

The Lamplighter



February 2012 • Salem United Church of Christ • Higginsville, Missouri

Special Days in February African-American History Month

- February 5—Women's Sunday
Boy Scout Sunday
- February 11—Open House from 2-5 p.m. for Rev. Michael & Gail Chirstensen
- February 12—Rev. Michael Chirstensen will preach trial sermons & a special congregational meeting will be held
- February 14—Valentine's Day
- February 18—Celebration of Life & Open House from 1-4 p.m. for Roger Mason
- February 19—Bible Presentation Sunday & Evangelism Committee Sock Hop at 6:00 p.m.
- February 20—Presidents' Day
- February 22—Ash Wednesday Service at Central Christian Church, 6:30 p.m.
- February 26—First Sunday in Lent & YOM Big Sunday Dinner and Cake and Pie Auction
- February 29—Lenten Meal and Service at Salem in the Dining Room: Meal at 5:45 p.m. and service at 6:30 p.m.

Joyce's Jottings

Excitement, anticipation and waiting! Three emotions (if waiting can be an emotion) come to mind as together we begin the experience of hearing for the first time your potential new pastor. The church is a buzz with questioning conversations. This is a good thing. My prayer is that all our thoughts and words are those that will build up the kingdom of God.

Excitement, anticipation and waiting for the Season of Lent, Confirmation, Holy Week and Easter. You are invited to go on "*A Journey of Hope*" as we travel with Jesus to the cross, discovering along the way that Hope can be found even as we encounter some of life's most difficult circumstances. Our Wednesday evening teaching/learning times will begin with supper at 5:45pm. The theme for our Lenten Days together is "*A Journey of Hope*". Beginning with Ash Wednesday Service at Central Christian, and Wednesday night supper with worship and teaching/learning time we will look at the experiences of Christ along the way to the cross from His entry into Jerusalem to the cross and how this is relevant to everyday life.

Excitement, anticipation and waiting all flowing together in our lives as we live in the moment experiencing all that God has placed before us.

As you read through the Lamplighter have your calendars at hand because there are many important dates that you will not want to miss. The one that I am anticipating is the Sock Hop complete with Dog and Suds on Sunday evening February 19. Remember Dog's and Suds – I can taste that root beer float, umm so good!

Excitement, anticipation and waiting for lent to begin. I am seriously considering giving up sugar for lent. Do you want to join me in this adventure – so far folks have looked at me like I'm crazy. I really want to give up sugar but it keeps creeping into my life, so as a Lenten discipline and with a Lenten God focus all things are possible. (and it's only for 40 days) I invite you to join me. If you are interested give me a call at the church or drop me an e-mail – seakar52@sbcglobal.net.

Excitement, anticipation, and waiting – God keeps surprising each of us!
In the Light and Laughter of God
Rev Joyce



News from the Licensed Associate Pastor

Wow! February is stacking up to be a very busy month here at Salem Church. Aside from our regular activities, every Sunday promises to be special. The first Sunday is Women's Sunday where the ladies will lead our services. The second Sunday we will hear for the first time Rev. Michael Christensen as he presents a trial sermon for us. The third Sunday the Evangelism has provided a great social activity on Sunday evening to kick up our heels, listen to some blasts from the past, and even enjoy some fun food together. The last Sunday the Youth on Mission will provide a Big Sunday Dinner and auction cakes and pies for a fund raiser for their summer mission trip to Joplin. I hope that you take part in all of these things, being together as a congregation for these activities strengthens our bonds of caring for one another.

At the end of January I had the opportunity to be a guest of Group Workcamps Foundation at Group Christian Publishing in Loveland, CO. It was a tremendous time of learning, and to see how the work-camp process is done from the inside. There were 43 of us on this adventure and we were shown the worship services and devotions for this summer's camp. We were there to give our input on the content of the programing and the Group people were appreciative of our critiquing of their material. They are now in the process of using our suggestions in the final product. A huge thank you to the Salem Church Council for allowing me to take this time to take part in this event.

In Christ's service,
Betty

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Thanks to Ruth circle for quilters' refreshments and to Mary Martha circle for playing bingo at Meyer care Center for the month of January.

The Women's Fellowship will not give wedding crosses to newly-weds and the Leaves of Gold book to those celebrating their 50th anniversary. For those church members that will be celebrating a 50th anniversary, a \$50 donation will be made to the charity of their choice.

Thank you to Pearl Luehrman, Betty Rinne, and the Service Committee for preparing and serving the meal prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 22. Thank you to the circles for donating the cakes for the meal.

