

PASTOR NEILL'S THOUGHTS

As we begin the season of Lent on February 18, let us remember that in life comes many adversities that can so easily take our eyes off of Jesus and our real mission in life. We may get down, or we may look at these times as opportunities to grow and learn to lean on Jesus. Lent is a time for us to take a long Holy look at ourselves and the way we live. Do we measure up to God's standard? Are we living out our faith? Are there things that get in the way of my relationship with God? Do I have hatred in my heart? After my relationship with Jesus, is my family getting a large percentage of my time? If not, why not? Has my job begun to push God and my family out of my life? Many things get in the way, so keep plugging away and try to make this a Lent that draws you closer to God!

In the early days of World War II, Ruth Handler and her husband Elliott designed plastic picture frames from scrap Lucite and scrap Plexiglas. Their friend Harold "Matt" Matson made the sample frames in his garage. Ruth, who was to be the saleswoman, was excited when she received an order for the frames from a chain of photographic studios. As Ruth was driving to make her first delivery, she heard an announcement by President Franklin Roosevelt over the car radio. The president declared that all plastics were to be used only for defense. Ruth turned her car around and went home in a state of disarray.

Once home, the three pondered what to do with the newly founded business. They questioned how they could continue. They feared their investment would be lost. It appeared as though their one chance for success was gone forever. There was no future.

Then they got an idea. They decided to make wooden frames, spraying them with a cloth-looking covering. Anxious and afraid, Ruth returned to the photographic studio manager ready to peddle the new frame. To her surprise and delight the manager was even more impressed with these frames than the former plastic ones. Ruth received an even bigger order than before, providing the company with enough money to rent a small shop.

Later on, the three entrepreneurs decided to make dollhouse furniture out of the scrap lumber. Elliott sketched the

furniture, Matt made the sample products, and Ruth went out and sold them. That venture launched Mattel Toy Company (a combination of the names "Matt" and "Elliott.")



Jesus told us not to store up our treasures on earth where moths and rust can destroy them; instead, we are to store our treasures in heaven. Then Jesus concluded, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Ruth, Elliott, and Matt all labored in love. That is why a setback did not destroy their spirit but only challenged them to a new opportunity. If we live with our hearts in heaven, then material successes and failures on earth will not destroy us but only empower us.

The Journey Continues,

Neill



Salem Kids meet 4:30-6:00pm on Sundays for Kindergarten-5th graders. Mrs. Nadine Bowers, Mrs. Daniela Carpenter, Ms. Carly Kinley serve as mentors alongside Neill and Selwyn Shaw. We learn about living life with Jesus, play games, and laugh together. We are always open to new friends!

February 1 -- God Loves Us 1 (Luke 15:1-7, Lost Sheep) and making yummies for Bus driver appreciation.

February 8 - God Loves Us 2 (Luke 15:8-10, Lost Coin) and putting together goody bags for Bus Driver appreciation week.

February 15 - God Loves Us 3 (Luke 15:11-32, Lost Son)

February 22 - "God Loves Us" Bingo!

Children's Easter Egg-stravaganza is Sunday, March 29, 4:00 -5:30pm. All children are invited. Bring a Friend. Bring Grandkids. Invite the neighborhood! Needed:

1) Individually wrapped candies or small prizes for the Easter Egg-stravaganza! Baskets for collections will be placed in the Narthex of the Sanctuary, by the church office, and in the Fellowship Building.



2) Youth and adults to be "runners" for the Easter Egg Game, crafters, bingo callers, story tellers, etc.

Art Camp, July 12-15 is "Let's Have a Party" based on the parables of Luke 15. We will still be engaged in both visual and performing arts, with children getting to choose two workshops for the week and will rotate. Preschoolers will be in a more traditional VBS classroom setting. We will need a plethora of volunteers, supplies, and prayers. Let the party begin!



Salem Students meet 6:00-7:30 pm on Sundays for 6th grade and older young people.

February 1 - Jesus took time, shouldn't we? (Mark 1:29-35) and making yummies for Bus Driver Appreciation

February 8 - Super Bowl of Caring Sunday and shopping for Blessing Box Community Pantry.

February 15 - "What's Love Got to Do With It?"

February 22 - "Pop Rocks and Sprite" (John 15, James 4:8)

Student Bible Study meets Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm. We are "slow cooker" studying our way through the book of Genesis. Anyone 6th grade and older is invited to meet us in the parsonage to look at scripture and pray!

Youth Sponsored Mission Trip, June 21 -27, 2026. Please mark your calendar for this life-changing, Jesus honoring week! We will travel to Plymouth, NC to work with Carolina Rebuilding Ministries being the hands, feet, heart and voice of Jesus to the hurting community. Brochures and paperwork may be obtained from Neill or Selwyn Shaw. Anyone finishing 6th grade and older may go. Parents must accompany anyone younger than rising 7th graders.

