



SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 41 Issue 03

March 2020

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Old things
are passed away;
behold, all things
are become new.

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST



Pastor
Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church,

As we continue looking at what made the early church in Acts so dynamic, we return to Acts 2:42. “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and **fellowship**, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Yes, if you notice the bold word in the verse, fellowship is our focus. Fellowship is a word that seems easy to define until one attempts to define it. To some “fellowship” is a pot-luck meal. Or it’s a place where the meal is served, i.e., Fellowship Hall. It can be understood as communion, companionship, camaraderie, comradeship, or friendship. While these are helpful in understanding some aspects of fellowship, these words fall short of what the Bible refers to here.

According to New Testament scholar William Mounce, Fellowship (*koinonia*) means “the mutual interests and sharing of the members of the community of faith, the church.” This word also means participation and sharing among the members of a congregation. It’s not only friendship but sharing one’s life with other believers and sharing in the lives of other Christians. Paul said it this way: “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15).

The story is told of two strangers once found themselves on the same ship. They began to watch one another closely, both conscious of an instinctive bond. But they came from different lands, and neither understood a word of the other's language.

One another, they sat not far from one another on the ship's deck. One of them noticed that the other had a Bible in his hand. He could remain silent no longer.

"Hallelujah!" he said, pointing to the Bible.

"Amen," the other smiled. They shook hands.

“Fellowship,” this marked the early church and is one of the reasons that the church in Acts grew rapidly as the Gospel of Christ changed the lives of those who believed. And this kind of biblical fellowship will still powerfully impact the lives of those in our church and impress those outside looking in. Are you committed to the apostles teaching and to fellowship?

Grace and peace,

Andy

Associate Pastor
Jon Bell

Hold the Ropes

In October of 1792 William Carey told his friend Andrew Fuller, "I will go down in the pit, if you will hold the ropes." Carey then left for the East India which is today know as West Bengal, India and Bangladesh. The work that he did throughout the region has produced generations of Christians who are still persecuted today throughout the region. This is the same region Alex Melton of Heartland Baptist in Alton, IL, Steve Smith and I will travel to this month. We are in many ways going down into the pit, and we need someone to hold the ropes for us. In short, we need prayer.

The nation of Bangladesh is home to the world's largest unreached people group, Shaikh in [Bangladesh](#), according to the Joshua Project. An unreached people group or UPG is a group of people who have little to no access to the gospel. Among this particular group there are so few believers that the percentage of believers is 0%. In the nation of Bangladesh, as a whole, the number of believers is below 0.1%. This means, there are very, very few Christians and they need Jesus.

We will work in the city of Dhaka. This is the capital city with around 18-20 million people. The area is considered to have the densest population on the planet. The people are poor. The average income is around \$1,000 a year, and around \$1 a day for many. It will also be hot, above nighty degrees daily. All that considered, they need Jesus.

The purpose of the trip is to share the gospel and help establish an ongoing relationship with the missionaries and local believers living in the region. The key work will be evangelism, in short, sharing the gospel with people who need to hear the gospel. I ask that as you pray, please be positive, we are followers of the ONE TRUE GOD who is all powerful. While you pray, please keep that fact in mind. He desires His gospel to go forth and I request that we pray to that end for this trip. Pray that our almighty God will move in a mighty way among the lost people of Bangladesh.

Andrew Fuller traveled all over Europe raising funds and prayer support for his friend William Carey. Fuller and many of his breather continuously prayed for Carey as they held the ropes. Many church historians always note the importance of Fuller's work alongside Carey's is what helped many who had no knowledge of Jesus, come to know Him as Lord. Carey, as he was in the pit, and Fuller as he held the ropes, helped the gospel spread through obedience to the Great Commission. As we go into the pit, please church, hold the ropes.



