

## PASTOR NEILL'S THOUGHTS

"Intercessory prayer is widely believed to influence recovery from illness, but claims of benefits are not supported by well-controlled clinical trials," states the American Heart Journal.

Steve May wrote, "So, fueled by a 2.4 million dollar research grant, a 14 day study was designed to see if prayer works. 3 congregations – 2 Catholic and 1 Unity – received first names and last initials of a few hundred heart patients and were told to pray for their recovery. There was also a control group for whom, presumably, no one prayed.

The results of the study: "Intercessory prayer itself had no effect on complication-free recovery from CABG, but certainty of receiving intercessory prayer was associated with a higher incidence of complications."

What a waste of 2.4 million dollars! The power of prayer is not something that can be scientifically measured, it can't be tied to a 2 week timetable, and it really annoys me that people who are smart enough to have access to two million dollars aren't smart enough to figure this out! How many hungry people could have been fed? How many Habitat Homes built? How many people could have been clothed with the 2.4 million dollars?

If you want to know if prayer works, ask someone who prays! If you want to see lives that have been changed, ask someone whose life has been prayed for. I really don't care if in a two week study "they" could not prove prayer worked. I KNOW PRAYER DOES WORK! I believe that our God answers EVERY prayer, but sometimes the answer is "no" or "not yet." God's purposes are greater than any two week study can figure out. No matter what. By the way, there are many other studies that have shown a direct link to prayer and healing. And what about the direct laying on of hands and prayer, did they try that?

When my father had cancer, I prayed for his healing. He was healed spiritually, but not physically. I would love to still have him here on earth. There are so many things that we could have shared. There are so many questions I would like to ask him, but that will have to wait. My prayer was answered! I still trust in prayer at all times and in all places and for all people. Given the choice of physical healing or spiritual healing, I will always prefer spiritual. Because of that healing even though the separation is long, we will spend eternity together. I am not

a skeptic when it comes to prayer. Faith after all is the assurance of things that are unseen, but none-the-less are real.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV) So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is **unseen**. For what is seen is temporary, but what is **unseen** is eternal.

Rick Warren says that he has been praying for the same thing every day for the past twenty something years. If it's 50 millions books in print, I've got good news for him: his prayers have been answered. I think, however, his unspoken request is something more personal and more serious. He tells about this long term petition to make a point: You keep praying until you get an answer. Sometimes we see results in a few days. Sometimes it may take a lifetime. If it's worth praying for, it's worth your persistence.

Luke wrote, "**Then he spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.**" (Luke 18:1) Jesus says keep praying, "and not give up," as the NIV says. Even after 14 days, or 14 years, or whatever type of time limit we've tried to put on God's ability to answer prayer, we need to keep praying. Whatever your long-term request is, don't lose heart. God has promised to hear our prayers. Our God is faithful and God loves us very much.

The Journey Continues,

*Neill*



## EASTER EVENTS

March 29	4-5:30 pm	Easter Egg Extravaganza
April 2	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service @ Salem
April 3	7:00 pm	Tennebrae Service @ Friendship GMC, 24696 NC 73 Hwy
April 5	7:00 am	Sunrise Service & Breakfast
	9:00 am	Worship Service-Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service-Fellowship Building
No Salem Kids & Salem Students that afternoon		

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

Salem Students meet weekly, Sunday evenings 6:00 -7:30 pm in the Hut with the exception of March 29, when we will help with the Easter Egg Extravaganza, which begins at 4:00 pm.

**Student Bible Study** continues to look at Genesis, Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 in the Parsonage.

**Youth Mission Trip** to Plymouth NC, is June 21-27. All students who have finished 6th grade and older are encouraged to be the hands and feet of Jesus while making new friends that week. Get your brochure from Neill or Selwyn. Registration deadline is March 25!



We are excited for our second annual "**Generational Prom**" on May 30. While we specifically invite our Joyful Hearts group, all ages are invited to dress up and come to dance and fellowship with us on this evening.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Salem Kids meet weekly on Sundays, 4:30-6:00 pm. During the remaining weeks of Lent our lessons will focus on "Holy Week". All children kindergarten - 5th grade are invited to join us as we play, learn, and love together.

**Easter Egg Extravaganza** is Sunday, March 29 4-5:30 pm. Join us for the Easter story, egg hunt, crafts, Easter bunny and snacks. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors. \*\*We need some candy and small prizes for the children's Easter bags. A tub is by the office door for donations.