The Young Adult/Adult leadership team meeting will be held April 19 at Good Hope GMC, Lexington, 3-5 pm. We will carpool.

Cost per participant is \$325, and we make every effort to raise these funds. We will be asking for the church's sponsorship as prayer partners, donations, and participating in our Mexican Meal Fundraiser on May 6th.



READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR-WEEKLY

Week 5 (February 1)

God's Commands

- ◇ Exodus 20: 1-17
- ◇ Psalm 103: 17-18
- ◇ Matthew 22: 34-40
- ◇ John 15: 14-15
- ◇ James 1: 22-25

Week 6 (February 8)

Love

- ◇ 1 Corinthians 13
- ◇ Isaiah 54:10
- ◇ Romans 8:35-39
- ◇ 1 Peter 4:8
- ◇ 1 John 4:7-12

Week 7 (February 15)

Purpose & Plan

- ◇ Ephesians 1:3-14
- ◇ Job 42:1-2
- ◇ Proverbs 19:21
- ◇ Jeremiah 29:10-13
- ◇ Romans 8:28-30

Week 8 (February 22)

Praise

- ◇ Psalm 96
- ◇ Exodus 15:2
- ◇ Psalm 71:14-16
- ◇ Luke 1:46-55
- ◇ Hebrews 13:15

Salem's Mission Statement:
*To Know Christ's Love,
 To Grow in Christ's Love,
 To Share Christ's Love*



Stanly Community Christian Ministries' needs for February are canned or dried beans, canned tomatoes and rice.



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|----|---|----|---------------------------------|
| 2 | Genesis Magana | 19 | Weston Gordon |
| 6 | Todd Lowder
Lee Preslar | 21 | Dulce L. Matias |
| 7 | Jazzi Martin | 23 | Sherrill Smith
Chad McDaniel |
| 10 | Selwyn Shaw | 26 | Lisa Almond |
| 11 | Lannah Huneycutt
Louie Sides
Marilyn Tucker | 27 | Aurelia Brummett |
| | | 28 | Noe Magana |
| | | 29 | Junior Shoe |
| 12 | June Luevano
Gracie Smith | | |
| 13 | Ann Hatley
Robin Janey Fortin | | |



SPECIAL FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 *Lee Preslar*
 33348 Harkey Rd, Albemarle, NC 28001 28001
- 13 *Ann Hatley*
 24734-A NC 73 Hwy, Albemarle, NC 28001

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 | Becky Blankenship Leeper |
| Raymond Campelo family & wife, Linda | Roger Lowder |
| Paula Case | Annie Laura McCroskey |
| Cyrus Cooper | Jacob McDaniel |
| Patsy Eudy | Linda & Hubert Morgan |
| Genny Fast | Lori Myers |
| Frankie | Beth Plowman |
| Cathy Furr | Jeff Raich |
| Jim & Pam Furr | Robin Ray |
| Carol Goodman | Jeanette Raybon |
| Malcolm Harwood | Alice Rothe |
| Ann Hatley | Richard Rothe |
| Ted Hatley | Shelby Shoe |
| Jimmy Heglar | Andretti Smith |
| Wallace Humphries | Jeremy Smith |
| Ron & Rita Janey | Phyllis Smith |
| James Kluttz Family | Wade Turner Family |
| | Linda Whitley |

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your 2025 contribution statements have been handed out or mailed. Contact the Church Office if you feel you should receive a statement but have not gotten one.

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund

- | | |
|------|-------------|
| 1/4 | \$4,415 |
| 1/11 | \$4,461 |
| 1/18 | \$3,476 |
| 1/25 | No services |



CONGRATULATIONS

Chesney Leann Garris was born on Monday, January 12, at 10:12 pm. She is the daughter of Emily and Cody Garris, granddaughter of David Hearne, Robin Hearne, Teddy and Myra Garris. Chesney weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 21 inches long.

“You are God’s masterpiece.” - Ephesians 2:10



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Michael & Rebekah Lanier to our church family. We are blessed to have this couple join our church on February 1st and share their gifts of music. God’s blessing upon both of you.

“God made you for a very special purpose, at this time, in this place.”



Address: 330 East Main Street, Albemarle, NC 28001

Phones: 704-626-8943 (Michael)
864-380-7919 (Rebecca)

Introducing... OUR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC LEADER

The SPRC has worked with the Church Council to create a new position within our church. We have waited a long time and have tried to expand and grow our contemporary music at the 11:00 service. We were blessed to have Michael Lanier and his wife, Rebekah, find our church as their new church home. Michael brings his musical talents and strong musical background to lead the music for the 11:00 service. He is looking forward to building a strong music program with the help of any talented musicians within the church.