The Mother and Daughter Banquet will be Monday, May 14. The meal will be catered by Nadlers. The menu and ticket prices will be announced at a later date. Angie Green is working on the program.

Women's Sunday is February 5. Ladies of the church will be ushers, greeters, choir, and handling the worship service.

During 2011, there were 27 prayer shawls made and 19 shawls were given to congregational members who were in need of our prayers.

The board meeting for February 20 (President's Day) will be held one week prior to our regular meeting day. The board meeting date is February 13 at our regular time.

Karen Homfeld

Women's Fellowship

Circle Schedules for February

Esther Circle-February 1, 10:00 a.m., in the Board Room at Salem, hostess Mary Kirchhoff, NOTE CHANGE OF TIME.

Mary Martha Circle-February 2, 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Salem, hostess Betty Rinne, program Pearl Luehrman.

Ruth Circle-February 1, 2:00 p.m. in the Club Room at John Knox, hostess Fay Tilly.

Eve Circle-February 7, 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Salem, hostess, B.J. Salyer, program Judy Struchtemeyer.



News

The Blood Mobile will be at Immanuel Lutheran School Gym on Tuesday, February 28 from 1:30—7:00 p.m. To make an appointment, please call Carol Tankesley (584-3577) or Mary Louise Fisher (584-2743).

FEBRUARY SOUPER SUPPER SCHEDULE:

(All suppers are 5:30 -6:30 p.m.)

Sunday, February 19-

Presbyterian Church

Monday, February 20-

Salem UCC

Tuesday, February 21-

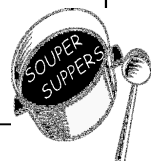
Central Christian Church

Wednesday, February 22-

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Thursday, February 23-

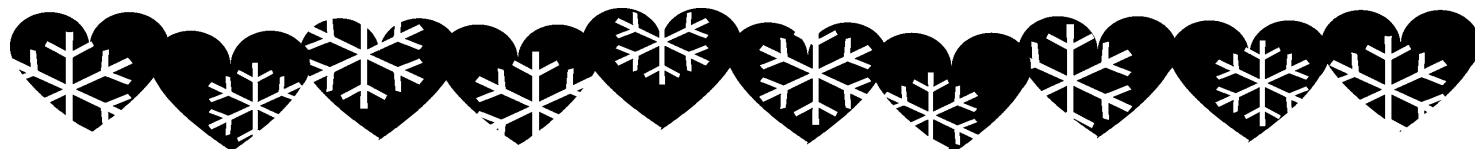
First Baptist Church





Say Happy Birthday in February to...

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Kenneth Rinne | 1 | C. W. Hook | 12 | Nick Jensen | 21 |
| Bobby Joe Wilson IV | 1 | Shirley Wahn | 12 | Caitlin Engle | 21 |
| Angie Berry | 2 | Dorothy Fisher | 13 | Marvin Rinne | 22 |
| Justin Gash | 2 | Donald Gadt | 13 | Janice Hoefler | 22 |
| Caroline Hursman | 7 | Lily Nolte | 13 | Joyce Kays | 22 |
| Annah Bagby | 7 | Helen Diestelkamp | 14 | Keill Borchers | 22 |
| Jordan Salyer | 7 | Kristin Jordan | 14 | Joyce Swanke | 23 |
| Brianna Zeller | 8 | Laura Mae Rechterman | 16 | Louise Echelmeier | 25 |
| Brittany Catts | 9 | Kayla Homfeld | 16 | Steven Homfeld | 25 |
| Bob Bergsieker | 10 | Carleen Buchanan | 17 | Abby Oelrichs | 25 |
| Sandy Niemeier | 10 | Sarah Berry | 17 | Bradley Lewis | 25 |
| Megan Reid | 10 | Brian Iles | 18 | Sharon Hoefler | 26 |
| Lydia Grumke | 10 | Heather Kirchoff | 18 | Maxine Schloman | 26 |
| Fred Kopp | 11 | Penny Salyer | 19 | Ben Rauch | 27 |
| Cole Oelrichs | 11 | Karen Homfeld | 19 | Kirk Smith | 28 |
| Brittnee Catron | 11 | Robert Sander | 20 | Monica Lefman | 29 |



LET'S PUT OUR HANDS TOGETHER....

For everyone who shook hands and welcomed Salem members and guests to the Sunday morning church services during the month of January. The stewardship committee would like to recognize the following members for volunteering to greet: Senior High Youth, Paul & Pat Warren, Arlene Long, Beth Goree, Bob & Carol Tankesley, Roger & Tillie Erdman, Lambert Gieselman, Keill & Keri Borchers, Kenneth & Sharon Telgemeier, Dennis & Judi Knipmeyer.

