

Salem Happenings

Reach • Nurture • Inspire • Solve

This Week at Salem Church of God

March 2, 2012

Not A Sermon, Just A Thought from Pastor Moss

In recent days I've been reading the memoir of Eugene Petersen entitled **The Pastor**. You may remember Eugene Petersen as the creator of **The Message** paraphrase of the Bible. In reflecting upon the conditions of today's culture he writes:

"North American culture does not offer congenial conditions in which to live vocationally as a pastor. Men and women who are pastors in America today find that they have entered into a way of life that is in ruins. The vocation of pastor has been replaced by the strategies of religious entrepreneurs with business plans. Any kind of continuity with pastors in times past is virtually nonexistent. We are a generation that feels as if it has to start out from scratch to figure out a way to represent and nurture this richly nuanced and all-involving life of Christ in a country that 'knew not Joseph.'

I love being an American. I love this place in which I have been placed --its language, its history, its energy. But I don't love 'the American way,' its culture and values. I don't love the rampant consumerism that treats God as a product to be marketed. I don't love the dehumanizing ways that turn men, women, and children into impersonal roles and causes and statistics. I don't love the competitive spirit that treats others as rivals and even as enemies. The cultural conditions in which I am immersed require, at least for me, a kind of fierce vigilance to guard my vocation from these cultural pollutants so dangerously toxic to persons who want to follow Jesus in the way that he is Jesus. I wanted my life, both my personal and working life, to be shaped by God and the scriptures and prayer." --Eugene Peterson

Having been a pastor for virtually all of my adult life, I resonate with his observations. Rather than receiving these words as a glum assessment of our culture, they should call us to attention. We have a great and open opportunity for the gospel as we resolve to be the pastors and congregation focused on God's redemptive purposes in the world.

Let's commit ourselves to that end!
See you Sunday!
Pastor Moss



4th Annual Shoes For Orphan Souls Campaign -February 12 - March 9

We are at 24% of our goal with 123 shoes collected! Keep bringing shoes! Help the Children's Ministry collect 500 pairs of shoes during the 4th Annual Shoes for Orphan Souls campaign. Please share this opportunity with co-workers and schools! Shoes for Orphan Souls, a ministry of Buckner International, provide new shoes and socks to orphans and at-risk children in the United States and throughout the world. Due to customs regulations, all shoes must be new. Please place new shoes in the large shoebox in the RAC hallway.



Shoe Packing Party

Saturday, March 10 at 10:00 a.m., Gym (RAC)-*We need your help!* We'll count and organize all the donations received during the Shoes for Orphan Souls campaign and ready for shipment to the warehouse. Register on the Salem website under upcoming events. Don't miss this great opportunity for your family to be a part of the big shoe packing party. Contact Heather Bench at (937) 245-0317.

Father & Daughter Event

Friday, March 9, at Salem, pictures begin at 6:15 p.m., event 6:30-8 p.m. This Father (or any positive male role model) and Daughter Event is FREE and sponsored by Mpact. Come join us for a night full of desserts, music, games, and fun! Come dressed up or casual. RSVP to Craig by March 4 at childrensministry@salemchurch.org or ext. 112.

Salem Offers Online Giving

Your partnership in the ongoing ministry of Salem Church of God has never been more important or more simple. You can now make financial contributions to Salem through our secure online system. For more info or to make a contribution you can visit our secure web page by [clicking here](#).

Quick Links:

SalemChurch.org

[Prayer Request](#)

[Audio Sermons Online](#)

[Online Giving](#)

Trailblazers

**Catered Luncheon & Program
Thursday, March 8, 12 p.m.,
Salem Gathering Place**

We invite you to join this friendly group of mostly retired folks for fun and fellowship. Rob's will provide meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw, rolls and butter. Meals are \$7 per person, payable at door. Reservations not necessary. Mark Snow, a baritone vocalist, will perform 14-16 songs covering 60 years of music from the 1930s through the 1980s. You won't want to miss this great program full of oldies but goodies! Contact Beth at ext. 115.

