UK or the US, and among denominations and traditions across a spectrum. The strategic genius of Fresh Expressions lies in its willingness to reclaim the content of faith, to re-center on the movement of the Holy Spirit, and

to reimagine church outside the walls of our buildings and outside the hours of our scheduled services. As the authors of Mission Shaped Church note, "Perhaps our greatest need is of a baptism of imagination about forms of church." God does indeed go before us, in space and in time, and is not confined by our categories of either/or. For the people called Methodist, this is as simple as rediscovering the power of God's prevenient grace and the call to see the world as our parish. As Bob and Mary Hopkins of Anglican Church Planting Initiatives reminded our study/immersion team this summer, these are indeed some of the most positive characteristics of inheritance, which at times we have neglected, like treasure hidden in a field (Matthew 13).

Questions: *So, in your own local church, how is the strategy of attractional church working? And do you assume that the next generation will inherit today's church?"*

I hope this feeds your soul. If you would like to read the whole article, go to <https://www.flumc.org/blogdetail/2074969>

May God look after this church & your loved ones,
Pastor Curtiss Cain

Diaper Drive



In preparation for Epiphany, the day we remember the magi bringing baby Jesus all their gifts, we collected gifts of diapers and wipes for local children in need. Through our **DIAPER DRIVE FOR REFUGE HOUSE** Salem UMC collected some **1,300 diapers and several hundred wipes!** As any parent can tell you, sometimes the simplest things make all the difference in the world!

Connecting with Our Sister Church in Cuba



It is our tradition that on the first Sunday of every month, for those who would like to give to Santa Clara (our sister church in Cuba) they are

welcome to put their gift on the rail during communion in the Traditional Service or place it in an envelope clearly marked for our sister church. The problem we've run into is due to moneys being seized or stolen, if given through traditional means, we have not always had a safe way to get them our gifts. But on Feb. 1st several missionaries will be traveling to Cuba and are able to deliver the \$2000 we have been saving up since the last visit! Praise God!!!

News from the Nursery

We are having a fun time learning about Jesus with our Bible Story Picture Cards. Every Sunday we study a different card that tells us a great message with pictures. The children enjoy the different posters around the room that we learn throughout the month that goes with the lesson. Our mornings stay full with our friends singing, dancing and playing! We also enjoy coloring and once a month we do a craft with that lesson. Most rewarding is watching the children share and helping one another and they love coming into the nursery! Our Biggest news from the nursery is our youngest little one Jaydon is going to be a Big Brother!!

Congratulations to Jaydon and Family! ❤️ Stop by and take a look at us growing in God's love! We look forward to seeing your little one with love, music, learning and playing. Our scripture for this month is... 'You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness'. Luke 3:22

Blessings,
Lindy Pennington



A Note from the Trustees

The Trustees are asking that anyone with experience in certain fields such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry and/or HVAC, and are willing to be called in when there is an issue at the church, to notify a Trustee or the Church Office. The Trustees are trying to do their part to cut maintenance expenses without cutting quality of work.

Also, the Trustees have had 8 new programable thermostats installed in the church, to go along with the 4 existing ones. We are asking that the only persons to adjust these thermostats are the ones that have been trained to do so. If at any time anyone notices a temperature issue, please notify a Trustee or the Church Office. Twice a year, at the time change, the Trustees will be making a walk-through of the church to reprogram the thermostats and change necessary batteries. We are asking all committee chairpersons, when having a meeting at the church, to be responsible for turning off all lights and locking doors that you may have used.

Chair of Trustees
Ron Tiller

Where's Mercy the Mouse?



Every week Mercy finds a new place to visit in the church, do you know where she's at this week?

Happy Love Month to all!

In the little closet where I live, my mom tries to find Valentine candy

for our suppers! That's why I love February so much! I have been visiting the choir room a lot lately because they have candy in there! I do know those choir folks sure work hard to sound great on Sunday mornings. Here's a question, why do most people sit on the right side of the sanctuary and only the few who have their seats chosen, sit on the piano side?

I heard the other Sunday that Jean and Don Gilbar are moving to Niceville to be close to their children. I'm going to miss Don's "Amen's" during church! Have a great February and blessings to all!