THANK YOU!



Lafayette UCC Cluster Up-date

Representatives from the cluster churches gathered on January 23. The representatives began making plans for 2012. Here are some dates for your calendar.

June 3-9 volunteer in **Adult Mission Work Camp to Joplin**. If you are interested in spending a week in Joplin rebuilding homes please talk with Rev. Joyce as soon as possible. Sign up dead line is February 26.

CROP Walk Sunday - 3:00 pm
Confederate Park September 30 – notice the new month and day!

Advent Chorale 4:00 pm –
December 2 - rehearsal dates
November 11 & 18. The Cluster Steering committee will also sponsor the Children's Advent activities and encourage the participation of our children with the Advent Chorale. 3

Youth on Mission

Youth on Mission presents for your enjoyment the BIG SUNDAY DINNER on February 26 immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. We will serve at your table a delicious meal of bone-in ham, cheesy hash brown potato casserole, green beans, salad, roll and dessert. A free will donation will be accepted. The meal will be followed by the annual cake and pie auction. All proceeds collected will go toward our July summer trip to Joplin, MO where we will help those in need with their home repairs. All are invited to this event. Thank you.



PASTORAL VISITS OR PRAYERS

Anyone who would like a pastoral visit or are in need of prayers, please call the church office.

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Transportation is available to any worship service. Please call the church office to make arrangements.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please check Marshall radio station KMMO-102.9 or Carrolton radio station KMZU-100.7 for any church activity cancellations.

From the Church Records

OCWM (Contributions for December) \$464

Financial Report:

General Fund Balance 12/01/11 \$18,852
 Current deposits \$73,992
 Current expenses \$79,230
 Current Fund Balance 12/31/11 \$13,614

Building Fund:

Current Fund Balance 12/01/11 \$67,622
 Current deposits \$1,418
 Current expenses \$35,302
 Current Fund Balance 12/31/11 \$33,738

| 8:30 a.m. | December Attendance | 10:30 a.m. |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| 35 | Sunday, 12-4-11 | 137 |
| 25 | Sunday, 12-11-11 | 205 |
| 31 | Sunday, 12-18-11 | 103 |
| 25 | Sunday, 12-25-11 | 56 |
| 29 | Average | 125 |
| | Total Average 154 | |
| | Christmas Eve 393 | |

“Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof.”
 —Kahlil Gibran

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

The family of Ila Fern “Jan” Elliott. Jan passed away on Friday, January 20, 2012, her funeral was held on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at Salem.

ALSO

The family of Roger Mason. Roger passed away on Friday, January 20, 2012. A “Celebration of Life” and Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 18 from 1-4:00 p.m. in the Salem Fellowship Hall.



**“A Journey of Hope”
Lenten Wednesdays**

This Lenten season, you are invited to go on “A journey of Hope” as we travel with Jesus to the cross, discovering along the way that Hope can be found even as we encounter some of life’s most difficult circumstances.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22 with the Service of the Imposition of Ashes. This year the service will be at Central Christian at 6:30PM. Following Ash Wednesday the Lenten Experiences will be held in the Salem Dining Room on: Feb 29, March 7,14,21,28. A simple supper will be served at 5:45pm by various groups from Central and Salem followed by a Worship Learning Experience at 6:30 pm. Come gather to be renewed, connect deeper with Jesus, and the reigniting of your passion for God. Join the journey to the cross.

Pack well

During Lent, as we focus on Christ’s journey to the cross, let’s also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf.
 —Based on the “Journey to Hope” sermon series, www.rethinkchurch.org/

Evangelism Committee Sock-Hop

Gals put on your white blouse and poodle skirt, don your bobby socks and saddle shoes. Guys get out your penny loafers and white socks, roll-up your pant legs and tee shirt sleeves and squeeze out half a tube of Brylcreem. We're going to the HOP!

When: February 19, 6:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall at Salem UCC

Sponsor: Evangelism Committee

Food: Hot dogs and ice cream floats (root beer orange, etc.) will be served by YOM for a free will donation.

Entertainment will be provided by "The Lollipops" from Odessa. I wonder if they do doo-wop gospel? "My boy Lollypop you make my heart go giddy-up..." The Cadillacs, 1955. Sorry, I couldn't resist.

So, come on out to the hop and have a ball. You can even shake a leg (dance) if you want.



