



# SFBC FAMILY NEWS

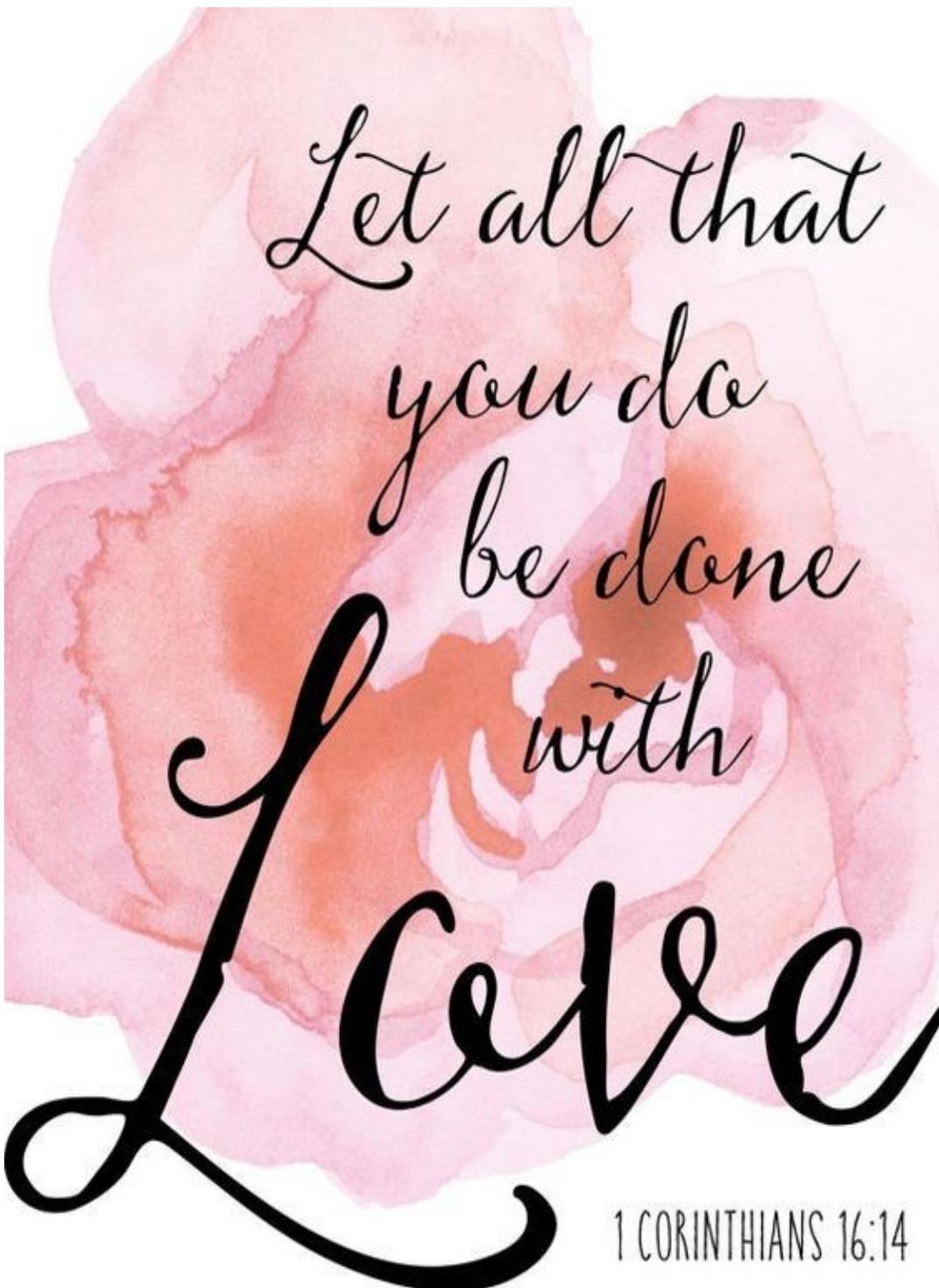
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Pastor,  
Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

Last month I stressed the importance of the church (or any organization for that matter) moving in the same direction. (Remember the men in the boat on the TV Series *Hawaii Five O* from the 1970s? In order to move forward, they paddled in the same direction.) In order for a church to move forward she, too, must be composed of people moving in the same direction.

You should also recall that the church in Acts was committed to four priorities. These are listed in Acts 2:42 *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer* (NASB). The first of those priorities is what I wish to discuss briefly this month.

