

The Forecaster

December 2010

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 22, No. 12



Salem
United Methodist Church



Our Celebration of the Birth of our Lord

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday, December 24, 2010

5:00pm

We have good news to share! Come and celebrate! Invite everyone you know to join us in this celebration of the birth of Jesus. We will enjoy Christmas carols, the story of Jesus' birth and more.

11:00pm

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a candlelight service and holy communion. We'll read Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14 and Luke 2:1-20. Holiness and mystery accompany the night of Jesus' birth.

From the Pastor....

We Made It

After nearly two-and-a-half years, Salem gathered for our first worship services in our own, new location. God is good! Considering it was new for all of us, our first Sunday went very well. We had about 209 people in the two services. As I write this, we are preparing for our Grand Opening celebration. Following the ancient tradition, we will consecrate the church building for the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of Holy Communion.



At the beginning of this year, the big question for Salem was: Where would we land as a congregation? Like the Israelites who wandered in the wilderness for forty years before entering the Promised Land, it felt like Salem did not have a home. The flood in 2008 forced Salem on a journey.

Now we have taken our first steps in a new place. In many ways it feels like we need a moment to take a breath and relax a bit. It is good to celebrate and thank God for the ways in which God has taken care of us.

While we celebrate, it is good to remember our new building is not just a place for us to gather. It is a base of operations for our mission. I like how the Department of Defense uses the term *infrastructure* to refer to all buildings and permanent installations necessary for the support of military forces when they are deployed in operations (barracks, headquarters, airfields, communications, military equipment, etc.). Likewise, the church needs buildings or other installations to support the body of Christ as we are deployed in our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

So congratulations, Salem. We made it! I hope we will be encouraged now that we have finally landed. I hope we can take a breath and relax a bit. I hope we will celebrate all

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the goodness of God. I hope we will participate in God's mission to bring Salem (*shalom*, peace, wholeness) to the world, especially to the neighborhoods surrounding our new home.

Christmas Is Not Your Birthday

Once again, the Church continues to challenge the way we live during December. The Church says, "**Christmas is not your birthday. Celebrate your birthday when it is your birthday. Celebrate Jesus' birthday on Christmas.**" Shopping and spending money on stuff does not celebrate Jesus' birthday. Jesus said he came to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free (Luke 4:18). Jesus did not come so some of the wealthiest people in the world (that is us) could have more stuff.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. Still, it is not about consumption but compassion. It is not about presents but presence. It is a time to be generous. Therefore, I want to challenge us all to celebrate Jesus' birth by giving to mission with our money (and our time and service, too!). The Missions Committee has identified Heifer International as a mission emphasis for our entire congregation to support. You can read more about Heifer and ways our congregation can give in the Mission News on page 5. Salem has a wonderful heart for mission.

This could be hardest for those of us with younger children or grandchildren. In my own family we have been talking about this for a couple of years. It is essential that we form our children as Christians. That does not mean we cannot decorate or share presents or celebrate all the goodness of Christmas. It does mean we have to struggle constantly against the ways our children are formed in the world. This will not happen easily or quickly. I am challenging us to give at least an equal amount to mission. Even buying one less present, though, and giving the money to those in need is a good start. If you have any questions about how to go about this, please do not hesitate to contact me. May we live in such a way that our lives proclaim, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

Grace and peace to you,
John Louk

Worship Preview

Worship Preview

With the season of Advent we begin a new year on the Christian calendar. The liturgical color for this season is blue, symbolizing hope. Our scriptures help us prepare for Christmas. Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. It is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." The season proclaims the coming of the Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. (*The United Methodist Book of Worship*)

We will finally begin the twelve-day Christmas celebration with Christmas Eve worship services at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm. Come and celebrate with the whole family. Invite everyone you know to join us for this celebration of Jesus' birthday! This is one of the best times of the year to invite others to come to worship. We will enjoy Christmas carols, candles, the story of Jesus' birth, a special time for children (5:00 pm), Holy Communion (11:00 pm), and more. The liturgical color is white, symbolizing joy and festivity. Come and worship (contemporary worship at 9:00 am and traditional worship at 11:00 am).

