

PASTOR NEILL’S THOUGHTS

FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN

As I sit down to write, I must admit that I haven't purchased many gifts for Christmas, and we're only a month away from Christmas Day! A part of my struggle is with time, another is with what exactly to buy that would be meaningful and special. Several years ago Elizabeth Berg wrote an article entitled, "On Finding the Perfect Christmas Gift." It seems that Ms. Berg set out that Christmas to discover how to buy the perfect Christmas gift. She did this by surveying her friends as to the best Christmas gift they had ever received. The first person she went to was her best friend - a person with a keen mind and a level head. “What is the best Christmas present you ever received?” The friend drew a blank. “Well, gee... I don’t know,” She replied, “You’d have to give me time on that one.” Then she asked some other people who replied with forced comments and "boring answers like, ‘Um, . . . well, my bike, when I was eight, . . . I guess." One fellow replied that he got a cat one year and replied to Ms. Berg, "You know how cats sometimes run sideways with their backs arched? I like that."

Come on now. Ms. Berg got so dismayed. "Was I ever going to get any good ideas? Then it occurred to me how much truth there was in his response." It was at that point that she began to enter into an excellent discussion with the man. They talked about little things that they liked: the rhythm of a jump rope, the mystery of healing, the memory of one's first kiss, Johnny Mathis, flowers at the base of a tree, a good cry with a friend, the morning sun on your back, cheesecake, the smell of fresh ground coffee, the inspiration of a new birth, letters from someone other than Publisher’s Clearing House, the complexity of bird's nests.

"Clearly we could have gone on and on," she writes, “The point I realized was that the reason it's so difficult to buy the best Christmas gifts is that they are not for sale." They are, in reality, the small pleasures of this season and of life: the smell of fresh pine, M &M’s, cookies, the mounting sense of excitement, a Christmas Day snow, sending and receiving lovely cards, the overwhelming generosity in helping others, watching Bing and

Danny dance & sing on "White Christmas", listening to The Carpenters Christmas tape and being able to sing every word because it's the "millionth" time you’ve played it, being overwhelmed by traditions and moments of nostalgia that touch your heart and invoke tears of joy and sadness, all in the same drop of water.

Ms. Berg discovered, and shared in her article, a truth that is very profound, yet very simple. She's right - the best Christmas gifts are the simple pleasures that we all cherish that cannot in any way be purchased in a store.

During the time it has taken to write this article, I have remembered in my mind & heart those wonderful moments and simple pleasures that have in effect been the most cherished Christmas gifts I have ever received. Why don't you spend a few moments and do the same? And maybe, just maybe, you too will remember the simple, tiny gift of a baby born some two thousand years ago in a lowly stable - a small token, a tiny gift, a small pleasure for two young and innocent parents who turned out to be God's greatest gift to humanity.

There are a few words from a song that seem to sum it up; "Good things come in small packages, as tiny as a baby boy. Wrapped in love and laid in a manger, a gift of love, a joy. Good things come in small packages. The infant son we celebrate was sent to be our King." He embodies the best Christmas gift I know- one from the heart! Merry Christmas my friends. May this Christmas be less about what we buy and more about the simple pleasures of life and the sharing of time, love and Jesus.

The Journey continues...

Neill



CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS MOVIE PREMIERE-Dec. 7

Come join us on Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 pm for the Premiere of the Children’s Christmas Movie. Invite your friends, grandparents, and all who would enjoy our children leading us in worship that evening. Following the movie, we



will celebrate with a Jesus’ Birthday Party in the Fellowship Building. Everyone is invited to join us.



LET’S GO CAROLING! - Dec. 14

Neill and Selwyn can’t sing a lick, but Caroling is one of their favorite Christmas activities! Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 pm gather with Pastor Neill and Selwyn to go to Trinity Place and other stops around as time allows. After sharing some Jesus’ Joy, we will go back to the Hut for a soup and bread supper together. Folks really enjoy us bringing the children and youth, but families and all ages are invited for the fun!

COULD YOU PLEASE HELP KEEP A SALEM TRADITION ALIVE?

Salem has shared a live nativity with the community for years, and we need your help to continue this tradition. Saturday, December 20, 5:00-6:30 pm we will turn the church’s front lawn into a Live Nativity Christmas greeting to the community. Families can be shepherds together, or angels, or wise people, or even the Holy family. Please contact Selwyn Shaw or the church office if you are interested.



STUDENT MINISTRIES SCHEDULE DECEMBER

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm - Bible Study at the parsonage.