**Art Camp** is Sunday - Wednesday, July 12-15. Classes are available preschool - 5th grade, in subjects such as Culinary, Painting & Drawing, Woodworking, Pottery, Scrapbooking, Just For Fun Crafts.



Are you an artist of any kind? Would you be interested in teaching a workshop for children at Art Camp? Please speak with Lisa Almond, Jennifer Almond, Daniela Carpenter or Selwyn Shaw if you have ideas!

## READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR-WEEKLY

### Week 9 (March 2)

#### Temptation

◇ Luke 4:1-13

◇ Deuteronomy 8:2

◇ 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

◇ Hebrews 2:18

◇ James 1:2-4, 12-15

### Week 10 (March 9)

#### Sacrifices

◇ Hebrews 10:1-23

◇ Exodus 12:21-28

◇ Psalm 51:16-17

◇ Romans 12:1

◇ Hebrews 4:14-16

### Week 11 (March 16)

#### Confession & Forgiveness

◇ Psalm 51:1-12

◇ Proverbs 28:13

◇ Matthew 9:1-8

◇ Acts 3:19

◇ 1 John 1:8-9

### Week 12 (March 23)

#### Crucifixion

◇ Luke 23:26-47

◇ Numbers 21:4-9

◇ Isaiah 53:3-10

◇ 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-23

◇ Galatians 2:20-21

### Week 13 (March 30)

#### Resurrection

◇ John 20:1-18

◇ Daniel 12:2-3

◇ John 11:25-26

◇ 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

◇ Philippians 3:10-11



2	Tanya Raichenko	15	Angie Blakely
4	Andrew Hager Daniela Carpenter		Maddie Harwood Adelynn Cook
5	Kasey Hinson Alden Cook	16	Billy Lowder Jennifer Slone Jeff Bunting
7	Tommy Hearne		
10	Jamie Bunting	17	Audrey Rigsbee
11	Donna Bowers	18	Marty Furr
13	Mike Hinson Brantley Lowder	21	Jeremy Almond
14	Pat Blankenship Preston Bowers	26	Jim Furr
		30	Cora Mae Fast
		31	Evelyn Drye



#### **Salem's Mission Statement:**

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

#### **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](http://ncglobalmethodist.org)  
[globalmethodist.org](http://globalmethodist.org)



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Danny Blalock	Roger Lowder
Pat Blankenship	Sharon L. Lowder
Charlie & Dana Burrage	Rodrigo Luevano, Jr.
Linda Campelo	Bob & Mike Mann
Paula Case	Annie Laura McCroskey
Cyrus Cooper	Jacob McDaniel
Jim & Pam Furr	Lee Preslar
Robin Hampton	Beth Plowman
Ann Hatley	Robin Ray
Ted Hatley	Jeanette Raybon
Jimmy Heglar	Ruby & Robert Rummage
David Hudson	Rommie Sells
Cameron Humphries	Shelby Shoe
Derrick, Shanda & Creed	Jeremy Smith
Huneycutt	Andretti & Misty Smith
Jamie Isenhour	Evola & Waylon Thompson
Becky Blankenship Leeper	Keegan Woolwine
Family	

#### **SPECIAL MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

14	<i>Pat Blankenship</i> 34884 Finger Rd., Mt. Pleasant NC 28124
26	<i>Jim Furr</i> 32331 Rowland Rd., Albemarle, NC 28001
31	<i>Evelyn Drye</i> 20653 Bear Creek Ch. Rd., New London, NC 28127

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

##### **General Fund**

2/1	No Services
2/8	\$14,573
2/15	\$5,128
2/22	\$6,389



Stanly Community Christian Ministries' needs for March are toiletries & household items (such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, detergent, bar soap, feminine hygiene, etc.)



## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Judd Edward Hawley was born on February 17 at 6:45 pm. He is the son of Jaycie and Josh Hawley, grandson of Wesley and Jennifer Almond and Anna Walker, and great-grandson of Alice Rothe, Bobbie Frick, Pat Almond, Roger and Ginger Lowder. Judd weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above.” -James 1:17*

## **CONTACT UPDATE**

JoAnne Hainline has moved! Her address is as follows:

27706 Taylor Lane, Albemarle, NC 28001

704-591-7247 (cell)



## **THANK YOU**

Dear Salem Church Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, phone calls, cards, and love you have shown our family following the loss of my daughter, Rebecca.