Advent and Christmas

Dec 5 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10	The Peaceful Kingdom
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Prayer for Guidance and Support for the King
Romans 15:4-13	The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike
Matthew 3:1-12	The Proclamation of John the Baptist
Holy Communion	

Dec 12 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10	The Return of the Redeemed to Zion
Luke 1:47-55	Mary's Song of Praise
James 5:7-10	Patience in Suffering
Matthew 11:2-11	Messengers from John the Baptist

Dec 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16	Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's Restoration
Romans 1:1-7	Called to Belong to Jesus Christ
Matthew 1:18-25	The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Dec 24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7	The Righteous Reign of the Coming King
Psalm 96	Praise to God Who Comes in Judgment
Titus 2:11-14	The Grace of God Has Appeared
Luke 2:1-20	The Birth of Jesus and the Angels and Shepherds

Dec 26 First Sunday After Christmas Day

Isaiah 63:7-9	God's Mercy Remembered
Psalm 148	Praise for God's Universal Glory
Hebrews 2:10-18	Exaltation Through Suffering
Matthew 2:13-23	The Escape to Egypt and Massacre of Infants

NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

By Dorothy Higdon



It's Not Your Birthday! Consider the following.

Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant. Give to Heifer International. Your donation can be done on line at www.heifer.org or through Salem Church, mark your gift Heifer or look for the gift list and choose the animal you would like to give. (Watch for a list in an upcoming bulletin)

Elleen of NY said" I loved my Heifer gift. I don't need more knickknacks. Knowing a family gets a goat, and can be self-sufficient is a great positive thing to bring into the world."

Want to make a difference for families in Cedar Rapids. Golden Links offering will go to help Matthew 25 give food to families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. (Mark donations to Golden Links)

Choose another mission that makes a difference in the lives of others. Many missions in Cedar Rapids provide for those in need.

Thank You for your support of mission through Salem Church all year long. The preliminary report from Ingathering was that across Iowa at 5 locations the gifts total was \$984,916. A note of thanks to all who helped in any way comes from the Iowa Coordinators.

A peaceful Advent and Christmas, Salem's Mission Committee.

Salem Snow and Cancellation Policy

As a general rule **when Cedar Rapids Public Schools cancel activities due to snow and winter storms, Salem, too, will cancel activities.** The three area television stations will be contacted to show our cancellations, but because the CR schools info is usually displayed quickly and prominently it will be easier for members to locate and know when events have been cancelled at Salem.

The Salem Website (www.SalemChurchCR.com) and Blog (salemcongregation.blogspot.com) will be updated with weather related information as it becomes necessary.



United Methodist Women News **December 2010** Sharon Busch, UMW President

As we come to an end of 2010 the UMW would like to thank those who participated in collecting items for a total of 151 school kits and 86 health kits. This was truly an all church effort organized by the Salem United Methodist Women. We are in the process of distributing our remaining funds for the year. We have donated \$350 to Bidwell Riverside Center for their rebuilding after a flood this summer. Another donation of \$150 will be given for this project as well as \$150 for their Christmas Sharing Day. After much discussion concerning how to distribute our remaining funds, we have decided to give a donation of \$500 to Waypoint. Last year Waypoint sheltered 296 women and children, (a 33 % increase). They also helped 1,383 new victims of violence (a 21% increase), provided food and toiletries to 3,046 women and children (a 28% increase, answered the 24/7 crisis phone line 2,410 times (a 23% increase), and assisted 112 families in receiving financial assistance for quality child care.

The Rachel Circle will meet December 9th at 5:55 pm at the home of Judy Arruda, 3555 Stoney Point Road SW for our annual Christmas Party. Pat Conrad is furnishing the meal. Everyone is asked to bring the amount you would have spent on a potluck item and a gift to be given as a donation to the Pastor's Help Fund.