Journey to Bangladesh
March 11-20, 2020

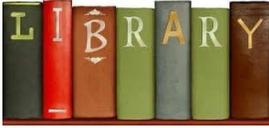
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Mar. 10 – Pray for the team as they prepare to leave and say their temporary goodbyes	Mar. 11 – Pray for the team as they travel to Chicago to board a plane headed to the other side of the world	Mar. 12 – Pray for the team as they are in the air most of the day that they will have rest and opportunities to share the gospel on the plane	Mar. 13 – Pray for smooth entry through customs and pray for the team as they have a gospel push of street evangelism on their first day with missionaries from the IMB	Mar. 14 – Pray for the team as they get to know some of the local leaders, encourage, pray with, and teach them what they teach their own congregations back home
Mar. 15 – Pray for the team as they worship in an unfamiliar setting and encourage a church that is often persecuted	Mar. 16 – Pray for the team as they travel through the capital city, Dhaka, praying for various parts of the city and sharing the gospel with those they encounter	Mar. 17 – Pray for the team as they spend time with some of the missionaries in the country and learn how they can partner with them	Mar. 18 – Pray for the team that as they grow tired from the travel through the area and cultural overload that they will finish the trip strong	Mar. 19 – Pray for the team as they say goodbye to some of their new friends and partners in faith	Mar. 20 – Pray for the team as they depart and travel the entire day	Mar. 21 – Pray for the team as they return home to love on their families and reflect on how to handle the vast poverty and lostness they have just experienced

Team Members: Jon Bell, Steve Smith, Alex Melton

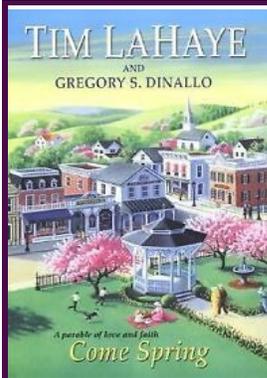
Team Purpose: To establish an ongoing partnership between the IBSA and missionaries from the IMB in Bangladesh while sharing the gospel and encouraging local leaders.

Bangladesh is twelve hours ahead of Illinois time. 8:00 a.m. here is 8:00 p.m. there.

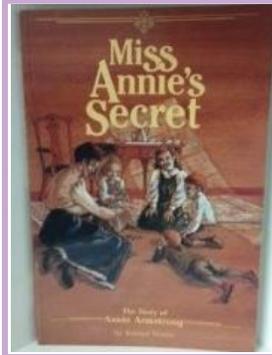
Library News/Trustees



Your Librarian
Sharon Dennis



Dylan Cooper has begun a new life in Boston, where the winters are as unforgiving as in the windswept Scottish Highlands he left behind. In that bustling city, Dylan hopes to achieve recognition for his photography, but convincing others that his images are works of art in their own right is proving impossible. Stark, simple, and filled with the wondrous beauty and spirituality of everyday life, Dylan's photographs are his calling and his only love - until he meets Grace MacVicar, a young Scottish woman working at a distinguished Boston gallery. In Grace, Dylan discovers a soul mate and a champion, someone with unshakeable faith in his talent and a sure, steady determination to help him succeed. Grace knows Dylan's photographs are truly extraordinary, and with her guidance, Dylan finds new inspiration and faith in his abilities. Their friendship deepens as winter wanes, blossoming into a love that neither expected to find in their new homeland. But Dylan's creative gift may be the very means to tear them apart...unless faith and hope can bring him back to the woman he swore he would love forever...



Miss Annie had a secret. The secret stayed with her throughout her life. It wasn't about something she'd done or something she wanted. No, this secret was different.

Miss Annie's secret made her a special person. It helped her love children and be a friend to them. It gave her a love for missions. From it, she gained strength to do all that she did. Can you discover Miss Annie's secret?