Blessings, Jack Blankenship and Family

On behalf of all of our Stanly County Schools bus drivers and all of us at the Transportation Office, we extend our greatest appreciation to your congregation for what you did to show appreciation to our drivers. Wednesday we had the opportunity to distribute the care bags to our drivers. We are truly grateful for your kindness and the time you took to show our drivers they are appreciated. Please know that YOU are appreciated and let us know if there is anything you ever need from us. Thank you! Kevin Garay, Interim Director of SCS Transportation

The Youth Group would like to thank everyone for the generous donations of \$503 for the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. They used the money to shop for our Good Neighbor Food Pantry.

The Ladies Circle thanks everyone for their support of the Pancake Supper. The money will be used to honor the single ladies of the church and community at a dinner in May.

## **MILLINGPORT MEN'S CLUB-March 1**

The Millingport Men's Club will meet Sunday, March 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.

## **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

Our study is called “Jesus Asking” and has daily readings all the way through Lent. We will meet on Tuesday nights March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 in the Hut at 6:30 pm to talk about our daily readings and what we are learning from them. Contact the church office to get the needed materials.

## **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

Be sure to spring forward when Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8.



## **MARCH FELLOWSHIP MEAL-March 11**

The Ladies Fellowship Class will host the March Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, March 11, from 5-6:30 pm. The menu will include spaghetti, salad, bread, and desserts. Free-will donations will be accepted to be used by the Ladies Class for their card mission and other projects.



## **BAND OF BROTHERS-March 15**

Everyone is invited to Friendship GMC on Sunday, March 15. They will host a Fellowship Meal beginning at 4:30 pm. At 6:00 pm the Band of Brothers will share God's Word through their combination of Southern and Bluegrass Gospel songs.

## **DEMENTIA CAREGIVING SUPPORT GROUP—March 17**

Our next meeting is March 17. Please invite anyone you know needing support as they care for their loved one at home or in a facility. Contact Lisa Clayton at 704-985-3728.

## **JOYFUL HEARTS-March 28**

Salem's Joyful Hearts group will meet on Saturday, March 28, from 1-3:00 pm in the Fellowship Building. You are invited to bring a snack to share with the group. There will also be some fun activities.



## **ATTENTION MEN!**

We will be attending the **Iron Sharpens Iron National Men's**

**Equipping Conference** as a group. The conference is on **April 18, 2026**, here in Albemarle, NC. Please sign up and join us! This conference is for men of all ages, beginning with ages 18 and older. There will be 16+ different seminars for men at this conference, so we know there will be something for everyone. Please see Pastor Neill or Tim Bennett for more information and to sign up. Cost - \$20 a person. We need to know ASAP if you would like to go.

## **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!

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Ready to serve but not quite ready for something that takes much time?

The 9:00 Worship Service needs a volunteer to collect the attendance register sheets after the worship service. We thank Teresa Bangle for her service this past year, but she is now teaching a Sunday School class.

The 11:00 Worship Service needs volunteers to fix coffee on Sunday mornings. A sign up sheet is at the coffee station.

## **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.

## **CEMETERY NEWS**

Please remove Christmas and winter decorations off the graves in the cemetery. Thank you.



# March, 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 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students-Hut	2 10am - The Village	3 5pm - Winter Walk-FB 6:30pm - Lent Bible Study Hut	4 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice	5	6	7 3pm - Reserved-FB
8 Daylight Saving Time 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 3pm - Ladies Circle 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students-Hut	9 10am - The Village	10 5pm - Winter Walk-FB 6:30pm - Lent Bible Study Hut	11 5pm - Fellowship Meal-FB 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice	12	13	14
15 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Band of Brothers 6pm - Salem Students-Hut	16 10am - The Village	17 St. Patrick's Day 5pm - Winter Walk-FB 6pm - Dementia Support-Hut 6:30pm - Lent Bible Study	18 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - 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 6:30pm - Choir Practice	26	27	28 1pm - Joyful Hearts-FB
29 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4pm - Easter Egg Hunt-FB	30 10am - The Village	31 5pm - Winter Walk-FB 6:30pm - Lent Bible Study Hut	1 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice	2 7pm - Maundy Thursday @ Salem	3 7pm - Tennebrae Service- @ Friendship GMC	4



## WORSHIP LEADERS FOR MARCH

### GREETERS

Mike & Gwen Hinson

Ushers & Greeters

### HEAD USHER

Stan Bowers



### COMMUNION SERVERS

Cindy Newsom, Boyd & Vickie Furr

### WORSHIP LEADERS

3/1 Stan Bowers

3/8 Nadine Bowers

3/15 Bill Rigsbee

3/22 David Hearne

3/29 Dustin Hinson



### FLOWERS

3/1 Jo Hatley

3/8 Cathy & David Hudson

3/15

3/22

3/29