Thank you to everyone who voted for Salem's antique quilt when it was displayed at Cottage Grove Place. While it was not the quilt with the most votes, we had a wonderful opportunity to share its story and show what the faith of long ago quilters helped create.

Women's Care Group

We will be changing our meetings to the 1st Sunday of each month following second worship. We will begin with prayer and potluck style lunch, and proceed to our study.

We are doing an informal prayer study directly from the Bible and Hymnals, with reflection on the relational aspects to current living situations and Salem UMC.

Rita Felker

Thank you, Thank you, Thank yous!

The end of November marks the end of the work of the Building Task Force for our new Salem location. It has been a good run with countless hours of planning and acting on those plans, we have learned a great deal from the experience. We have been blessed with many helping hands from our Salem family, as well as with good contractors, all of whom had the patience and sense of humor they needed to work with us. We are grateful!

A special thank you to Bob Thompson who worked tirelessly on the sound booth and flooring project, Richard Pankey who made the portable classrooms happen, Joy Louk for spearheading the painting project, Paul Vieira for getting the audio/visual system in place, Louis Bush for his electrical expertise and for installing the ceiling fans, Sharon Varva for making sure all the necessary communications were coordinated, paperwork was handled properly, Linda Jandik for making the new kitchen happen, and Pastor John for keeping us focused both spiritually and mentally. Each of these individuals did many other things as well in the course of four months in an effort to make the entire project come together.

We hope you are pleased with our efforts. We will have some bugs to work out as we settle in and changes will be made where they are needed. Thank you for your suggestions, your patience, your understanding and at difficult times, your forgiveness.

Mark Minger, Chairperson
Building Task Force
Salem United Methodist Church

December Birthdays

- 1 Jennifer Sanders
- 2 Ginnie Clark
- 3 Saffie Kamara
- 8 Rosie Bascom
- 8 Jerry Jelinek
- 10 Corely Washburn
- 12 Marsha Bradley
- 13 Linden Hague
- 15 Jerry DeMarrais
- 15 Lorrie Holcomb
- 16 Shari Kendall
- 19 Shaun Holcomb
- 19 Susan Lillard



- 20 Cary Dixon
- 20 Sandy Minger
- 20 Jack Moyer
- 21 Jeff Cook
- 21 Jerry Munier
- 25 Mark Nall
- 25 Grace Thompson
- 26 Marlene Primrose
- 28 Joanna King
- 29 Joyce Jayne
- 31 Kyla Rand



(Please let us know if we have missed you.)



