

# Salem Spirit

*Salem E.C. Church*

JANUARY 2008 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Snow Cancellation Policy**
- **Communion Sunday**
- **A Day Apart**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### Greetings in the Precious Name of Jesus!

It's hard to believe that 2007 is history (or almost history depending on when you get this newsletter). We're all another year older and hopefully a bit wiser. And hopefully we've all grown stronger in the Lord. As we enter the New Year, I thought it would be good to talk about some of our plans for 2008.

While many Bible verses describe what we as individual Christians and as a local church should do, Jesus summarizes our purpose/mission in Matthew 22:37,39 (The Great Commandment) and Matthew 28:19,20 (The Great Commission). Our purpose/mission is to love God and people and makes disciples of Jesus.

In Acts 2:42-47, Luke gives us a strategic plan to fulfill our purpose/mission. He tells us what the Early Church did to model the Great Commandment and fulfill the Great Commission. The Early Church did six basic things: disciples learned from the Apostles (v.42); disciples spent time together (v.42,44,46); disciples prayed (v.42); disciples met needs (v.45); disciples worshiped God (v.46,47); and disciples shared the Gospel (v.47). To be blessed by God we must focus on the same things the "Acts 2 Church" focused on: education, fellowship, prayer, ministry, worship, and evangelism.

We will continue to do the things that seem to be working in each of these areas of focus. We are also planning some new things for 2008. Here's what's up!

**Education:** In September of 2008 we plan to start four new discipleship "quads." Currently one "quad" (a group of four people) meets weekly for prayer, study, and fellowship.

**Fellowship:** During the winter we plan to implement a small group network. A personal interest survey will be developed and distributed to our church family. The results of this survey will guide and direct the establishment of various small groups.

**Prayer:** Early in the New Year one of the rooms in the current building will be designated as a prayer room. Various items will be placed in the prayer room to promote an attitude of prayer. Salem's "top ten" prayer list will be posted in this room and also distributed to our church family, asking people to pray each day for these needs.

**Ministry:** Some time in late winter or early spring, I'm planning a series of messages on spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift inventory will be given to our church family to help each member determine how and where he/she can be used by God in the ministry of Salem Church. We will use the results of this inventory to expand our current ministry base, giving more people an opportunity to serve in new ways.

**Worship:** We will continue to video (we started doing this on 12-16-07) the Sunday morning message. This video will appear on our church website ([www.wearesalem.org](http://www.wearesalem.org)) and enable those who don't get to church to hear and see what they missed. We do want to strongly encourage everyone to attend the actual service as often as possible because live is better than Memorex! A word of caution: Watch what you do on Sunday morning – you might be on camera!

**Evangelism:** We will continue to work on and hopefully complete our building project. Why include this under evangelism? Because the building project is about evangelism ... friendship evangelism ... creating different ways to help people ease into Salem Church and find Jesus. Eighty percent of the time people come to Christ over bridges of friendship – a trusted friend helps a seeker ease into a church and find Christ. Today people want to belong before they believe. When the building is finished, we plan to do all sorts of things that will make it easy for us to invite family and friends to come and see. And in time, as they keep coming and seeing, they'll hear and hopefully answer Christ's call to "Follow me" (see Matt. 4:19)!

Well, that's it. That's what's up for 2008 ... for now. I'm sure more things will pop up as we enter the New Year. I'll talk more about the "new stuff" I've mentioned during my morning message on 12-30-07.

God has been good to us. We are blessed as individuals and as a church family in many ways. But I believe the best is yet to come. God has great things in store for us. We need to stay focused and remember that it's all about Jesus. He gave his all for us. We need to give and keep giving our all for him. Have a very happy New Year!

**Pastor Gary**

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1st	Chad Riegel
5th	Ben Haas
9th	Nadine King, Dale Bruno
15th	Bruce Krammes, Tyrus Kauffman
17th	Otto Schick
18th	Kyle Brady
20th	Elizabeth Sunday
23rd	Krystal Cooke
25th	Jonah Kuehner, Sarah McWhorter, Malachi Kauffman
26th	Charlotte Sunday, Eileen Capion
27th	Alexi Weiskircher
29th	Michele Hamlin
31st	Allen Madeira

### ANNIVERSARIES

2nd	Jon & Karen Kuhns
6th	Warren & Laurie Brantner
19th	Tony & Barb Serafin

## READING MATERIALS

**The Fishwrapper** is available on the table in the foyer. Pick up your copy today! This is a biweekly publication.

**January** issues of **Devozine**(for Teens) and **Pockets** (elementary age) are available on the Welcome Table in the Lobby.