Dec. 6, 6:00 pm - please come support the children in their movie

Dec 14, 4:00 pm - Christmas Caroling & Soup and Bread Supper with Pastor Neill & Selwyn

Dec. 20 (Saturday), 5:00-6:30 pm - Live nativity for our community. Please be here by 4:30 to dress, etc.

Dec. 21, time to be announced - help Crystal & Warren prepare for the Love Feast and then to serve. Place and light luminaries.

Dec 24, time to be determined by weather - Place and light luminaries

December 31 (Wednesday), 6:00 pm - Salem Students Lock-In

Salem Kids meeting on Sundays, 4:30-6:00 pm will resume in January, 2026. We encourage families to join the faith family in all activities and worship during Advent and Christmas.

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR-WEEKLY

Week 49 (December 7)

Peace

- ◇ 1 Samuel 24
- ◇ Isaiah 26:3
- ◇ John 14:27
- ◇ Philippians 4:7
- ◇ James 3:17-18

Week 50 (December 14)

Joy

- ◇ Psalm 16
- ◇ Nehemiah 8:10
- ◇ Proverbs 17:22
- ◇ John 16:19-24
- ◇ Philippians 4:4

Week 51 (December 21)

Christmas

- ◇ Luke 2:1-21
- ◇ Isaiah 9:6-7
- ◇ Micah 5:2-4
- ◇ Matthew 2:9-11
- ◇ Titus 2:13-14

Week 52 (December 28)

Heaven & Eternal Life

- ◇ Revelation 21:1-7
- ◇ Isaiah 65:17-25
- ◇ John 14:1-4
- ◇ 2 Timothy 4:7-8
- ◇ Revelation 2:10

Salem's Mission Statement:

***To Know Christ's Love,
To Grow in Christ's Love,
To Share Christ's Love***



DECEMBER *birthdays*

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Lisa Hinson | 16 | Jane Sides |
| 4 | Carsyn Smith | 21 | Ron "Chic" Kirk |
| 5 | Carol Herlocker | | Jessey Keene |
| 6 | Shelby Shoe | | Judy Hager |
| | Cathy Hudson | | Dwayne Cook |
| | Bobbie Frick | 26 | Jeff Nance |
| 8 | Larry Newsom | 27 | Kelley Bigger |
| | Susan Furr | 28 | Leanna Hatley |
| | Alex Lowder | 29 | Javan Burris |
| 9 | Lauren H. Cooper | 31 | Cathy Nance |
| 11 | Mason Burrage | | |
| 12 | Angelia Cook | | |
| 15 | Tim Bennett | | |



GMC INFORMATION

Learn about the Global Methodist Church and how they are making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness by visiting these websites:

ncglobalmethodist.org

globalmethodist.org



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pat Blankenship | Bob Johnson |
| Aurelia Brummett | Kirk Family |
| George Burleson Family | Kay Lanier |
| Roselyn Burleson | Brad Love |
| Lisa Childers | Nancy Lowder Family |
| Daryl Christy | Roger Lowder |
| Carol Clark Family | Annie Laura McCroskey |
| Doug Clayton | Todd Moore |
| Tony Coble | Linda & Hubert Morgan |
| Retha Coleman Family | Nathan Nance |
| Ron Dry | Tim Parker |
| Patsy Eudy | Robin Ray |
| Cora Mae Fast | Alice Rothe |
| Jim & Pam Furr | Richard Rothe |
| Ruth Godwin | Shelby Shoe |
| Jerry Hager | Jane Sides |
| Ann Hatley | Michael Smith |
| Ted Hatley | Darrell Story |
| Valrie Hefty | Brian Talbert |
| Jimmy Heglar | Kate Tesch |
| Carol Herlocker | Marilyn Tucker |
| Jamie Isenhour | Sandy VanSinderen |
| Ron & Rita Janey | Tim Wyatt |



Stanly Community Christian Ministries' needs for December are canned meat (chicken, tuna, spam, salmon, etc.)



TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund

- | | |
|-------|---------|
| 10/26 | \$4,303 |
| 11/2 | \$7,354 |
| 11/9 | \$4,647 |
| 11/16 | \$4,213 |
| 11/23 | \$6,074 |



NEW MEMBERS

On November 2, we welcomed Aurelia Brummett to our Salem Global Methodist Church family. She brings her special gifts and joy to Salem and the community. May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Address: 321 First Avenue, Albemarle, NC 28001
Phone: 508-496-6454

We welcomed Starr Hasenmayer to Salem Global Methodist Church on November 2. We are blessed to have Starr, Joe, and Jocelyn at Salem and have them share their gifts with our congregation and community. God’s blessings upon your family as you continue to bless the lives of others.