December Anniversaries

- 3 Bill & Susie Heald
- 22 Mike & Melinda Weaverling
- 26 Tim & Linda Nolan



SUMMARY OF SALEM'S INCOME & EXPENSE Through Oct. 31, 2010

OPERATING BUDGET	ACTUALS		BUDGET	
	YTD THRU		YTD THRU	
	Oct. 2010	% of income	Oct. 2010	% of income
Budget Gifts/Income				
Budget Offering (2010)	\$141,126.99	95.57%	\$170,666.66	93.03%
Loose Offering	\$862.68	0.57%	\$2,083.32	1.14%
Parsonage Rent	\$7,000.00	4.59%	\$10,000.00	5.45%
Blairs Ferry Property Rent	\$700.00	0.46%	\$700.00	0.38%
Transfer from Missions	\$2,272.00			
TOTAL GIFTS/INCOME	\$152,461.67	100.00%	\$183,449.98	100%
BUDGET EXPENSE (Fixed)				
Wages	\$83,312.39	54.64%	\$82,891.67	45.18%
FICA/Medicare - Church Portion	\$1,805.80	1.18%	\$2,166.67	1.18%
Pastoral Pension/Medical	\$18,157.00	11.91%	\$16,869.17	9.20%
Conference Apportionment	\$13,008.44	8.53%	\$45,000.00	24.53%
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$75.68	0.05%	\$1050.00	0.64%
Utilities	\$1,138.97	0.75%	\$2,866.67	1.56%
Insurance	\$2,960.74	1.76%	\$4,166.67	2.27%
Advertising/Web	\$3,755.98	2.46%	\$4,166.67	2.27%
Shared Cost—Kenwood Park UMC	\$16,295.45	10.69%	\$10,200.00	5.56%
Trans from Checking to Missions	\$3,000.00	1.97%	\$3,000.00	1.64%
TOTAL FIXED EXPENSE	\$143,240.45	93.95%	\$172,494.19	94.03%
BUDGET EXPENSE (VARIABLE)				
Staff Parish - Other Expense	\$3,746.24	2.46%	\$4,500.01	2.45%
Other Trustee Expense	\$9,719.09	6.37%	\$5,933.34	3.23%
Other Office/Finance	\$3,551.53	2.33%	\$5,375.00	2.93%
Worship	\$1,124.83	0.74%	\$2,208.33	1.20%
Congregational Nurturing	\$445.50	0.29%	\$291.66	0.16%
Education	\$52.70	0.03%	\$416.67	0.23%
TOTAL VARIABLE EXPENSE	\$18,639.89	12.23%	\$18,725.01	10.21%
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSE	\$161,880.34	106.18%	\$191,219.20	104.24%
2010 NET BUDGET GAIN(LOSS)	(\$9,418.67)	-6.18%	(\$7,769.22)	-4.24%

Is Your Pledge Up To Date?



United Methodist Men News

December 2010 Gary Lee Novak, UMM President

Come ONE Come ALL

Greetings Men; This is the end of another great, and eventful year. This month we men are opening our breakfast to all, It is called the **All Church Breakfast**; however I would like, on the behalf of we men, for you folks to also invite someone who may not yet be a part of Salem Church to this breakfast.

We are entering a new building, a new location, a time of new. The United Methodist Men excited about putting on this breakfast in new surroundings.

We do have guest speakers. Keith and Joan Mithelman will share their presentation on the Heifer Project International. I believe they bring a wealth of knowledge to us.

Now the details.... The breakfast is at Salem United Methodist Church, 3715 33rd Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, the 4th of December at 8:00 am. We plan to start serving at 8 or close to.

I ask that Jesus grant Peace to us all

Mark 9 : 50 "Salt is good, but if loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

As always, if anyone has any questions regarding the Salem United Methodist Men, feel free to contact Gary Novak, at 319-521-2944 or garytoo@netins.net

**Have your Blood Pressure checked in fellowship hall from 10:10-10:50am.
Everybody welcome Dec 12th , Jan 16 and 30th .**

Anyone who needs help reviewing or changing Medicare D or Advantage plans can call or bring list of your drugs to me at church and I will run a computer comparison and let you see if you want to make a change. This must be done by Dec 19th .