The “apostles’ teaching” was embraced by the early Christians. These believers “continually devoted themselves” to what they were taught by those that has been commissioned by the Lord Jesus to carry His message to all the world. The apostles taught by preaching and teaching; some of them wrote letters that are in our New Testaments. Notice the words that describe the new believers’ attitudes and actions: they “continually devoted themselves” to the apostles’ teaching. They hung on every word and it wasn’t only learning that’s the focus here, but it would have also included obeying what they learned.

We should do the same. We have the apostles’ teaching from the first verse of Matthew to the last verse of Revelation. The apostles used the Old Testament for the scriptural texts in order to preach with biblical authority. So, the Old Testament is also included in the apostles’ teaching.

The Bible informs us of a threat to the apostles’ teaching—that threat is a twisting, a rejection, a substitution of the apostles’ teaching to something that people want to hear. Paul writes:

<sup>1</sup> *Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,* (1 Timothy 4:1 ESV). This is happening at an alarming rate today; although few seem to notice. Be aware that there are many substitutes for the apostles’ teaching that are actually the teachings of demons. And this is not new.

For example, one of the greatest (if not the greatest) Baptist preacher was C. H. Spurgeon. During his later life, he was involved in what he called the “Downgrade Controversy. This is what he said, in part, about it.

Believers in Christ's atonement are now in declared union with those who make light of it; believers in Holy Scripture are in confederacy with those who deny plenary inspiration; those who hold evangelical doctrine are in open alliance with those who call the fall a fable, who deny the personality of the Holy Ghost, who call justification by faith immoral, and hold that there is another probation after death... It is our solemn conviction that there should be no pretense of fellowship. Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin (Spurgeon, Charles Haddon August 1887).

My point: one way that we can all “paddle in the same direction” is to be “continually devoted to the apostles’ teaching. If we don’t know the truth, we cannot live the truth. This is where we must begin.

Grace and Peace,  
Andy

## Associate Pastor, Jon Bell

### Our LIFE Groups

If you are looking for a place to belong here at First Baptist, our LIFE Groups are a great place to start. We have something for every stage and age of life, and the goal is for our groups to emulate Acts 2:42-47.

L- Learning (they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching)

I – Involving (all the believers were together and held everything in common)

F- Fellowshipping (they broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts)

E- Evangelizing (every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved)

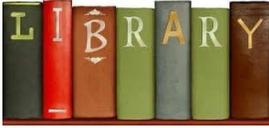
Our groups meet initially on Sunday mornings in what many call Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Each group is asked to be sure that everyone has a purpose. The purpose may be to plan social events, be the prayer leader, the teacher, the visits organizer for those who missed or have health concerns...The groups study God's Word together, have outings and meals together and look out for one another through prayer and support.

Our LIFE groups:

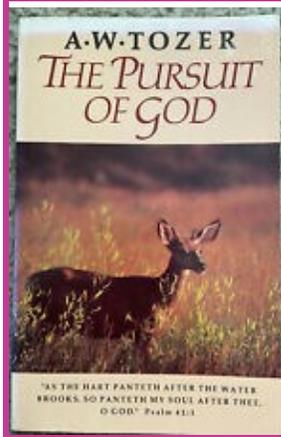
- College - a group for college students who study the Gospel Project for their age range to get a picture of how the whole Bible points to Jesus
- Crossroads – a group mainly comprised of young professionals who study Answers in Genesis in order to be able to give a defense for some of the questions that they will encounter in everyday life
- Growing in Grace - a group made up mainly of young parents who study the adult version of the Gospel Project, what their children study, to help encourage gospel conversations at home
- Providence – a group of mainly young grandparents that may or may not be retired but do a great deal for our church. They study both the Gospel Project and Bible Studies for life which is a topical Bible study written to give examples of how to live out our faith.
- Odds and Ins – A group of grandparents and great grandparents who study the Explore the Bible series, which walks through the Bible and seeks to explore every portion of Scripture
- God's Warriors – An Adult Special Needs group who study a special needs curriculum called Access. This group also gets together often for movie nights and do tons of fun crafts which they often share with people in the church.
- Seniors - our largest group and in many cases our most active group within the church, I have affectingly deemed them the not-dones. They study both the Gospel Project and Bible Studies for Life.
- Pastor's Class – the goal for this class is to be an onramp for newer members into one of the LIFE Groups above. Pastor Andy leads this class and teaches basic truths from Scripture to the group.

We also have children and youth Bible studies from the Gospel Project that take place during the same time that LIFE Groups meet at 9:30 AM. If you need any help finding a group please contact me at the church office: (618) 548-4060 or email me at [jon@salemfbcc.org](mailto:jon@salemfbcc.org).