Trustees' Report

The trustees have completed or are involved in the following work. The church has voted to accept a bid from Weeke Sales and Service of Breese/Okawville for replacing a vent and relief valve assembly on the three newest boilers, replacing some water inlet components- water pressure reducing valve and backflow preventer, and replacing a leaking water coil in the auditorium. The trustees have purchased 120 silverware settings and 48 salad forks for the kitchen, have purchased a new chair for the church secretary's desk; and approved having Steve Smith be in charge of having a stump ground out and filling in the ruts and reseeding the area where the lawn was damaged by the lift when the work was done on the steeple. I would like to thank Larry and Debbie Dodd for getting the kitchen silverware and the church secretary's chair, and Kevin Keele for his work concerning the HVAC system.

The trustees have also approved the giving away of 100 metal folding chairs to church members only. They will be given away on a first-come first served basis with a limit of five per individual/family. If you are interested, please contact Dallas Bundy, chairman of the trustees at 618-740-0571.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees

Announcements/Poems

Our condolences goes out to Erin McProud and her family for the loss of her grandmother, Alfretta Kendrick.



MARCH 1ST
FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP
WITH LUNCH PROVIDED.
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL TO RSVP.



My Father's Care
 By Carrie Braden

*Do you ever walk by a rushing stream
 And wonder what song its singing?
 Or stop by a country church
 To listen to the bells ringing?*

*Do you love to hear the sounds of the night
 While sitting on your porch
 And see the splendor of the northern sky
 When it lights up like a torch?*

*And how about mornings after a storm
 When there's a cleanness in the air
 These many things all say to me
 "I'm in my Father's Care"*

"Growing Me"

*The thought of walking with You
 Causes me to quietly think
 Yet, I believe it will happen,
 I will walk with You in eternity*

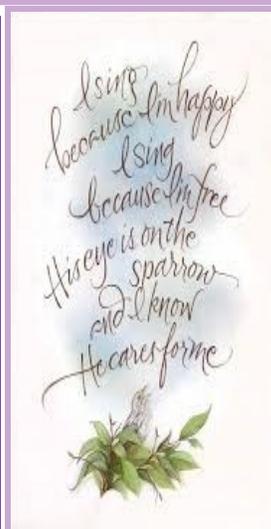
*Your Holy Spirit is growing me,
 Day by day.
 I feel my love for You deepening*

*I talk to You each day in prayer.
 Eternally, it will be face to face,
 Just imagine.*

Your Holy Spirit is growing me

*Teach me each day
 To exalt Your precious name
 In all I do and say.*

*Help me to prepare my soul
 To follow Your ways,
 As nearer to You I grow.
 By Bev Smith*



Much activity and fellowship could be observed during February meeting. The ladies prepared Valentine gifts and cards for some of our church family who aren't always able to leave their homes. Since the projects took more time than normal, the group enjoyed lunch together and finished their work. Power packs were also assembled for 90 students at Franklin Park School which would enable those individuals to have food over the weekend. Plans were discussed for the upcoming road trip to Angels Cove in Mt. Vernon on March 2nd. The group will be leaving the east church parking lot promptly at 9:30AM. A list of the needed items have been distributed for which we will be taking to the Angels Cove facility.

Our group has also been gathering items for our Pregnancy Care Center here in Salem. If anyone would like to donate items for either facility, a list of these are available in the office or in the Fellowship Hall.

March is the month we emphasis and promote missions within the United States. We will be promoting North America missions through out the month. Our theme this year is "It's all about the Gospel". Our church goal is \$7,000. Be in prayer as to how God wants us to share in this mission endeavor.