Transfiguration

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom-peace and wholeness — of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.—Desmond Tutu, God Has a Dream

Open House Welcome for Rev. Michael and Gail Christensen

Please join the Search Committee, Church Council and Board of Elders in welcoming Reverend Michael Christensen and his wife Gail to Salem! An open house reception will be held on **Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. This gathering will give everyone the opportunity to meet Michael and Gail prior to his trial sermons on Sunday, February 12th. Please come join in this fellowship and have a chance to visit with the candidate for our new Sr. Pastor position. We are very excited to welcome Rev. Christensen and Gail to our church and community!

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.

Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.

Give up worry — trust God to provide.

Give up discouragement — be full of hope.

Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred — return good for evil.

Give up anger — be more patient.

Give up pettiness — become mature.

Give up jealousy — pray for trust.

Give up gossiping — control your tongue.

Give up sin — turn to virtue.

Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The stewardship committee would like to say "congratulations" to Salem's officers-elect and "thank you" to those moving off the three boards. The gifts of your time to our church are immeasurable.

We are preparing for the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. The offering will be taken in March. OGHS assists those affected by natural disasters, hunger, and various life-diminishing issues. OGHS works with local, national, and international partners to support health, refugees, agriculture, and emergency relief. Watch for more information.

The Stewardship Committee



This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing,

or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

Council Minutes from: December 15, 2011

The regular meeting of Salem UCC Church Council was held on Thursday, December 15, 2011. Those members in attendance were Carla Starke, Pam Stout, Justin Salyer, Cole Harris Dot Renno, Mark Gross and Cindy Nuelle. Rev. Joyce Holley and Licensed Associate Pastor Betty Thaller were also present. President Mark Gross called the meeting to order and asked Rev. Holley to lead us in an opening devotion.

The November, 2011 meeting minutes were read and approved. Dot Renno gave the Treasurer's report. There was a total of \$19,868.00 in receipts and \$15,199.00 in disbursements. The Buildings and Grounds account had \$5,855.00 received and \$7,776.00 disbursed. The average attendance in November at the 8:30 service was 31 and 139 at the 10:30 service. Motion was made and passed to approve and pay all outstanding bills.

Rev. Holley gave her report. She states that "the church is a buzz with all the Christmas preparations." She continues to work the confirmation class and meet with the Evangelism and Stewardship committees. Rev. Holley reported that the FISH 153 group is making progress and hopes to have its first service January 18, 2012. Rev. Holley had numerous community, hospital, committee and office visits. See bulletin board for full Pastor's report.

Licensed Associate Pastor Betty Thaller gave her report. She reported that the Youth On Mission group will be travelling to Joplin, Missouri in July, 2012. They will begin their fund-raising again after the first of the year. Pastor Betty said that all the

Salem youth groups are busy with mission projects for the holidays including adopting families and bell ringing for the Salvation Army. She coordinated all the gifts for the Angel Tree and their delivery. Pastor Thaller continues to attend community functions and had numerous hospital, committee and office visits. See bulletin board for full Licensed Associate Pastor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds: Carla Starke reported that she is getting bids for the updates to the parsonage.

Nominating: Pam Stout announced that the Committee had been able to fill the ballots for all open positions on all Boards. She thanked all those members that agreed to be placed on the ballot for the Annual Meeting.

Search: The committee has narrowed the candidates and is anticipating an in-person interview

Stewardship: Coffee and hot chocolate will be served after the 10:30 service through Advent

NEW BUSINESS

President Gross announced that all available Council members need to usher at the Christmas Eve service. He announced that the church office would be closed Monday, December 26, 2011 and Monday, January 2, 2012 for the holidays. Reports are due to Sarah no later than January 6th for the Annual Report mailing. Cluster dues were paid in the amount of \$41.25. Mark Gross then announced he had received a letter of resignation from Council member Pam Stout effective at the end of the

Council meeting on January 19, 2012. Pam and her husband Tom are relocating to Springfield, Missouri. With regret and sincere appreciation for her dedication to Salem over the years, President Gross accepted her resignation. He also announced that the Annual Meeting will be held on January 22, 2012 at 12:30 in the dining room. There were no further announcements. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Nuelle,

Salem Church Council Secretary
(A copy of the Church Council minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.)

SPECIAL

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

On Sunday, February 12, Rev. Michael Christensen will preach a trial sermon and following the 10:30 a.m. service a vote of the congregation will be taken for his acceptance as Salem's Senior Pastor.

NEWLY ELECTED

OFFICERS 2012

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Carleen Buchanan(4 yr.)

Kyle Warren (4 yr.)

Felicia Leonard (2 yr.)

BOARD OF ELDERS:

Frank Alumbaugh

Mark Nolte

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN

EDUCATION:

Jill Warren

Megan Wood

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mark Gross,
Church Council President