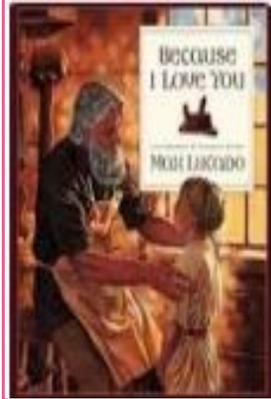
# Library News/Children



Your Librarian  
Sharon Dennis



This book is a modest attempt to aid God's hungry children so to find Him. Nothing here is new except in the sense that it is a discovery which my own heart has made of spiritual realities most delightful and wonderful to me. Others before me have gone much further into these holy mysteries than I have done, but if my fire is not large it is yet real, and there may be those who can light their candle at its flame." – A.W. Tozer



This is a wonderful book that tells the story of a kind and gentle man that has built a stone wall around a village in order to protect the children within it. The man watches after the children in the village, plays with them, cares for them, protects them all the while singing and helping when needed. A little boy asks about the wall and why it is there and wants to see the other side. The boy's curiosity gets the best of him and even though he was advised not to go on the other side of the wall, he finds a hole and does. The boy gets lost but just as he begins to panic the man is there to rescue him, save him when he needs to be saved. It is a very warm and meaningful book.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2019



## Announcements/Poems

*Congratulation to the Family  
of Joann and Mike Holzhausen  
for the arrival of their new  
great -great granddaughter,  
Elizabeth Michelle Applegate!*



**Ladies Chronological  
Bible Study**

**If you would like to  
read the Bible through  
this next year, please  
contact Paula Strother  
at (618)548-0132**

Thankful for the Sun  
By Carrie Braden

Thanks Dear Lord . . . For that Eternal Light  
That beams . . . so bright above  
That changes gloom . . . to pure delight

Thankful . . . for each other day  
The dark clouds . . . and the rain  
For that elated feeling . . . each time  
it breaks out again.

It makes our day at sunrise  
Starts our nights . . . by sunset glow  
Gives faith and hope for each tomorrow  
By its light . . . Down here below

Thankful for . . . the untold ways  
This great plant. . . affects all birth  
Without the sun . . . dear Lord we know  
There could be . . . no place like earth

**A Great Big Thank You From Kathie Bumpers  
to all those that came and help decorate the  
building for Christmas and everyone who  
came to help undecorate.**

*"The Master Speaks"*

*The Master speaks  
Time Stands still  
All is silent  
Revealing His Will*

*Jesus is coming  
Though I know not when  
I live for the moment  
Looking forward to then*

*I am in awe  
I love you so  
My goal is close  
Soon all must go*

*We must prepare  
Angels await  
Our family is gather  
At Heaven's Gate*

*Written by Bev Smith*



**I want to thank all of my friends at F.B.C. Salem for all the phone calls, cards, notes, and especially the prayers. Thank you, Mission Friends for the picture of Derrick and friends. I wish I could answer all of you by notes or phone calls. I miss you all. Keep praying for me as I pray for you.**



**In Christ,  
Lucille Mills**



*On January 6th, Women on Mission began the year with a time of fellowship and hands on mission projects. The group discussed plans for outreach and future mission opportunities. Our next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 3rd at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall, coffee and refreshments will be provided. We will be participating in several mission projects which will include making gifts for our home bound church family members. We will be meeting on March 2nd at 9:30 at the church. We will be touring Angels Cove and taking them some ministry needs.*



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
February 02	Ronnie Donoho	Myron Lloyd	Ken Smith
February 09	Roy Rodgers	Gary Watson	Gerald Purcell
February 16	Tyler Lux	Dale Helpingstine	Ronnie Donoho
February 23	Greg Strother	Jon Wieldt	Gary Watson



DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR	BUTTERFLIES	LADY BUGS
February 02	C. Braden & M. Donoho	L. Bell & E. Dice	S. Rose & J. Purcell
February 09	A. Simmons & E. Blankenship	S. Murfin & A. Hardcastle	U. Smith & S. Peradotti
February 16	M. Ortiz & M. Tabor	D. Reed & B. Helpingstine	G. Hampton & P. Hampton
February 23	A. Hays & A. Hays	S. Salliotte & A. Trammel	S. Wieldt & U. Smith



DATE	TEACHER	LESSON
February 02	Deanna Buerster/Kay & Roy Rodgers	Follow The Map
February 09	Deanna Buerster	Fools Gold
February 16	Deanna Buerster	Lookout For Robbers
February 23	Deanna Buerster	No Children's Church