We feel this position is going to be a positive role to help our church grow in the future.

Thank you,
SPRC Committee

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Cemetery Fund

In loving memory of Nancy Lowder by Myron Lowder

THANK YOU

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Thank you for all the generous donations for the February

delivery. We have enough to cover all the food bags for North Stanly Middle School students this time.

Teresa Bangle

2025 FINANCE UPDATE

Well, as 2025 came to an end, the benevolent members of our church came through, and we met our budget. In fact, we exceeded it by 3% percent. For the past few years, we have come through to meet our expenses, and that shows how faithful we are. Tithing goes a long way, and that's what God wants, and more if possible.

From the Finance team at Salem, I humbly thank you.

Bill Rigsbee



MILLINGPORT MEN’S CLUB-February 1

The Millingport Men’s Club will meet Sunday, February 1, at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Building. All men are invited to join them for breakfast. They meet the first Sunday of each month.

JOYFUL HEARTS-February 7

Salem’s Joyful Hearts group will meet on Saturday, February 7, from 1-3:00 pm in the Fellowship Building. Our special musical guests will be Terry Smith and Tanner Carrick. You are invited to bring a snack to share with the group. There will also be some fun activities.

PANCAKE SUPPER-February 17

Salem’s Ladies Circle will host a pancake supper on Tuesday, February 17, from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Building. There will be a variety of pancakes to chose from along with bacon and sausage. This will be a love offering event. Proceeds will be used for their annual Ladies Night Out Dinner honoring the single ladies of the church and community. We hope everyone will be able to support this supper filled with fun, fellowship and good food.



DEMENTIA CAREGIVING SUPPORT GROUP—February 17

Salem has graciously agreed to host the Dementia Caregiving Support Group. We will meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6 pm in the Hut. Our next meeting is February 17. Please invite anyone you know needing support as they care for their loved one at home or in a facility.

Questions? You may contact me at 704-985-3728.

Thank you, Salem, for supporting this group.

Lisa Clayton



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE-February 18

Salem’s Ash Wednesday Service will be February 18, at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. We hope everyone will join us as we prepare for the Lent Season.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY-February 18

We will begin a study called “Jesus Asking” on February 18 that will have daily readings all the way through Lent. We will meet on Tuesday nights February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. We will meet in the Hut at 6:30 pm to talk about our daily readings and what we are learning from them. Contact Pastor Neill or the office to get the needed materials.



WINTER WALK-Tuesdays

Everyone is welcome to meet in the Fellowship Building on Tuesdays from 5-6:00 pm for some exercise. We will walk at our own pace and enjoy some wonderful fellowship along the way. Some folks walk for a few minutes, and others walk for an hour. There are plenty of tables and chairs where walkers may sit when tired. We hope you can join us!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHING EVENT

Salem will host a clothing giveaway event in July to provide our community children with clothing for school. To do this, we need donations of clean used clothing for students aged preschool through high school. When your children or grands outgrow their clothes, please bring them to the church office or Mission Room for sorting and storage. Hangers and clothes racks are also welcome. For more info call/text Marlys Lipe at 803-315-6177.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

On the second Sunday of each month we celebrate those who were born in that month. You are invited to leave a small donation in the birthday box. Money collected January-June will be donated to the Youth Mission Trip. Money collected July-December will be donated to Salem’s Operation Christmas Child Fund.





February, 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 7:30am - Men's Club-FB 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 3pm - Reserved-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids Hut 6pm - Salem Students- Hut	2 10am - The Village	3 5pm - Winter Walk-FB	4 6pm - Youth Bible Study 7pm - Choir Practice	5	6	7 1pm - Joyful Hearts-FB
8 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students- Hut	9 10am - The Village	10 5pm - Winter Walk-FB	11 6pm - Youth Bible Study 7pm - Choir Practice	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students- Hut	16 Presidents' Day 9am - Millingport staff retreat	17 5pm - Pancake Supper-FB 5pm - Winter Walk-FB 6pm - Dementia Support-	18 6:30pm - Ash Wed Service 7pm - Choir Practice	19	20	21
22 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students- Hut	23 10am - The Village	24 5pm - Winter Walk-FB 6:30pm - Lent Bible Study Hut	25 6pm - Youth Bible Study 7pm - Choir Practice	26-28 Neill & Selwyn Shaw Continuing Education		



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY

GREETERS
Kenny & Penny Hatley



HEAD USHER
Gary Hatley

COMMUNION SERVERS
Beverly Johnson, Kenny & Penny Hatley

WORSHIP LEADERS
2/1 Warren Hatley
2/8 Selwyn Shaw
2/15 Gary Hatley
2/22 Penny Hatley



FLOWERS
2/1 Lisa Clayton
2/8
2/15 Gwen Hinson
2/22 Reva Bowen/Tracy Furr