Salem Men's Softball

Interested in playing some ball this spring/summer? We have 2 teams that play on Thursday at Salem and a younger men's team on Monday night at Camp Mac, Vandalia. Call Ed Kelley at 545-0987 for Thursdays and John Kettering at 684-0271 for Mondays. Practice is now going on in gym on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. Join us anytime.

Flower Sale for Missions

Spring is just around the corner. Women of the Word is having their annual flower sale. Stop by the table and order your flowers for summer. These make great Mother's Day gifts. Proceeds go for mission projects.

Tour Gospel Mission

Saturday, March 10, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.-This is an opportunity to learn about the ministries at the Gospel Mission. You will be amazed how God is working for the needy at this location. Contact Jeanie Rarick at RarickGJ@Gmail.com or 833-4405.

Bloom!

Thursday, April, 26, 7:00 p.m., Church Lobby
Ladies, mark your calendar for Bloom! A special evening of celebration, conversation and connection



Just Imagine!

All church study beginning March 25

Just imagine what life could be like for you and your family if you were able to live debt free! No more hassles about finances. Arguments over money disappear. No more living with too much month at the end of your money. Sound impossible? We're here to help you! Together, we're going to walk through an amazing journey. And you're going to see some dramatic changes in your family, as well as your church family.

Upcoming Weekly sermon:

March 25 - Facing Discontentment
April 1 - The House of the Wise
April 15 - Counting the Cost
April 22 - The Chains of Debt
April 29 - Outrageous Giving



We are inviting everyone to get involved in this study! Adult Sunday School classes who have chosen to follow along with the "Just Imagine Sermon Series" include: Lifescope, JOY Class, Parent Zone and Questors. Adult small group information is on Salem's website at www.SalemChurch.org. PDF's of material are available for download. Another opportunity to participate in Financial Peace University is coming soon!

The Preschool and Elementary Sunday School classes will be tackling topics such as: be happy with what you have, always count the cost and God loves a cheerful giver. Each topic has a corresponding Bible account along with activities in class to make it stick. This is an exciting opportunity for kids to learn what the Bible says about money!

We're locking arms, trusting God, and boldly embracing His principles for handling money -and we're excited about what we'll discover together. Won't you join us?

Giving

Weekly Need: \$34,815

**Offering 2/26/12:
\$22,408.14**

Focus 40

Feb. 29-April 8

Salem Church of God is joining with congregations around the globe who are uniting in 40 days of fasting and prayer, from February 29 to April 8, 2012. The goal? For 25,000 individuals to become disciples of Jesus Christ. To guide and support you on this 40-day journey with God, Church of God Ministries' Transformation Team has assembled resources that will enhance your spiritual focus, including daily prayer and devotional calendars for children, youth and adults.

[Click here for devotional calendar](#)
(scroll to Free Resources)

Salem Sewing Ministries

Sewing for Jesus

Mondays, 1-4 p.m., Room 310
You can make a difference in our World! Since 2003, this outreach ministry has distributed over 12,000 blankets worldwide! We invite you to join us in making flannel baby blankets for God's needy babies. All materials furnished. We need sewers and cutters. Sewers, please bring your machine. Enter Door 3 or 8. Contact [Barb](#) at 832-6348.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

March 8, 6-8 p.m., Room 310
Those who would like to work on hats are reminded to bring your Knifty Knitter. Contact [Charlene](#) at 239-8563.

Salem Supports Troops

**March 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,
Room 310**

Join us for the Hugs Project. As always, we need help from those who sew and those who don't. If you sew, bring your sewing machine and tan thread. Contact [Charlene](#) at 239-8563.



6500 Southway Rd., Clayton, OH 45315, 937-836-6500, www.SalemChurch.org

If you have a medical emergency and need to contact a staff person after office hours call 937-474-9753.