NORTH ENTRY	EAST ENTRY	SOUTH ENTRY	WELCOME CENTER	HEAD GREETER
Don Lingafelter	Carrie Braden & Deric Rice	Gary Watson	Karen Watson	Carrie Braden



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
February 02	Growing in Grace Class	Lynette Wiedle
February 09	Dallas Bundy	Judy Bundy
February 16	Ken Smith	Neva Isett
February 23	Karen Watson	Kathy King



MANOR AT SALEM WOODS—441 HOTZE RD. SALEM:  
Faye Wood #103

Twin Willows—1600 N Broadway:  
Donna Shoemaker

Odin Care Center 300 Green St.:  
Earline Kohrig  
Betty Cannon

Doctors Nursing Home 1201 Hawthorn Rd:  
Sadie Word Room 302 Bed #1

KAEDAN'S HELPERS	
February 02	Vernon Wiedle
February 09	Janet Smith
February 16	Dina Reed
February 23	Karen Watson



We are now almost through the first month of 2020. And once again we as a church have the opportunity to work together and accomplish great things for God's kingdom, here in Salem and throughout the world. A perfect example of that is the trip to Dhaka, Bangladesh that Jon Bell and Steve Smith are taking in March. Salem First Baptist Church will be making a difference halfway around the world in the largest city in the world. Please be praying for them, both for a safe journey and that their efforts may touch a small portion of the people of that city.

Here at home, we will again be having Family Fun Night from 5:00-7:00 pm on February 16<sup>th</sup>, with one change. The Community Center was not available to us on that date, so Tyler Lux has secured the Franklin Park School gym and cafeteria for us to use. As usual, we will be having a soup and chili supper, and wonderful desserts from our ladies. We have rented "blow ups" for the kids and the gym will be open for a friendly game of basketball to those who are interested. Be watching for announcements in upcoming Sunday bulletins. This event is sponsored by the deacons, but it takes all of us helping to make it work.

I have been chosen to be Chairman of Deacons for 2020, and I do not take this responsibility lightly. I ask for your prayers of support for me and all the deacons throughout this year as we strive to serve this church and our Pastors, Andy and Jon.

Let us all work together to make 2020 a year that glorifies God at Salem First Baptist Church.

Sincerely,

*Dale Helpingstine*

## [10 Reasons Many Church Aren't Friendly to Guests](#) By Chuck Lawless on Jan 08, 2020

I've [previously written about findings of "church secret shoppers"](#) we've used in church consulting. One of those findings is that many churches aren't very friendly to guests. Here are some of the reasons that's the case:

1. **Caveat: Churches are friendly, but only to people they already know.** That's why churches almost always assert how friendly they are, and guests often talk of how friendly they *aren't*.
2. **No one's ever evaluated them.** I've never talked to a church who told me how unfriendly they are. On the other hand, they've never really tested that conclusion by seeking input from guests—particularly, the guests *who never return*.
3. **Congregations don't even know each other.** The reality is that most members have a small circle of friends in the church, and they don't know many people beyond that circle. If they aren't really in relationship with other church members, it's not surprising that they don't reach out to guests.
4. **They leave the "friendliness" responsibility to others.** After all, they think, the extroverts and the talkers are wired for that task. When the greeters are doing their job, other members shouldn't have to worry about it.
5. **They haven't fostered life-on-life Christianity.** Honestly, I'm not convinced that many believers understand what Christian hospitality and friendship are. Our relationships are generally surface-level, Sunday-to-Sunday "friendships." It's little wonder we're not that friendly to people we don't even know.
6. **Congregations treat church as if it's all about them.** They worship only where they like the style. They church shop any time their needs aren't met. They protect their positions and their turf, and they use language like "my church." Self-centeredness seldom fosters friendliness.
7. **They've built their "friendly moment" into the worship service.** Thom Rainer [has shown some of the problems with this approach](#), but many churches still have a forced "stand and greet" time during the service. When you know that time's coming, you don't need to reach out to anyone before the service.
8. **They focus on their primary friends since they see them only once a week.** This issue goes back to #5 in this list. When you spend little intentional time with other believers outside of church, you give most of your attention to your friends when you do gather,
9. **Their primary leader isn't perceived as friendly, either.** The longer a pastor is the leader, the more likely it is the church will adopt his personality. A perceived unfriendly pastor will produce an unfriendly church.
10. **They don't have many guests anyway, so they have little practice.** Thus, the process comes full circle. An unfriendly church sees few guests return, and the congregation eventually becomes desensitized to inviting guests or greeting them when they come.