Address: 808 N. 11th Street, Albemarle, NC 28001
Phones: 704-242-2301 (Joe)
704-774-0910 (Starr)

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

General

In loving honor of Warren Hatley by a friend

Music Fund

In loving memory of Retha Coleman, Lisa Hinson’s sister, by the choir

Youth Group

In loving memory of Scott Blankenship’s birthday on November 25 by his family

ADDRESS UPDATE

Lisa Clayton
23254 Endy Road, Albemarle, NC 28001



THANK YOU

I really appreciate all the prayers, thoughts, visits, food, and cards I have received. The church has been so good to me.
Jimmy Heglar

Jerry Hager wishes to thank the Salem Family for your calls, concerns and prayers during his recent health issues.



LOST & FOUND

A watch has been found in the church parking lot. Please contact the church office to identify it.

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please remember our college students as their fall semester comes to an end with exams. Their address labels are on the bulletin board in the Education Building.



MILLINGPORT MEN’S CLUB—December 7

The Millingport Men’s Club will meet Sunday, December 7, at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Building for breakfast and their monthly meeting. All men are invited to join them.

BETHLEHEM LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE-December 13

This is a world-wide Advent Worship Service simulcast live between Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral and the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine. The service may be watched December 13, from 9:30-11:00 AM at St. John’s Faith Center, 200 W. Innes Street, Salisbury.

DRIVE THROUGH NATIVITY—December 21

Our drive through nativity is sponsored by the youth, but we need many people to help us share Jesus that evening. It will be on Saturday, December 21, from 5:00—6:30 pm. Please let the Church Office or Selwyn know if you would volunteer that night. If you have access to a live animal (or two) that will work for cheap, let us know. They can join us, too!



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED—Tuesday, December 23—Friday, December 26

MILLINGPORT MEN’S CLUB LUNCH—January 1

The Millingport Men’s Club will host a traditional New Year’s Day lunch from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Building. Start your new year off right by supporting them and enjoying some good food and wonderful fellowship.

JOYFUL HEARTS—January 10

The Senior Adult Ministry group called “Joyful Hearts” had a wonderful meeting in November. We will not meet in December

because of all the Christmas events already planned. The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 10 from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Fellowship Building. You are invited to bring finger foods to share with the group. Bingo prizes are also welcome. We will enjoy special entertainment and Christian fellowship.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Many of you use the church mailboxes to share Christmas cards with your church family. Please remember to check your mailbox across from the office to get your cards.

SHOEBOX UPDATE

Thank you so much for your support of the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project—assembling the boxes, buying items to go in the boxes, monetary donations for the youth to go shopping, helping fill the boxes, loading and delivering them to CCMP. So many hands have touched the shoeboxes with love and prayer. With your help, Salem was able to pack **329** boxes this year!



CEMETERY NEWS

In preparation of the Christmas season, please remove any out-of-season and dead flowers from your family’s graves. Thank you.

SAVE THESE DATES
DECEMBER

7	7:30 am	Millingport Men’s Club-FB
7	6:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Movie Premiere
14	10:00 am	Sunday School
14	11:00 am	Christmas Cantata @ Combined Service-Sanctuary
14	3:00 pm	Ladies Circle-FB
14	4:00 pm	Christmas Caroling & Soup Supper
20	5-6:30 pm	Drive-Thru Live Nativity
21	6:00 pm	Moravian Love Feast
24	5:30 pm	Organ Concert
24	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
31	6:00 pm	Salem students lock-in



JANUARY

1	11:00	New Year’s Lunch by Millingport Men’s Club-FB
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December, 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Salem Too - FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids - Hut 6pm - Youth Group-hut	1	2	3 6pm - Youth Bible Study-Hut 7pm - Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 7:30am - Men's Club-FB 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Salem Too -FB 6pm - Christmas Play	8	9	10 6pm - Youth Bible Study-Hut 7pm - Choir Practice	11	12	13 1pm - Reserved-Hut
14 10am - Sunday School 11am - Combined service + Cantata 3pm - Ladies Circle 4pm - Caroling/Soup	15	16	17 6pm - Youth Bible Study-Hut 7pm - Choir Practice	18 6pm - Dementia Support	19 10am - Reserved-FB	20 10am - Reserved-FB 10am - Reserved-Hut 5pm - Live Nativity
21 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Salem Too - FB 6pm - Love Feast	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 5:30pm - Organ Concert 6pm - Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Salem Too	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 6pm - Youth Lock-In	1 Happy birthday! New Year's Day 11am - New Year's Lunch	2	3