Deacon Ministry

DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
March 01	Gerald Purcell	Roy Rodgers	Tyler Lux
March 08	Larry Blankenship	Greg Strother	Ken Smith
March 15	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt	Dale Helpingstine
March 22	Roy Rodgers	Gary Watson	Ronnie Donoho
March 29	Ken Smith	Larry Blankenship	Greg Strother



Nursery

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR	BUTTERFLIES	LADY BUGS
March 01	J. Held & B. Lingafelter	S. Dennis & D. Bundy	L. DeWitt & T. Huffhine
March 08	C. Braden & M. Donoho	L. Bell & E. Dice	S. Rose & J. Purcell
March 15	A. Simmons & E. Blankenship	S. Murfin & A. Hardcastle	U. Smith & S. Peradotti
March 22	M. Ortiz & M. Tabor	D. Reed & B. Helpingstine	G. Hampton & P. Hampton
March 29	A. Hays & A. Hays	S. Salliotte & A. Trammel	S. Wieldt & U. Smith



DATE	TEACHER	LESSON
March 01	Deanna Buerster/Kay & Roy Rodgers	X Marks The Spot
March 08	Deanna Buerster	You Are a Treasure
March 15	Deanna Buerster	Snickers
March 22	Deanna Buerster	M and M's
March 29	Deanna Buerster	No Children's Church



greeters

NORTH ENTRY	EAST ENTRY	SOUTH ENTRY	WELCOME CENTER	HEAD GREETER
Tyler Lux	Carol Creed	Myra Donoho	Ronnie Donoho	Ronnie Donoho



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
March 01	Growing in Grace Class	Lynette Wiedle
March 08	Providence	Judy Bundy
March 15	Pastor's Class	Neva Isett
March 22	Dallas Bundy	Kathy King
March 29	Bev Smith	Neva Isett



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

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

KAEDAN'S HELPERS	
March 01	Vernon Wiedle
March 08	Janet Smith
March 15	Dina Reed
March 22	Karen Watson
March 29	Vernon Wiedle



Deacon Ministry

Dale Helpingstine, Deacon Chairman

First of all, I want to thank everyone who had a part in making our Family Fun Night a success. Although the deacons take responsibility for getting it organized it takes the whole church to pull it off and make it a success. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the event this year because of prior family obligations, but I know I left everything in good hands. So, if you brought chili or soup, or made a wonderful dessert to share, helped with the drinks, set up and cleaned up, or watched the kids on the blow-ups, on behalf of all the deacons, I say THANK YOU.

I want to remind everyone that there are those in our church family that have personal concerns that we all should be lifting up in prayer. Some need prayers of healing for medical conditions, some have lost loved ones, some are just struggling with day to day issues. If there is someone in your immediate life group or Sunday School department that you know has a need, please pray for them daily and ask others to do the same. There is power in numbers and God hears all our prayers.

It's been good to see some new faces at church lately. Make it a point to welcome our visitors and make them feel welcome and want to become a part of our church. But let's not forget those who have not been as regular as they used to be either. Let's give them a call or make a visit and let them know we notice when they're not with us, and we'd love to have them back.

None of us are perfect and no church is perfect, but with all of us doing our part and working together we can make our church a place that we can all be proud to say, "I belong to Salem First Baptist Church."

Blessing,

Dale Helpingstine

Chairman of the Deacons

12 MARKS OF A SPIRITUALLY MATURE BELIEVER

By Chuck Lawless on Feb 06, 2020 01:30 am

Yesterday, I wrote a post about spiritually immature believers. Readers then asked what characteristics I see in spiritually *mature* people, so here are characteristics of the most intensely Christian people I know:

1. **They know the Word.** Not superficially, but deeply. They don't speak generically of stories; they know chapter, verse, and detail. The memorized words of Scripture fall regularly from their lips.
2. **Prayer is in their DNA.** It's usually easy to recognize when people are praying just because it's the thing to do. The most spiritual people I know pray for a different reason: they just love the Lord and want to communicate with Him.
3. **Their prayers are honest, gutsy, trusting conversations with the Father.** They're unafraid to show their heart to God because they know how much He loves them. There's nothing perfunctory or fake about their praying.
4. **They don't have to work at evangelism; it just happens.** Somehow, they can move a conversation to the gospel with ease – and others just listen to them. They almost seem to attract people who are seeking.
5. **Humility oozes from them.** They'd deny that, of course, because deeply spiritual people are close enough to God that they see their sinfulness in a greater light. In humility, they serve others regardless of their positions of leadership.
6. **They guard their lips.** In most cases, I've never heard them mouth an off-color word. I've also never had reason to doubt the integrity of their words. Their "yes" is a "yes," and their "no" is a "no" (Matt 5:37).
7. **They genuinely grieve their sin.** I still remember the conversation I had with a leader in my denomination who felt he had allowed his anger to come out too strongly in my presence. He later called me to confess with tears because he felt he had dishonored Christ and harmed his witness. My heart isn't always that sensitive
8. **Valleys and troubles don't shake their faith.** They wouldn't dream of turning away from God when He allows pain in their lives. Rather, they stand strong even when anguish drives them to their knees.
9. **Non-believers respect them (and like them, too).** They so truly live out their faith that even those who strongly disagree with them give them honor. Somehow, non-believers are willing to listen to them when they wouldn't listen to any other believer.
10. **Nobody in their family questions their walk with the Lord.** That is, those who know them best and see them at their worst still validate their faith. Spiritually mature believers live out the good works for which they've been equipped (2 Tim 3:17).
11. **Their faith is almost a childlike faith.** It's fascinating, actually. They're the most mature believers I know, yet they speak of Jesus with the wonder and joy of a child. Their trust in Him is unshakeable.
12. **Their lives are marked by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).** Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control. It's all there.

I confess that I don't always live up to these qualities. How about you? Let's agree to pray for each other today.

MARCH

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Tortured for Christ (The Movie) 12PM with lunch served. 5:00 PM Awana Bring a Friend Night!	2 6:00AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM WMU	3	4 Mentoring Program 3-6PM Fellowship Meal Poppy Seed Chicken, Vegetable 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Prayer Meeting	5	6	7
8  5:00 PM Awana Camo and Nerf Game Night!	9 American Heritage Girls Meeting 5:30-7:30	10	11 Mentoring Program 3-6PM Fellowship Meal Layer Dinner, Jello Salad 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Prayer Meeting Deacon's Meeting	12	13	14
15 5:00 PM Awana Wear Green Night!	16	17	18 Mentoring Program 3-6PM Fellowship Meal Brats, Baked Beans and Tater Tots 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Prayer Meeting	19 	20	21
22 5:00 PM Awana Catch Up on Verses you've missed Night!	23 American Heritage Girls Meeting 5:30-7:30	24	25 2:00PM Manor at the Woods Mentoring Program 3-6PM Fellowship Meal Chicken Tetrazzini, Potatoes and Salad 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Prayer Meeting	26	27	28
29 5:00 PM Awana Feed the Children Food Packaging – Mission Night!	PRAY FOR JON, STEVE & ALEX! MARCH 10TH- 21ST!					31

Susan Beasley	March 02
Mary Kneemyer	March 02
Vivi Smith	March 02
Verna Piper	March 07
Jo Stallings	March 07
Larry Dodd	March 08
Ron King	March 08
Lindsay Mazanek	March 08
Helen Jett	March 12
Mackenzie Moheit	March 12
Kyle Rose	March 13
Aaron Shockley	March 14
Lisa Mazanek	March 15
Lilly Moheit	March 16
Lynette Wiedle	March 18
Gerald Purcell	March 19



Lucille Mills	March 20
Steve Murfin	March 20
Sandra Hicks	March 21
Rose Ann Fulkerson	March 22
Barbara Wells	March 22
Stephanie Conner	March 23
Steve Brubaker	March 24
Nancy Meyer	March 24
Melody Webb	March 24
Rylan Chancellor	March 26
George Kruse	March 26
Sheila Burgess	March 28
Stan Burgess	March 29
Sharon Dennis	March 31
Ivan Quandt	March 31



721 W Main Street

Salem, IL 62881

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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