Judy Cowan 396-3996 gramee44@imonmail.com



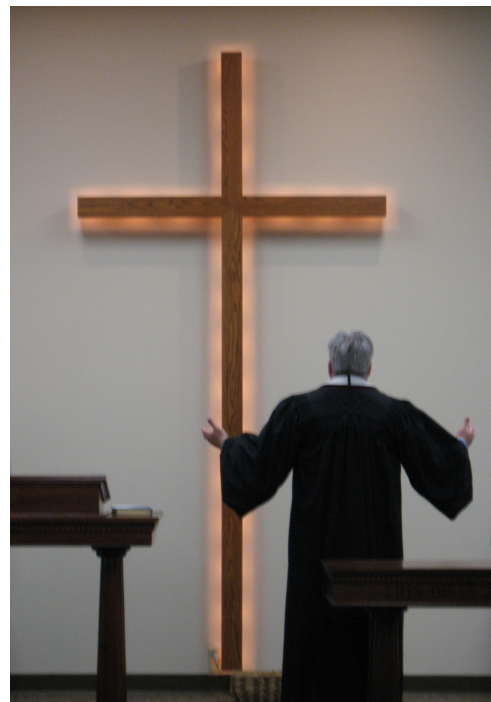
DECEMBER SALEM C

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Choir Practice
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:00 Lectionary Class 10:10—Sunday School Classes 10:10—Fellowship Time 11:00 Traditional Worship	6	7 9:30am Prayer Room	8 Choir Practice
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:00 Lectionary Class 10:10—Sunday School Classes 10:10—Fellowship Time 11:00 Traditional Worship	13 Noon—Golden Links	14 9:30am Prayer Room 5:15pm Leadership Board	15 Choir Practice
19 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:00 Lectionary Class 10:10—Sunday School Classes 10:10—Fellowship Time 11:00 Traditional Worship Women's Care Group	20	21 9:30am Prayer Room	22 <u>Forecast</u> Choir Practice
26 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:00 Lectionary Class 10:10—Sunday School Classes 10:10—Fellowship Time 11:00 Traditional Worship	27	28 9:30am Prayer Room 12:30 Cards & Fellowship	29

CHURCH CALENDAR 2010

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Practice	2 3:30pm Green square Meals	3	4 8:00 am UMM /All Church Advent Breakfast 12:00-6:00pm —Mingers Shower for Erin Clark
Practice	9 9:30am Sarah Circle, room 104 5:55pm Rachel Circle at— KPUMC, room 104	10	11
Practice	16	17	18
<u>Weeks 1-4</u> Week 5 <u>Week 6</u> Week 7 <u>Week 8</u> Week 9 <u>Week 10</u> Week 11 <u>Week 12</u> Week 13 <u>Week 14</u> Week 15 <u>Week 16</u> Week 17 <u>Week 18</u> Week 19 <u>Week 20</u> Week 21 <u>Week 22</u> Week 23 <u>Week 24</u> Week 25 <u>Week 26</u> Week 27 <u>Week 28</u> Week 29 <u>Week 30</u> Week 31 <u>Week 32</u> Week 33 <u>Week 34</u> Week 35 <u>Week 36</u> Week 37 <u>Week 38</u> Week 39 <u>Week 40</u> Week 41 <u>Week 42</u> Week 43 <u>Week 44</u> Week 45 <u>Week 46</u> Week 47 <u>Week 48</u> Week 49 <u>Week 50</u> Week 51 <u>Week 52</u> Week 53 <u>Week 54</u> Week 55 <u>Week 56</u> Week 57 <u>Week 58</u> Week 59 <u>Week 60</u> Week 61 <u>Week 62</u> Week 63 <u>Week 64</u> Week 65 <u>Week 66</u> Week 67 <u>Week 68</u> Week 69 <u>Week 70</u> Week 71 <u>Week 72</u> Week 73 <u>Week 74</u> Week 75 <u>Week 76</u> Week 77 <u>Week 78</u> Week 79 <u>Week 80</u> Week 81 <u>Week 82</u> Week 83 <u>Week 84</u> Week 85 <u>Week 86</u> Week 87 <u>Week 88</u> Week 89 <u>Week 90</u> Week 91 <u>Week 92</u> Week 93 <u>Week 94</u> Week 95 <u>Week 96</u> Week 97 <u>Week 98</u> Week 99 <u>Week 100</u>	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion	25  CHRISTMAS
Practice	30 3:30pm Green square Meals 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal @ KPUMC	31 6:00pm Wedding @ KPUMC Erin Clark/Jim Archambeau	

The people of Salem Church gather to worship on November 21st at 3715—33rd Avenue SW





Summaries of Reports of the Leadership Board -Salem UMC

Meeting Notes 11-9-2010

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Building Task Force report –

●Corrective work for the two modular buildings is being completed. The nursery building should be ready for use on the 21st, but use of the Sunday School building may be delayed by a couple weeks. Projects in the main building are nearing completion. ●Plans are to move the offices next week. ●Kathy Milroy will be in charge of planning a “Kitchen Show-er” to help restock the kitchen with items that could not be salvaged after the flood or used in food prep, such as anything porous or plastic. ●Any members with items from the down-town building stored at their homes need to notify the church office of what they have ASAP. ●A final inspection by the city will need to be scheduled.