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

GREETERS
Chuck & Amy Preslar



HEAD USHER
Chuck Preslar

COMMUNION SERVERS
Bill Hinson, Mike & Gwen Hinson

WORSHIP LEADERS
12/7 Nadine Bowers
12/14 Andrew Hager
12/21 Penny Hatley
12/28 Gary Hatley



FLOWERS
12/7 Beverly Johnson
12/14 Poinsettias
12/21 Poinsettias
12/28



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CARD LIST

Karen Ash 30459 Cane Drive Albemarle, NC 28001	Ted Hatley 16656 NC 73 Hwy Albemarle, NC 28001	Annie Laura McCroskey 20146-B NC 73 Hwy Albemarle, NC 28001
Jack Blankenship 28900 Nelson Mt. Rd. Albemarle, NC 28001	Valrie Hefty 823 Horse Hair Lane Oakboro, NC 28129	Hubert & Linda Morgan 48176 Clodfelter Rd Albemarle, NC 28001
Pat Blankenship 34884 Finger Road Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124	Jimmy Heglar 36225 Finger Road Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124	Lee Preslar 33348 Harkey Rd Albemarle, NC 28001
Doug Clayton 23254 Endy Road Albemarle, NC 28001	Larry & Tillie Heintz 2687 Cold Springs Rd, E Concord, NC 28025	Bryce & Jeanette Raybon 20788 NC 73 Hwy Albemarle, NC 28001
Jackie & Evelyn Drye 20653 Bear Creek Church Rd New London, NC 28127	Carol Herlocker 195 Jaynes Rd, Apt 20 Newland, NC 28657	Alice Rothe Trinity Place 24724 S. Business 52 Albemarle, NC 28001
“Sherry” Patsy Eudy Trinity Place 24724 S. Business 52 Albemarle, NC 28001	Jo Huneycutt Spring Arbor Rm 204 315 Park Ridge Rd Albemarle, NC 28001	Richard Rothe Trinity Place 24724 S. Business 52 Albemarle, NC 28001
Jim & Pam Furr 32331 Rowland Road Albemarle, NC 28001	Ron & Rita Janey Trinity Place 24724 S. Business 52 Albemarle, NC 28001	Junior & Shelby Shoe 16350 Hwy 73 E Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124
Betsy Godwin 36398 Finger Road Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124	Brad & Braylon Love 4913 Miami Church Rd Concord, NC 28027	Jane Sides 20754 Biles Road Albemarle, NC 28001
Ann Hatley 24734-A NC 73 Hwy Albemarle, NC 28001	Roger & Ginger Lowder 20750 NC 73 Hwy. Albemarle, NC 28001	Rev. Susan Sides Forest Oaks 620 Heathwood Dr Albemarle, NC 28001
Jo Hatley 20769 NC 73 Hwy Albemarle, NC 28001	Sharon L. Lowder 1227 Wendover Ave Albemarle, NC 28001	Trudie Whitley 25321 Harwood Road New London, NC 28127

CHRISTMAS
REMEMBRANCES
POINSETTIAS / GOOD
NEIGHBOR FOOD PANTRY /
LUMINARIES—
Due December 1

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Building for December 14 & 21 (\$12 each), donate to the Good Neighbor Food Pantry (any amount), or place a luminary on the sidewalk at the Love Feast/Christmas Eve Service (\$5 each) in honor/memory of a loved one, please place money and the form in the offering plate or leave at the Church Office by **Monday, December 1.** Luminary donations will be used for the Children’s Ministry. Order forms are also available in Sunday School rooms, at the church mailboxes, in the Narthex and Fellowship Building.



GOOD NEIGHBOR FOOD PANTRY <u>Amount \$</u>	
IN HONOR OF	PLACED BY
IN MEMORY OF	PLACED BY



POINSETTIAS (\$12 each) <u>Amount \$</u>	
IN HONOR OF	PLACED BY
IN MEMORY OF	PLACED BY



LUMINARIES (\$5 each) <u>Amount \$</u>	
IN HONOR OF	PLACED BY
IN MEMORY OF	PLACED BY