We have a new Church Library available for you to borrow books. There are several topics to choose from. The library is located in the Sunday school classroom next to the Pastor's office. Please use the blue sign out book when you borrow a book to read. Thank you.

## THIS—N—THAT

We are video taping the Sunday morning 10:45 service. We are in need of someone to operate the video equipment. If you are interested, please see Rich Peachey. You can view the video on the church website: [www.wearesalem.org](http://www.wearesalem.org).

**Reading Royals Hocky—Faith & Family Nights.** Information and sign up forms are available in the lobby on the table. If you would like to sign up for the game on Saturday, March 29th the deadline is February 24th. You can also call the church office to order tickets.

**HELP** is **VERY** much needed in Jr. Church & Nursery during the Contemporary service. There are simple lesson plans to follow for Jr. Church, all that is required is a love to teach children about the Lord. If you are interested in serving in either of these two important ministries, please contact Dorinda at the church office. 610-562-5033

**Deadline for the February newsletter and monthly prayer list is Sunday, January 20th**

## A DAY APART

Salem Church will be host to the upcoming Delaware Regional Women's Retreat sponsored by the Women's Ministries Commission. The retreat will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008. In order to prepare for "A Day Apart" we will need several volunteers for the following areas: Registration Table, Committee to prepare and serve the luncheon, greeters, music, and to take care of the speakers needs. **We also need someone to be the liaison for the Women's Ministry Commission.** Please contact Dorinda at the church office if you are willing to help in any of these areas.

## TUTORING

Does your child need help with math, science, general history, or English? Call Erica Weiskircher at 610-763-7813 (cell) for more information or to arrange tutoring times.

***There will be a Ministry Council Mtg. on Sunday, January 6th at 6:30 pm.***

If you do not currently have Church offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office at 610-562-5033.

## SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

***Snow Cancellation Policy:*** In the event of a snowstorm on Sunday morning, please use one of the following avenues to find out if we are still having church services. You can tune into Channel 69 news and check their cancellation list, listen on the radio to WEEU, check the Salem Church website ([www.wearesalem.org](http://www.wearesalem.org)), or as a last resort call the church office and listen to the answering machine. ***We encourage people to call the church only if necessary.***

**Sunday, January 6th will be Communion Sunday.**

### THE 7 UPS!

#### 1. WAKE UP!

Decide to have a good day. "This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

#### 2. DRESS UP!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

#### 3. HUSH UP!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips hoards his soul." (Proverbs 13:3)

#### 4. STAND UP!

.....for what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good...." (Galatians 6:9-10)

#### 5. LOOK UP!

.....to the Lord. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

#### 6. REACH UP!

....for something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

#### 7. LIFT UP

.....your prayers. "Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." (Philippians 4:6)

### A Positive Thought

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring, and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart. What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary. Face it, He's crazy about you!

Invite people to Salem Church that you care about. I thought this was mighty special, just like you. Pass this on and brighten someone's day, and remember....God answers Knee-mail.

## Building Fund Update

<b>Building fund Balance as of 12/31/06</b>		<b>120,174.81</b>
<u>Income and Proceeds from Loan</u>		
2007 Building Fund Income as of 12/24/07	83,035.27	
2007 Interest Income as of 11/30/07	1,972.25	
Transfers from General Fund (15% of Income)	22,267.04	
Draws on Loan from National Conference	<u>483,200.00</u>	
		590,474.56
2007 Expenditures on New Building		
Dueck Construction	337,083.00	
Hurst Excavating	123,140.00	
Rubright Construction—concrete	57,900.00	
Permits and Prints	16,640.55	
Electric—Material & Lebanon Valley Electric	54,872.21	
Musselman's Plumbing	14,512.77	
HVAC design & material	72,811.96	
Fireplace deposit	500.00	
Misc.	91.10	
ICI Paints	<u>1,511.85</u>	
		(679,063.44)
<b>Building Fund Balance as of 12/24/07</b>		<b><u>\$ 31,585.93</u></b>