**February 2 . . . . . *Bring a Friend!***

**February 9 . . . . . *Glow for Jesus—Canned Food Night!***

**February 16 . . . . . **Family Fun Night at Franklin Park!****

**February 23 . . . . . *Crazy Hair Night!***



### Trustees' Report

The trustees organized in December. The trustees' officers and committee members are as follows: Dallas Bundy is chairman and serves on the Church Council and Budget Development Committee. Larry Dodd is vice-chairman; Debbie Dodd is secretary and is head of the trustees' Kitchen Committee; Vernon Weidle serves on the Personnel Committee; Wheat Jackson serves on the Consitution and Bylaws Committee; and Gary Watson is head of the Trustees' Bus Committee;. The church constitution states that the trustees have representation on the Church Council, Budget Development Committee, Personnel Committee, and Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

At the January church business meeting, the church had its annual corporation meeting (a corporation in Illinois must meet at least once annually) and elected Dallas Bundy as president, Larry Dodd as vice-president, Angela Simmons as secretary, and Angela Brooks as treasurer. These positions are usually filled by those serving in their trustees' and/or church elected positions.

The trustees are already addressing a few needs. If you become aware of a need throughout this coming year, please let me know so that the trustees can discuss it.

Dallas Bundy  
2020 Trustee Chairman



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 5:00 PM Awana Bring a Friend!	3 6:00AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM WMU	4	5 Mentoring Program 3-6PM Fellowship Meal Taco Pizza Squares 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Evening Prayer Meeting	6	7	8
9 5:00 PM Awana Glow for Jesus Canned Food Night!	10 American Heritage Girls Meeting 5:30-7:30	11	12 Mentoring Program 3-6PM Fellowship Meal Meatloaf, Potatoes & Vegetable 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Evening Prayer Meeting	13	14 	15
16 Family Fun Night!5-7PM at Franklin Park	17	18	19 Mentoring Program 3-6PM Fellowship Meal Chicken & Noodles & Vegetable 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Evening Prayer Meeting	20	21	22
23 5:00 PM Awana Crazy Hair Night!	24 American Heritage Girls Meeting 5:30-7:30	25	26 2:00PM Manor at the Woods Mentoring Program 3-6PM Fellowship Meal Calico Beans & Corn Bread 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Evening Prayer Meeting	27	28	

Wayne Howard	February 01
Luke Howard	February 01
Diana Owens	February 01
Joyce Scrivner	February 02
Roy Rodgers	February 03
Carolyn Smith	February 05
Melanie Johnson	February 06
Rick Meador	February 07
Nevaeh Hester	February 11
Kevin Keele	February 11



Jared Runkle	February 12
Dillion Sum	February 12
Gary Hampton	February 16
Draven Sum	February 23
Jacob Tabor	February 23
Bonnie Gray	February 25
Joan Purcell	February 25
Linda Wright	February 27
J. Andy DeWitt	February 28



**721 W Main Street**

**Salem, IL 62881**

Phone: 618-548-4060

Fax: 618-548-6039

Website: Salemfbc.org



**Join Us . . .**

**Sundays**

**8:30 –9:20 AM**

**In the  
Fellowship Hall**

**We serve bagels with  
cream cheese, donuts,  
fresh fruit, coffee, juice  
and milk.**

*Our Vision*

**The vision of Salem First Baptist Church is to become a growing family  
Of committed believers with an increasing**

- Passion for God**
- Passion for People**
- Passion to Serve**

**Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday 9:00 to 4:00

Closed 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch

Friday 9:00—12:00 Noon

Closed Friday after noon

**Sunday Morning and Evening**

8:30—9:20 AM Café Agape - Donuts & Coffee

9:00—9:30 AM Media Center Open

9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages

9:40 AM Nursing Home Ministry

10:45 AM Morning Worship

5:00—7:00 PM AWANA (Fall—Spring)

Youth

**CHURCH STAFF**

Dr. Andy DeWitt	Pastor
Jon Bell	Associate Pastor
Rick Meador	Financial Secretary
Glenda Lipe	Secretary
Kevin Keele	Maintenance and Security
Judy Bundy	Organist
Joyce Scrivner	Pianist
Deanna Buerster	Minister to Children

**Wednesday Evening**

3:00 PM Franklin Park Mentoring Program

5:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper  
(Fall-Spring)

5:00 PM Women's Chronological Bible  
Study

5:30—6:00 PM Media Center Open

6:00—7:00 PM Adult Bible Study

Praise Team Rehearsal,  
Nursery

CIA, Mission Friends (Fall-Spring)

7:00 PM Evening Prayer Meeting