Church and Pastor’s office move to new location-

There have been problems getting internet for the building (New Creation used dial-up service). Qwest will hook-up 1.5 megabit service on Monday. MediaCom will need a minimum of 60 to 90 days to trench in service. Other companies are not available for the location. The new phone system will require internet service, as will the computers. The offices will be moved next week after the internet and phone service is hooked up.

Parsonage -

A potential renter who had asked about having the rent lowered for the first few months has not responded to calls back from Deb Black. The Leadership Board agreed that the rent could be lowered initially in order to get the parsonage rented as soon as possible. We need the rental income, and to have a renter paying the utilities. Deb will continue to try to contact the potential renter. An ad for the parsonage will be placed in the Gazette again if there is no response.

Buyout update-

A Phase II Environmental study is being required by the city for the church properties due to the proximity of a gas station in previous years. Hiring the study done ourselves, then being reimbursed for the cost at the time of the buyout is the faster way to get the process done rather than waiting for the city to contract and make the upfront payment for the study. We have contracted with Braun Intertec, the company with the lowest bid of six companies, and that has been highly recommended. The study will begin in a week and the report should be delivered to the city by early December, before the next city council meeting. If the study would show contaminants (not including flood related contaminants) we

Continued on page 1

would have to pay for the clean-up, but would then be able to sue the party responsible for the contamination to recoup the cost. If the study shows that the property is clean, we hope to be able to prevent further delays in the receipt of the buyout checks for the two smaller properties. The main building/property buyout will likely be after the first of the year regardless of the study results.

Outreach –

Cards with information about the “Grand Opening” and schedule for services will be hand delivered to homes in the area during Prayer Walking on Wednesday night and on Saturday, November 13. A direct mailing will not be done at this time due to time restraints and cost. The new website should be up in another week.

Finance report –

●Income/offerings continue to be down. ●Chuck Scott reported that he has used interest earned on investments to pay off indebtedness to ourselves for monies borrowed for the kitchen and bell tower work that was done in past years downtown. Continued offerings designated for “growth & debt” will now be put toward future growth funds. ●The operating budget is currently approximately \$10,000 in the hole.

Nursery Paid Position-

A woman who had interviewed with Kenwood Park, and was their top choice (but there was a scheduling problem at the time) is very interested in being the paid nursery attendant for Salem on Sunday mornings. Shannon will set up an interview time with her asap.

Pastor’s Comments –

●A facilities use policy needs to be prepared for the new location. We have agreed to wait 6 months before making use of the building available for outside groups, but have already had some requests from members. ●The money that was refunded (due to an error) to Salem from the company that made the new pulpit and communion table was offered to First UMC of Marion. FUMC had gifted the money for the two items to Salem. They have said they would like us to use the refund for other needs in the sanctuary.

Pastor John led members in prayer at the close of the meeting.

Next meetings – November 23 and December 14

Continued on page 16

Summaries of Reports of the Leadership Board -Salem UMC

Meeting Notes 11-23-2010

Linda Curson opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Our first Sunday in the new location had attendance of 98 at the first service and 111 at the second service. Good comments were heard from people in attendance.

Building Task Force updates

Roger Prasil and a crew from Brothers Three plan to anchor the classroom building this week. After that is complete the ramp and deck will be built. Louis Busch has added heat in the modular building restrooms so the temperature will not go below 50°.

Key Policy –

Keys to the new building will be given only to people who will have an ongoing need for them, such as

Committee chairs that will need them for meetings, staff, etc. The code for the security system will likewise be shared only with people needing to enter the building when staff is not present. The initial list of key holders will be based on the list of those who had keys at KPUMC. Approval of the list will be made by the Leadership Board.

Parsonage-

Availability of the parsonage for rental is again being advertised in the Gazette, Penny Saver and online. Deb Black will contact Don Knapp for advice on using a rental agency.

Nursery hiring –

We are waiting for reference checks and results of a background check on a woman we have interviewed. The nursery attendants who had been employed at KPUMC have also expressed interest. Until someone is hired volunteers will staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. We do want to hire one attendant who will be there every week and provide consistency for the kids.

Buy out update –

Lana of JCJ Land Services is out of the office this week so we do not have an update report from her. The drilling for the Phase II Environmental Study was to begin this week. We hope to have the report from that before the first December City Council meeting to help expedite the process.

Facility Use Policy –

●Salem has had a lengthy and complicated policy for use of our building in the past. It was not used, in part, due to the complicated nature. A new, simpler policy needs to be created. Pastor John will bring in samples of generic church facility use policies for the Leadership Board to look at. Pastor John and Sharon Vavra will take care of screening and calendaring use requests until a policy is ready.

Christmas Eve-

Services on Christmas Eve will be at 5:00 and 11:00 pm. We will purchase a couple poinsettia plants for decoration. Due to lack of space we will not offer purchase of plants to everyone. We will do as we did, very successfully, last year and offer the opportunity to members to give towards Christmas meal boxes for persons in need. This can be done in memory or honor of family and friends and names will be listed on a bulletin insert.

Assimilation plans –

We will track visitors using the bulletin communication slips. Percy took cookies and greetings to some of the first time visitors this past Sunday.

Healthy Church Initiative –

Pastor John shared information and an invitation for Salem to participate in a pilot program in the East Central District to help churches that have been in decline, suffered catastrophes, and have other needs. The Leadership Board agreed that participation would be good for Salem. We will be able to opt out at any time if the program does not seem to be appropriate as we go through it.

One Leadership Board Structure –

●Other area churches are requesting information and advice on adopting the One Leadership Board that Salem has been operating with for the last two years. It is being promoted by the district and conference. St. James UMC may send a couple people to sit in on our next meeting to observe. ●Members of the congregation have expressed desire to be more involved in projects and work of the Leadership Board. Addition of “resource teams” to assist when needed will be planned.

Finance –

●Chuck is looking at the 2011 operating budget. He estimates that our income will be \$200,000. It was recommended by LB members that 2 or 3 more people assist with planning the budget. ●Apportionments - Pastor John recommends that we not attempt to pay apportionments until our finances turn around. He said that the District Stewardship Committee would like to come talk to us to hear Salem’s story and share that with the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

Softball diamond request –

We’ve received a request from a school to use the softball diamond for baseball practice. We need to learn more about their needs and plans as baseball and softball diamonds require different distances and set up.

Pastor’s comments –

●Child size wood chairs for the classrooms have been received as a gift from Mason City First UMC.
●Consecration Service on Sunday - Rev. David Crow, our Conference Superintendent will be here to help us consecrate our new building. Dick Talbott and Dave Clark will also participate.

Coming soon to a computer near you—Salem’s new website!

www.SalemChurchCR.com

Once again we give our thanks to Deborah Curson-Vieira who has expertly developed a new website for us. With the website you will be able to download a color copy of the newsletter, see bulletins, listen to a sermon you missed, and enjoy many other features. The website will be great to point guests and friends to for more information about visiting Salem.

Going to Church by Marva Dawn

We have all heard the plaintive cry from kids, "Why do I have to go to church?" Here are some answers that I give them:

1. We're not going to church; You are the church - and we go to worship so that we learn how to be church.
2. We need you with us in worship because those who are old and tired need your smiles and vitality.
3. The congregation cannot get along without you. Just as your body needs every single part - like your eyes, your nose, your mouth, your hands and feet - so the church needs every single person to make it whole. Perhaps this Sunday some persons will need you to be eyes or hands for them.
4. You need the gifts of worship because you will learn things there that will make sense later. Almost every week I learn something that comes up in the days that follow.
5. If you pay close attention to the words of the songs and the scripture readings and the liturgy, you will learn all kinds of new things about God. Since God is infinitely incomprehensible, all of life is an adventure in getting to know him better, but worship is especially rich with his presence.
6. Attending worship will teach you skills for your Christian life - skills like how to pray, how to sing, how to sit quietly in God's presence, how to study the Bible.
7. I need you to come to worship because I have cancer and am taking chemotherapy, which makes me too sick to sing, so I need you to stand beside me and sing for both of us. (This is not an answer I give right now, but it was a very important answer for three-fourths of a year.)
8. The congregation needs the talents you bring to worship - your singing voice in the hymns, your ability to learn new songs quickly, your ability to read the Scripture lessons well, your help with the ushering, your warmth and friendliness in the "Passing of the Peace," the answers you give during the children's sermon, your modeling of reverence for the other children. (This point makes us realize how much more all our churches need to do to engage the children more practically in the actions of worship.)
9. When I preach, I need to watch you to see if what I am saying is understandable to people your age. I need you to give me critiques when the worship service is over.
10. Most important, God needs you there because he loves to be with you in his house.

(Marva Dawn, quoted in *Being Church: Forming Character*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995, p. 256)

A message from our sisters and brothers at Trinity UMC, received along with countless dozens of cookies for our first fellowship time at 33rd Avenue on November 21, 2010

Trinity United Methodist Church
400 Third Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

November 21, 2010

To Our Brothers and Sisters at Salem United Methodist Church,

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart for your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be Strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:7-9 NIV

As it was for the Israelites when God led them into the land He selected for them, so too it is for the land that He, in His eternal plan, has selected for Salem!

We at Trinity share in your excitement on this great day in Salem’s history as you enter a new mission field, full of endless possibilities and opportunity as you proceed in sharing the Gospel with a world sorely in need of hearing it! We share a common bond—and common experiences that pre-date the flood many times over—but the one thing that we share most of all is the mission that God lays before us.

One thing has become very clear to us at Trinity in our journey moving forward, and my prayer is that it is clear to Salem, as well—that we are temporary stewards given an awesome responsibility during our time on earth, but at the end of the day, “our” church—be it Trinity or Salem—doesn’t belong to us. It belongs to Jesus Christ, and His mission is the only one that matters!

Please enjoy this small token of our love and affection for all of you, and again, congratulations and God bless you all—your NEW harvest field awaits. Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations!

On behalf of all the saints at Trinity UMC,
Pastor Bob Voels
CR Trinity UMC

The Forecaster 12/10

Salem United Methodist Church
3715—33rd Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Pastor: Rev. John Louk

319-362-6178

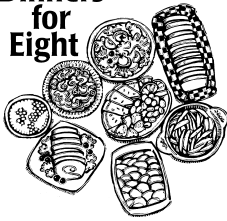
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Dinners for Eight



Dinner for Eight Groups to Reform

The next Dinner for Eight session is now being formed. The activity is designed to set up groups of eight people to gather together for food and fellowship over the succeeding 4 months. We are nearing the completion of the current series and are now organizing new groups of eight for the next one. Look for information and sign up soon in the Sunday bulletins. Groups of 8 will be formed and everyone notified so that groups can start meeting in January. Participants have returned glowing reports of having a great time while enjoying excellent food. This format allows us to join in fellowship with our Salem friends and get to know each other in a closer and more meaningful way.

Watch your bulletins for a sign-up insert, or call Dave & Ginnie Clark (393-5172)