Love,

Mercy the Church Mouse! ❤️

P.S.

The best thing for gray hair is a sensible head! LOL

A Note from the Staff Parish Relations Committee

As the congregation is aware, 2018 was a financially challenging year. Salem is blessed with devoted, generous members; and the year ended on a much happier note.

One of SPR's responsibilities is to recommend salaries for the church employees; and during this difficult time, the decision was made to withhold salary increases for 2019. It was discussed at length and reviewed with the Finance Committee and Church Council before the final decision was made.

We all recognize the value of Salem's employees-the work of the church could not be done as well as it is without their dedication. For that reason and to let them know how much the members of this church appreciate them, we are soliciting a love offering during the month of March, ending March 24th. If you are so led, please make donations to this offering of any amount you wish. Please earmark it as 'employee love offering' so it can be properly credited. At the end of March, SPR will meet to divide and disburse whatever is collected to each of the employees. This is a one-time collection for this (2019) year only.

Your continued generosity is appreciated. If you have any questions, please ask me or any member of SPR (Susan Stamps, Ginger Farrell, Larry Wood, Tom Scott, Bill Buckholt, Jack Hanbury or Sandy Poppell).

Thank you and blessings to you all,

Lynn Lovallo, Chair of SPR

Lectionary Reading

February 3, 2019

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

February 10, 2019

Isaiah 6: 1-8 (9-13), Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11, Luke 5: 1-11

February 17, 2019

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

February 24, 2019

Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

February Birthdays

Shelby Fogler	1
Hailey Barrow	2
Ben Carroll	4
Lucy Poppell	5
Hudson Shelfer	7
Skye Campbell	8
James Prescott	8
Amy Cain	11
Bobby Durden	14
Ed Bates	16
Bill Bendert	16
Tate (Kelly) Kelly	16
Gary Wakeman	16
Gloria Estes	21
Nikki Bryan	22
Augusta Bostick	23
Betty Rawsthorne	25
David Norman	26

Readings for January 2019

February 1: Exodus 7-9
February 2: Exodus 10-12
February 3: Exodus 13-15
February 4: Exodus 16-18
February 5: Exodus 19-21
February 6: Exodus 22-24
February 7: Exodus 25-27
February 8: Exodus 28-29
February 9: Exodus 30-32
February 10: Exodus 33-35
February 11: Exodus 36-38
February 12: Exodus 39-40
February 13: Leviticus 1-4
February 14: Leviticus 5-7
February 15: Leviticus 8-10
February 16: Leviticus 11-13
February 17: Leviticus 14-15
February 18: Leviticus 16-18
February 19: Leviticus 19-21
February 20: Leviticus 22-23
February 21: Leviticus 24-25
February 22: Leviticus 26-27
February 23: Numbers 1-2
February 24: Numbers 3-4
February 25: Numbers 5-6
February 26: Numbers 7
February 27: Numbers 8-10
February 28/29: Numbers 11-13

Our Faithful Giving

YTD Expenses Jan 2019: \$14,227
YTD Contributions Jan 2019: \$14,332

See the back of your weekly bulletin for the most up-to-date information.

You can visit us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SalemUMChavana



SUNDAYS

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

Salem UMC February 2019

WEDNESDAYS

7:45am-Men's Morning Group
11:00am-Prayer Circle
11:50pm-Subs & Scriptures
(Subway in Havana)
7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 11a -Holy Communion in Traditional Service 12p Lunch Bunch <i>Change for Life Campaign Starts</i>	4	5 9a -Moses Baskets 7p – Missions/ Outreach	6 1:30p -Fresh Expressions Monthly Missions Project @ Community Cares	7 3p -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop 6:30p - Education Meeting	8	9
10	11 5:45p -United Methodist Women	12	13 1:30p -Worship Committee	14 3p -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop	15 1p - SPR	16
17 8:45a&11a -Steal Drum Band from Trinity UMC	18	19 9a -Moses Baskets	20	21 3p -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop	22	23 1p-5p: Greensboro Thrift Store
24 8:45a & 11a: Community Cares offering & Moses Baskets Dedication <i>Last day to bring baby bottles</i> <i>Change for Life Campaign</i>	25	26	27	28 3p -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop		