



THE MESSENGER

~ A Communication Ministry of Salem United Church of Christ ~

October 2015
Volume 61, Issue 10

We are God's children called to seek, share, teach, and continue to experience the Word of God.

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

There is a change coming. The days are shorter, the air is cooler, and the corn is ready to be harvested. We are transitioning from summer to fall. I have to admit, fall is my favorite time of year. I am aware not everyone shares my fondness for fall. There are some who want to hang on to summer for as long as they can before fall is thrust upon them. However, I have to admit that as much as I love fall, this year it comes with great sadness. It was one year ago in October that I had open heart surgery. Soon after, my mother died.

Anyone who has ever lost a loved one knows that there is no timeline for grief. Like many of you, there are sounds and smells that remind me of my mom. I miss her. I miss her reassurance and encouragement. Her death came as no surprise. She had been quite ill the last few years of her life. Still, when she died, it hurt. I look upon the changing season the same way—I know that a change is coming, but I'm not quite ready to let go of the past.

Trusting God and being recipients of grace from the cross, we know that death does not have the final word. When we see the trees losing their leaves and standing bare as if they have died, we know that in due time, they will be resurrected. We are no different. When we suffer the pain of the loss of a loved one, we feel as if a piece of us has died. However, because of God's promise of eternal life, we can rest assured that death does not have the final word.

As fall descends and the night air becomes crisper, I pray that you take time to look up to the stars and reflect on the summers of your lives and look forward to the new season.

Peace.

Pastor Jerry



MONDAY MORNING REFLECTIONS WITH PASTOR JERRY

Come join us at Maedge's on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to have a cup of coffee, discuss the sermon, read scripture together, and talk about whatever is on your mind.

Mission-To-Go Fundraiser

The Mission/Stewardship Committee is having a takeout or eat-in fundraiser to support the 2016 Ecuador Mission Trip. The menu will consist of spaghetti, green beans, salad, bread, applesauce, and dessert for \$10.00 and will be on October 21, 2015, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- You may purchase advance tickets from any member of the Mission/Stewardship Committee.
- You may pre-order by calling the church office.
- You may come that evening and order on the spot.
- Also, for folks living in Alhambra, we can deliver for a small donation.

Please come and show your support for those going to do God's worldly work!

DID YOU KNOW?

During the Salem Harvest Home Service donations of fruit and vegetables in 15 gallon jars, 112 quart jars, 31 tins, 50 quarts of peaches, a bushel of potatoes, and 12 dressed chickens were received. Meals were prepared in the basement and sent up a dumbwaiter to the dining room. One evening when placing dirty dishes on the dumbwaiter to go back to the kitchen, the rope broke, which caused a huge crash and a mess of broken dishes to be cleaned up. Who received these donations and also had to clean up the broken dishes?

- The Hitz Home – The information was in an article on the Hitz Memorial Home's 60th Anniversary in 2012. The Hitz Home opened for business on October 1, 1952.

“Divine Ambition”

(Suggested Readings: Genesis 25:19-34 & John 21:15-25)

If we listen to Christ's conversation with Peter in the last chapter of the Gospel of John, we find Jesus moving Peter through questions that need to be answered by each of us. Jesus plainly asks Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" We take note that "these" are not identified. They could be the other disciples, the fish they just caught, or whatever. Surely this is intentionally obscure, so we may fill it with anything at all. Now the question comes to us, "Do we love anything more than Jesus?" What demands our attention in life? For what do we strive and pray? We pray "Thy will be done" with the ease of falling off a log. It wasn't always easy for Jesus, and it's not supposed to be easy for us. Yes, it can be quite easy for us to pray for that which makes us happy. However, the will of God is to conform us more and more into the likeness of His Son, and the way of the Son is not all cherry blossoms! Jesus is always and only about His Father's will.

Happiness always will be illusive in this life, though it will surely be manifest in heaven. Joy, however, will be given to all who seek to fulfill God's plan for their life. It affects how we live, pray, and all that for which we strive. God created you and me and put us here to become holy. After the fall of mankind, God sent His own Son—not that we would be made happy, but that we would be made holy. Holiness must be our striving! Surrender to Christ; it's the doorway to be one with His holiness. May we not come to the end of our days here only to realize we missed the purpose for which we were created!

God will see to our happiness in heaven. May the joy of serving God, daily being challenged, and brought closer to the likeness of Christ be enough. Perhaps this is a hard lesson, but the disciple is not above the master. Jesus has one ambition: happiness come or go (Mathew 5:45). Jesus will be holy no matter what! The lost cry of the world bent own self destruction is "I will be happy no matter what!" Jesus did everything that we have a birthright, to be the sons and daughters of the Most High. May nothing ever turn us from this most precious gift!

God Bless You!
Pastor John

EXHALE – YOUTH NEWS

“You can possess everything in the world, but the man who has no one to share it with is still empty handed.”

As Christians, we put a lot of clout and emphasis on the Bible. We should do this, since this is our connection to the past, where the foundation of our religion was started. The Bible is really the only bridge we have to some of the thoughts that were paramount in the development of what we practice today. We hear the stories, spend hours discussing them (hopefully in a peaceful manner), and make connections from the past to how these stories are relevant in our lives today—all very healthy and encouraging practices to have as individuals and as a church.

I think sometimes we put so much emphasis on what the Bible is saying that we forget that it is actually suggesting we go out and live it. If we are buried in the pages of scripture, how much are we really doing to make sure everyone else is learning the lessons we know? How do we “go and feed sheep” if we cannot make connections and build relationships with other sheep? Our experiences in life, our interactions with one another, and the ability to enjoy community are just as important in our faith lives. Otherwise, you just end up reading words to yourself while the rest of the world continues to move on.

Love Wins,
Nick Atkins-Harris
Email: hoosierdrummer60@gmail.com / Cell: 812-589-1918 / Facebook: ExhaleSalemUCC

Important Dates for Exhale:

- **October 4:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **October 11:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **October 18:** Confirmation @ 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **October 21:** Mission-To-Go Fundraiser @ 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **October 25:** Trunk-or-Treat @ 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
No Exhale

SAVE THE DATE!

Exhale's Annual TurkeyFest

Sunday, November 1, 2015 – Following Worship



The Exhale Youth's annual TurkeyFest will be on Sunday, November 1, after the worship service. There will be turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, bread, and desserts. There also will be Bingo afterwards! Tickets are \$8.00 for Adults (11 & Up), \$5.00 for Kids (10 & Under), and FREE for 3 & under. For tickets see any member of Exhale. (Tickets will be available the day of the TurkeyFest for the price of \$10.00 for adults, 10 & under will still be \$5.00, and 3 & under will still eat for free.)

~ EXHALE MISSION TRIP ~

What Mission Trip Means to Me ~ Haley Basler

Mission trip to me means helping people, having a great time, and meeting new people. Mission trip to me also means when you're working and knowing you are making a difference in someone else's life. The feeling you get and knowing you are changing someone's life for the better is indescribable. Mission trip gives you so many great emotions, memories, and so much more. You gain so much from mission trip, like life-long friends, memories, and pictures that last forever. In my opinion, this trip was not only about working, but connecting with others while having loads of fun. It is especially great when you learn a lot about the people around you and the people you help. Mission trip is full of memories, work, laughter, connections, and love. Attending this high school mission trip showed me that Exhale isn't just in Alhambra or just Exhale in Staunton, but we are all an Exhale family.

What Mission Trip Means to Me ~ Camie Ernst

Mission trip is a time in our lives that we will never forget. We go out on a mission to do one thing, and it turns into many. Going on a mission trip this year to Louisiana made me think about many things. We went to our work site Monday morning being told what to do and not expected to get it all done. As the week went on, we got done more things than expected. Going as a big group like we did made people recognize us. We got things done faster than the workers expected, and we got recognized by people in Hammond, Louisiana. We got many compliments on how much we helped out.

Hearing the stories about Amy and Blue, the people we helped, made me work harder. Amy had to stay in a house that had a fire in it 2 years ago on Christmas by herself with no electricity, running water, heat, or air conditioning without her kids. She goes through every day with high spirits because she knows things will get better. The one thing I won't forget about Amy is her son when he said that he is so grateful, and God has answered his mom's prayers. Being there and working on the house not only changed Amy's life but her son's. We made a huge difference in their lives. With Blue's story, it made me realize everything is ok and you can push through anything. Blue's story was hard to hear. He lost the closest people to him from drunk drivers. After this happened, Blue was in a dark place, and he decided to get help. He found help to fix his house, stopped drinking, and changed many other things in his life. His story made me push harder because we were doing this for him and we were giving him hope to push forward.

Going on a mission trip has many layers. We went out to work and took way more than expected away from the trip. On this trip, there were 29 other kids who went. I knew some, but there were many I didn't know. From this mission trip, I now have 29 other friends who I came close to in the matter of 7 days. It is amazing how close you can come to others with work and free time. Along with making friends, I left Louisiana with hope that things will get better for everyone. We also left hope with everyone we worked with. I also came back with the urge to do more. I love helping others, and that week made me want to do even more than expected, just like we did on the houses. A small job can go further than expected and leave more than just material work.

What Mission Trip Means to Me ~ Michaela Korte

My first Mission Trip was one to remember. I went into it worried about going so far away for the first time with people I've never met before. Once we got there and introduced ourselves to everyone, I realized this group was a great group to be a part of. I think Mission Trip means making new friends. You always will meet someone new or learn something about someone that you didn't know. Also, Mission Trip is a time to forget about everything that isn't great that is happening back home. It is an escape. Another important thing about Mission Trip is making memories. Memories stay with you forever, and I cannot think of another time in my life where I made so many memories. Above all of those other things, Mission Trip means helping people. It was amazing to see how thankful the families were even with just a little bit of work done. Amy and her family were so thankful. I've never been a part of a group that loves so much. It was a wonderful thing, and I cannot wait to go next year!

What Mission Trip Means to Me ~ Ashley Prott

Mission Trip to me means coming out of my shell. During the beginning of the trip, I was very shy and only hung out with the Alhambra kids, but I started to talk to the other kids there. By the end of the mission trip, I was talking to everyone. I met some of my new friends during mission trip. That's what mission trip means to me. Coming out of my shyness and meeting new friends.

What Mission Trip Means to Me ~ Delaney Rigney

Mission Trip has impacted my life in so many ways. Going into Mission Trip as a freshman was a scary thought for me, but the Mission Trip was easily one of the best weeks ever. It felt so rewarding see the progress we made on May and Blue's house. Also, seeing the happiness and hope we brought to the two families was amazing. Helping clean the warehouse, moving things, loading, and unloading, and all the little jobs we did helped the Fuller Center for housing tremendously! Not only did I feel accomplished by working, I felt more spiritually connected. I made friends I never thought I'd have. We made memories and inside jokes that'll last a lifetime. One of my personal favorites was when everyone yelled "Victoria!" on Bourbon Street. Everyone started yelling it together, even strangers. Seeing that our happiness brought strangers happiness is a great feeling. Mission Trip has impacted my life in so many ways. Although it was one of the longest, sweatiest, jammed packed weeks I've ever experienced, waking up at the crack of dawn has never been more worth it. I can't wait to do it all over again next year!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

September 10, 2015

Vice-President Gary Boda called the meeting to order with 10 Church Council members present.

Pastor Jerry read the devotion, "Temple Bells."

Secretary's Report: The previous month's minutes were amended. The name of the Stain Glass Brochure was added. Ronna Renken made a motion to accept the minutes, and Dawn Reagan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The offering is even with expenses. The investment accounts did change as the market took a downward turn. Dawn Reagan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Steve Stille seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- **BOCE:** The Board will present 10 Bibles to the third graders. Those who attend Rally Day will receive their Bible during the service.
- **Evangelism/Worship:** The committee reviewed fellowship hour and discussed the stain glass window brochure. The committee also reviewed the banners for advent and discussed the nursery schedule.
- **Long Range Planning:** The committee met and has sent responses from Salem United Vision (S.U.V.) to the appropriate committees.
- **Mission/Stewardship:** The presentation from the Ecuador Mission Trip will be on September 20. On October 21, a Mission-To-Go fundraiser will be held.
- **Property:** The air conditioner for the 8th grade room has been replaced. The committee cleaned the courtyard and is reviewing ideas for the space.

Pastor's Report: An AED/CPR class will be held at church on September 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Staunton is hosting a Region 5 music concert on September 27. The Salem Chancel Choir and Salem Ringers are both performing in the concert. The Chancel Choir is currently looking for members to join. The Church Council reviewed the vacation policy for staff and amended the wording. A motion was made by Tim Stille to accept the policy and was seconded by Steve Stille. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Stille and seconded by Dawn Reagan. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next Church Council meeting will be on October 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Note: The approved minutes of all Church Council meetings are available in the church office.

SALEM'S 8TH ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Sunday, October 25 @ 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



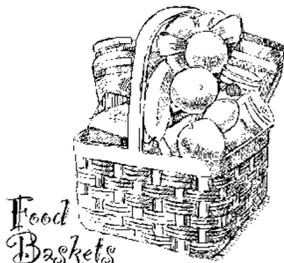
Salem's 8th Annual Trunk-or-Treat will be on Sunday, October 25, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the back parking lot. Trunk-or-Treating is when your kids go from trunk to trunk to play games and receive treats from members and friends of Salem. Everyone, kids and adults of all ages, is encouraged to dress up in his/her Halloween costume.

Cars participating need to be in the back parking lot by 2:30 p.m. to park and decorate their trunk by the 3:00 p.m. start time. A light meal of hotdogs, chili, chips, cookies, and drinks will be provided. Prizes for some lucky trunk participants will be awarded. There will be no trunk contests, so relax and have fun with your trunk theme!!! (Some trunk theme ideas will be available by the church office.)

Please sign up if you can bring cookies/snacks, if your kids are coming, or if you can provide yourself, your car, and some treats for the Trunk-or-Treat. Sign-up sheets are in the passageway, or you may contact the office to sign up.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Luitjohan at 210-7245.

Don't forget to invite your kids' friends, neighbors, grandkids, nieces & nephews, and more!!!



From the Food Basket Committee

The Food Basket Committee is putting together a list of people who need help feeding themselves and their families. If you know of someone or of a family who needs a little bit of help, please call Mary Reinhardt at (618) 488-7745.

DuBois Fall Festival

DuBois Fall Festival is a family friendly event and is open to the community with fun for all ages! It will be on Sunday, October 4, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at DuBois Center (2651 Quarry Road, DuBois, Illinois). There will be free parking and free admission. Activities include: craft booths, food, live music, silent auction, pontoon boat & hay rides, Kidz Korner, live demonstrations, and horse rides in the arena.

Salem UCC Treasurer's Report

(Month Ending 08/31/2015)

	Current Activity	YTD Activity
GENERAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	19,881.14	12,521.25
Offering – Loose	6,644.00	60,352.16
Offering – Envelopes	9,635.00	77,790.00
Facility Use Donations	0.00	3,495.00
Miscellaneous Receipts		1,727.05
Interest Income – General Fund	3.07	26.52
Benevolence Received	1,199.00	11,302.25
Total General Fund Income	17,481.07	154,692.98
Salaries	9,261.82	75,330.89
Employee Benefits	2,014.68	18,608.01
Maintenance/Property Services	748.48	8,961.24
Insurance	0.00	6,168.00
Utilities	1,834.29	15,486.73
Supplies – General	875.37	5,506.13
Professional Expense	300.31	1,777.21
Miscellaneous	149.00	179.00
Worship	1,047.47	1,830.07
Christian Education	49.41	2,735.73
Evangelism	(57.00)	363.72
Stewardship	0.00	386.87
Benevolence Paid	0.00	8,742.25
Total General Fund Expenses	16,223.83	146,075.85
GENERAL FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 21,138.38	\$ 21,138.38
MEMORIAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	71,206.32	73,860.94
Memorials Received	1,225.00	3,255.00
Honorariums Received		2,780.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	10,150.00	10,175.00
Memorial Fund Expense:		
Worship – Music & Visual		2,802.62
Other Memorial Projects		4,687.00
MEMORIAL FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 82,581.32	\$ 82,581.32
BUILDING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	13,035.65	8,580.65
Building Fund Offering	520.00	4,875.00
Memorials – Building Fund	500.00	600.00
BUILDING FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 14,055.65	\$ 14,055.65
SABBATICAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	12,896.12	11,896.12
Contribution from Men's Fellowship		1,000.00
SABBATICAL FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 12,896.12	\$ 12,896.12
ENDOWMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	59,554.77	61,748.28
Memorials – Endowment Fund	50.00	95.00
Endowment Fund Disbursements:		
Interest Distribution – General Fund		1,118.53
Interest Distribution – Benevolence		1,119.98
ENDOWMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 59,604.77	\$ 59,604.77
INVESTMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	183,747.65	189,646.93
Change in Market Value	(7,817.38)	(9,716.66)
Scholarships Paid	0.00	(4,000.00)
INVESTMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 175,930.27	\$ 175,930.27
MISSION MATCHING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	108,302.60	127,751.87
Change in Market Value	(5,131.29)	(4,203.45)
Donations for Ecuador	1,145.00	10,491.89
Mission Fund Disbursements:		
Mission Match Paid		(3,524.00)
Expenditures for Ecuador Mission Trip		(26,200.00)
MISSION MATCHING FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 104,316.31	\$ 104,316.31
RESERVE FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	15,228.12	15,102.56
Interest Income – Reserve Fund	14.40	139.96
RESERVE FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 15,242.52	\$ 15,242.52
OTHER RESTRICTED FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	1,903.77	2,623.93
Other Restricted Expense:		
Grant Expense – 2014 Literacy Grant		720.16
OTHER RESTRICTED FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 1,903.77	\$ 1,903.77

FROM THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & WOMEN'S GUILD

Next Meeting of the Men's Fellowship & Women's Guild:

Thursday, October 15, at 7:00 p.m.

October Golden Agers:

Electa Leitch on October 14, Les Gentry on October 17, & Vernon Mindrup on October 30

Nuts to You!

It's time to place your orders for pecans. Holiday baking is just around the corner.
A sign-up sheet may be found in the Narthex and outside the church office.



Salem Seekers

“Abraham & Sarah”	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Gathering Room	Opening 8:45 – 9:05 a.m.			
God’s Oasis (Storytelling/Drama)	5th & 6th	3rd & 4th	1st & 2nd	Pre-K & K
Gathering Room (Media)	3rd & 4th	5th & 6th	Pre-K & K	1st & 2nd
Scribe’s Den (Arts & Crafts)	1st & 2nd	Pre-K & K	5th & 6th	3rd & 4th
Faith Island (Science)	Pre-K & K	1st & 2nd	3rd & 4th	5th & 6th
Gathering Room	Closing 9:40 – 9:50 a.m.			

All children will start in the Gathering Room at 8:45 a.m.
 After the opening gathering, the children will be led to their specific workshop by their shepherds.
Please pick up your child in the Gathering Room at 9:50 a.m.

~ Kids For Christ (KFC) ~

Kids For Christ has two activities planned for the month of October. On Sunday, October 11, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., we will have a Fall Kick-Off at church. We plan to have a hayride around the church property, decorate small pumpkins, carve a pumpkin for church, and have a bonfire for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. **We ask that each child bring a small pumpkin to decorate, and everything else will be provided.** KFC kids are welcome to bring friends, and we would love for any parents who are able to stay and join in on the fun, the more the merrier! The second activity is Salem’s Annual Trunk-or-Treat. All of the details for this event can be found in a separate article in this Messenger. We hope to have lots of trunk-or-treaters! Please consider having a trunk and joining in on the fun even if you don’t have young children. We are looking forward to a fun year with the KFC kids! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather Luitjhan, Heather Henkhaus, or Jessie Ketcham.

CONFIRMATION REMINDER

Confirmation Class will be on Sunday, October 18, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Confirmation Field Trip to Central Reform Congregation

On Friday, November 6, the Confirmation class will attend a Jewish Shabbat service at Central Reform Congregation in St. Louis, Missouri. Everyone is invited to come and experience the Shabbat service. We will gather at the church parking lot at 6:00 p.m. to carpool to Central Reform Congregation. We will go on a tour of the facility prior to the service. Please sign up outside the church office so we may let our hosts know how many to expect. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jerry.

We want to give a big thank you to everyone, especially to Pastor Jerry and Pastor John for the wonderful service, the Women’s Guild for preparing the luncheon, and to everyone who gave memorials, made food, or just sent a card during our time of sorrow. Mom put up a fight for almost 3 months but just wasn’t strong enough to overcome it. God bless you all.

The Family of Maxine Wernle

Dear Salem Friends & Family,

Thank you for the special surprise of recognizing my 10 years of service at Salem UCC during worship on Sunday, September 6. Thank you for all your kindness, love, and support you have shown me these past 10 years, and thank you for the gift.

Patti Reckmann

Check Out the Historical Cabinet!

Check out the new display featuring the Ecuador Mission Trip in the historical cabinet in the passageway!

~ ECUADOR MISSION TRIP ~

Engage. No, this is not about Star Trek. What it takes for people to “engage” is a realization that taking action isn’t about our responsibility to do something. It’s about having an opportunity in front of us and then seizing it instead of letting it go by. We experienced a moment when we saw that we could have an effect on someone—not on the world, not on a country, but maybe on an individual or a family—and we took that opportunity.

We met friendly, caring, and skilled people every day, welcoming us to work alongside them in order to raise the structures. Looking at the faces of Roberto or Maria or Freddie, and even though we shared no common language, we all knew the impact the houses would have. They would make a difference not only to the families, but to the community as well. God blessed me with the courage to make the trip to Ecuador. In the words of Mark Twain: With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate, and the wisdom to be humble.

~ **Carol Amiri**

God had been nudging me awhile about doing mission work. I am so thankful I finally said yes! God's presence on this trip was everywhere: the excitement and anticipation from the group that went, the spectacular views of Ecuador, observing the culture, meeting the faithful, gracious, hardworking people were all blessings! If God has been nudging you about mission work, say yes! Your blessings will overflow!!!

~ **Gale Bolen**

As I reflect on the time away from my job, family, and home, I really see that there is much more than digging a hole or pouring a foundation for a home. While this plays a part in going and helping others, for me, it’s not just to build a house or what it is like to be a “real missionary.” It is to join the Lord in the work that He is doing. Share the glory of God to all people. I have tried to set aside my “human” agenda and make God the central point of the mission and my life. I do feel the reward in my heart when I am there and after, but I truly believe that mission isn’t about us; it’s about God. For me, it is showing others the unconditional love that God has shown me. No matter how bad things seem, people come into our lives when we need them there. I know that God is using me in more ways than I realize, and sometimes I don’t always know it. But I know that as long as I am showing love, I can’t go wrong.

~ **Katie Quade**

We all value the idea of “home.” We work most of our lives to create the ideal vision of what we want our “home” to be. For some, home is a setting or a physical place. For others, it can be a state of mind or a scenario where we just feel comfortable and feel like we are our most honest form of who we are. On this trip, the one thing that I will carry with me for the rest of my life is that we were a part of creating someone else’s home. Two families now have a physical setting that they can call home, which is surrounded by love and will continue to be the setting of love for many years to come. I believe that this is what Jesus meant by telling us to go do His work. Go create homes, so that we can eventually end up in the ultimate home. This opportunity would not be possible without the love and support of Salem’s congregation, and I cannot thank you enough for providing this opportunity to me and the rest of our group.

~ **Nick Atkins-Harris**

Our mission trip to Ecuador was nothing short of life changing. We were able to help families in need by providing them a home, something we take for granted every day. Seeing how Ecuadoreans lived with having basically nothing made me look hard at my life and how much I take for granted. On this trip I worked harder than I have ever worked, met some amazing people, and felt like I was doing what God was calling me to do. The amount of love and thankfulness that was poured out towards us made me feel like we were making a difference in the world, no matter how small. I am forever grateful for the opportunity given to me by Salem to go on this trip and can’t wait to go again next year.

~ **Rebecca Braundmeier**

When I was young, I considered being a missionary nurse. But the time away from my family was scary! So I put it out of my mind. But the 2014 mission trip caused me to reconsider and put a mission trip on my “bucket list.” Then we heard about the mission trip for June 2015. I was giving serious, prayerful thought to the trip when I read my daily devotion. The opening paragraph read, “Do you ever wonder what Jesus wants you to do with your life?....Not just giving Him part of our heart, but handing it over with joy and then letting Him define our desires.” It was then that I knew what Jesus wanted me to do.

I learned to appreciate things so simple....a glass of ice water and fresh air. I learned how fortunate I am to have a church family who supports such a mission far away from my comfortable life. To help build a home for a family. To see where some of our mission monies go and be part of that project. To see the difference my offering makes in the lives of people who have far less than me.

Someone said to me that they don't understand why we have to go to another country for missions...there is plenty to do here in our own corner of the world. That is true. And we do carry out many missions right here in our community. Jesus said we should go and make disciples of all nations—not just in our community or our country and not just where it's comfortable or convenient. Going to Ecuador pushed me out of my comfort zone. Our church is spreading the love of Jesus to others in poor regions, in places where they have so little, in places where there is no clean water to make an ice cube, in places where little children play games and laugh as children do in Alhambra. I was privileged to see first-hand how that love is spreading!

~ **Doris Driscoll**

The first day we visited the day care center. The Ecuadorian people prayed for God to pay back our kindness and generosity. I believe our mission in Ecuador is a way to pay it forward for all the many blessings we have in our life. Amazing trip!

~ **Shirley Gall**

~ ECUADOR MISSION TRIP (CONTINUED) ~

This mission trip brought Love, Hope, and Faith. The Ecuadorian people were so full of love for our group and appreciative of the work being done in their community. One of the many ways the community expressed their appreciation was by making and delivering homemade snacks to us in the afternoons. Even though we were strangers, they opened their hearts to us and made us feel very welcome, both at the job site and at the church services we attended. The new house we built, the assistance we provided to the Chuquiragua girls, and the items brought to help the children at Lisa Angels resulted in a new felt hope in their communities. I walked away with the belief that this world could be a better place if we all reach out to others, whether it's our neighbor or a stranger. Love each other as God has loved us and in turn gives us the hope for a better future.

~ **Laura Muench**

On my trip to Ecuador I learned a lot about how God works through people to help others. I learned that even communication is not something that can stop us from helping people; it is just a way to gain a new perspective and opportunity to learn more about another culture. Through this, I was able to learn words and learn how to communicate using hand gestures to make it easier to complete the tasks of each day while building the houses. It also helped when we danced and sang with the children to bring joy to them as well as us without knowing what the words mean but knowing what the meaning of the gestures and emotions are. The trip was an overall fun experience that I wouldn't take back, and I would love to go again in the future if I have the chance.

~ **Aaron Uhe**

I had no idea what to expect from the mission to Ecuador. All I knew was my flight number and what to pack. But the work that was waiting for me in Ecuador was better than anything I could have imagined. It is hard work; and I love hard work. There is something about the strain of physical labor that clears my mind and makes me think outside of the self-absorbed state I fall into when I sit comfortably at home. The work with Habitat forced me to interact more with my world. I felt strangely connected to the families who would eventually live in the homes we were building, as though my presence there was not fleeting but permanent; like the hands that built the walls would forever be etched in the stone.

~ **Anna Renken**

HERE WE GROW!

The Bread of Life Food Pantry located on the campus of the New Life Christian Fellowship in Hamel, Illinois, became part of the ministry of the Alhambra-Hamel Ministerial Alliance (AHMA) in 2012. It serves Alhambra, Hamel, and Worden, plus other small, local communities in northeastern Madison County, Illinois. Member congregations of the Alliance, community organizations, and individuals support the pantry with food drives and volunteers.

Since 2012, the number of families served has grown by 40%. With this increase, it has become necessary to expand our storage space. Bread of Life Food Pantry needs to raise \$7,000 to purchase a new building to continue to serve the community.

Please consider making a cash donation in order to raise the funds necessary. Bread of Life Food Pantry is a non-profit organization. Therefore, all donations are considered tax deductible. Please make your check payable to either Bread of Life Food Pantry or AHMA. On the check's memo line, please write "Building Fund."

Please mail all contributions to:

AHMA
1117 W. North Street
Alhambra, IL 62001

The pantry is open every Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
It is closed on holidays and when schools are closed due to weather.

If you need help or would like to volunteer, please contact Sharilyn Moehle at 618-633-2413
or Dave Kalish at 618-656-4828. For emergency help, please contact Charlie Martin at 618-444-6747.

Highland Food Pantry Collection

The 7th Grade Confirmation Class is collecting needed items and coats for the Highland Food Pantry. They would greatly appreciate any donations by Saturday, October 31. Their class will deliver the donations on Sunday, November 1. Containers are in the passageway for donations. Thank you for your support.

Needed items are: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, bathroom tissue (**especially needed**), facial tissue, dish detergent, diapers (size 3, 4, or 5), baby wipes, deodorant (men's & women's), laundry detergent, birthday candles, disposable cake pans, cake mixes & frosting, Happy Meal toys, books for kids, Halloween costumes, and coats/hats/scarves/gloves (clean & gently used).



NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

The *Neighbors In Need* offering, which we will collect on Sunday, October 4, 2015, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.



Worship Ministry Schedule



Date	Acolytes	Greeter(s)	Liturgist	Recorder	Ushers
Oct. 4 (10am)	Shayden Hogg Sayde Hogg	Jim Annable	Dagmar Annable	Patti Reckmann	Paige Basler / Judy Blom Justin Bonnell / Laura Muench Laverne Korsmeyer
Oct. 11 (10am)	Syler Hogg Bradey McKinley	Alice Stille	Lewis Knackstedt	Ron Mindrup	Amy Henschen / Gena Hodapp Krista Miller Chad & Tara Schuster
Oct. 18 (10am)	Kylie Ketcham Riley Mansholt	Ken Gehrig	Laura Muench	Ron Mindrup	Brian & Connie Duncan Emily Duncan / Katelyn Duncan Gene & Terri Templeman
Oct. 25 (10am)	Ian Grandame Kody Quart	Fern Scheller	Carol Reckman	Larry McGee	Ken Gerhig Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt Steve Stille / Ken Suhre

Nursery Schedule

October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Tori Lynn Kelsey Quade	Ashley Prott Donita Prott	Richelle Ernst Jill Verson	Kristin Payne Danielle Porter

Worship Schedule

Date	Scripture Readings	Sermon Title	Pastor
October 4 – 10 a.m. Worship with Communion	Job 1:1, 2:1-10 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	<i>A Test of Faith</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
October 11 – 10 a.m. Worship	Mark 10:17-31 Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Hebrews 4:12-16	<i>The Tale of the Wealthy Man and the Camel</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
October 18 – 10 a.m. Worship	Isaiah 53:4-12 Mark 10:35-45	<i>Drinking the Cup</i>	Pastor John Mindrup
October 25 – 10 a.m. Praise Worship	Mark 10:46-52 Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Hebrews 7:23-28	<i>What Ever Happened to Bartimaeus?</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri

Communion Schedule for Hitz Home

October 4 – 10 a.m.	Susi Miller
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Baptisms

Alexis Marie Porter was baptized on Sunday, September 6, 2015, at Salem UCC by Rev. Jerry Amiri. Alexis was born on June 23, 2015, to Richard & Danielle Porter. Alexis is the younger sister of Carson Porter. Her grandparents are Rick & Kathy Porter and Dave & Laurie Petras. Her great-grandparents are Elinor Stille and Allen & Jean Porter. Her godparents are Jason Murphy and Ashley Purkey.

Makenna Joan Quade was baptized on Sunday, September 20, 2015, at Salem UCC by Rev. Jerry Amiri. Makenna was born on April 27, 2015, to Barry & Kelsey Quade. Makenna is the younger sister of Sheldon Quade. Her grandparents are Robert & Beverly Quade, Patsy Quade, and Doug & Nancy Heidbrink. Her great-grandparents are Orville & Jean Sander, Dave & Dicksie Heidbrink, and Wilberta Knebel. Her godparents are Brittany Quade and Chad Schuster.

Cradle Roll

Krystal Lynn Conrad was born on September 27, 2012, to Clint & Jenna Conrad. Krystal received her cradle roll during the September 27, 2015, worship service.



Congratulations, Patti Reckmann!!!

Patti Reckmann
was recongized for her
10 Years of Service at Salem UCC
on Sunday, September 6, 2015.



Prayer List

Cancer Concerns:

Vickie Conrad / Elmer Frank / Jack Frandsen
Wayne Gentry / Eleanor Hamann
Sam Merkel / Ginger Krieshof

Health Concerns:

Connie Abert (Niece-in-Law of Fern Scheller)
Quintin Byrne (Cousin of Lisa Reinhardt) / Diana Donohoo
Lester Gentry / Gloria Henschen
Thomas Kinnett / Marie Mindrup / Melvin Roberts

Alhambra Care Center:

Velma Henkhaus

Eden Village:

Hilbert & Verna Klenke

Faith Countryside Homes/Apartments:

Dorothy Knabel

Four Fountains:

Carol Ruehrup

Highland Home:

Anita Suhre

Hitz Memorial Home:

Eleanor Hamann / Orlean Hosto
Electa Leitch / Herb Schmidt

Our Servicemen & Servicewomen:

Lt. Col. Derek Bright / Thomas Eyman
Airman Dustin Garner / Jason Schlechte
Kenny Randle / Jared Thiems / Kyle Thornton

Congratulations To Our Newlyweds!!!

Keith Curtis Iberg
&
Jessica Lee Riechmann
were married on September 12, 2015,
by Rev. Jerry Amiri
at the Alhambra Firemen's Park.



October Anniversaries

10/01/2011	Matt & Sandra Reckmann
10/02/1993	Gene & Ethel Hosto
10/03/1954	Don & Ginny Gehrig
10/05/2002	Damien & Sara Bolen
10/10/1975	Gary & LuAnn Boda
10/10/1980	Rick & Patty Allen
10/11/1992	Dean & Sherri Korsmeyer
10/12/1985	Tom & Sharon Capstick
10/12/1996	Tim & Camille Rakers
10/12/2002	Rhet & Krista Mansholt
10/13/2007	Kevin & Heather Luitjohan
10/19/2013	Nathan & Kelsey Reding
10/20/2012	Ryan & Gena Hodapp
10/21/1967	Delmar & Marlene Korsmeyer
10/21/2010	Josh & Ember Brosin
10/30/2010	Barry & Kelsey Quade

Births In Our Church Family:

Grayson Lee Mollet was born on Monday, August 17, 2015, at 12:37 p.m. to Adam & Megan Mollet. He weighed 7 pounds & 5 ounces, and he was 20.5 inches long. Proud big brothers are Logan & Briley Mollet. Grandparents are Gayle Cruthis and the late Danny Cruthis.

Kira Ray Conrad was born on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, to Clint & Jenna Conrad. She weighed 8 pounds & 1 ounce, and she was 20 inches long. Proud big sister is Krystal Conrad. Grandparents are Dennis & Vickie Conrad.

Amelia Lynn Luitjohan was born on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, to Kevin & Heather Luitjohan. She weighed 7 pounds & 5 ounces, and she was 19 inches long. Proud siblings are Madelynn, Emma, & Nolan Luitjohan. Grandparents are Gary & LuAnn Boda.

Bradley Joseph Dauderman was born on Thursday, September 3, 2015, to Michael Bradley Dauderman and Denise Davidson. He weighed 5 pounds & 12 ounces, and he was 18 inches long. Grandparents are Joe & Deanna Dauderman. Great-grandparents are Bob & Carol Dauderman.



October Birthdays



October 1

Laura Reckmann
Liam Schlechte

October 2

Russell Hiller
William Reckman
Allen Knackstedt
Dan Engelke

October 3

Mark Vassier

October 4

Dave Renken
Alex Faires
Patrick Stille
Koy Ketcham
Jonathan Prott

October 6

Robert Kakac
Vickie Conrad
Zachary Doubet

October 7

Jared Frueh
Austin Suhre

October 8

Jill Verson
Ryan Driscoll
Elyza Faires

October 10

Deny Gehrig
Chuck Sanders

October 11

Kathy Porter
Laurie Vosholler
Steve Sanders

October 12

Bob Reckmann

October 14

Electa Leitch
Mary Reinhardt

October 15

Toni Rozanski

October 16

Judy Blom
Christopher Hosto
Alex Capstick

October 17

Lester Gentry
Janet Hunsche
Doug Bizer
Steve Reckmann
Steven Price
Logan Mollet
Landen Reckmann

October 18

Joe Stevenson

October 19

Janelle Gelly

October 20

Wilma Sander
Jeanne Reckmann

October 24

Howie Eyman
Susi Miller
Jackie Debatin
Erich Lackey
Jordan Lynn

October 26

Christie Hampton

October 27

Everett Rogier
Mark Henschen
Tammy Burton
Christine Ellis

October 28

Heather Henkhaus
Brooke Hunsche
Samantha Cornejo
Jorya Wernle
Alyssa Goodwin

October 29

Kalia Cornejo

October 30

Vernon Mindrup
Marie Mindrup
Bob Riepshoff
Chad Roberts
Shane Stille

October 31

Karen Knox
Dennis Wernle
Isaac Cruthis



OCTOBER CALENDAR



Thursday	Oct. 1	7:00pm	BOCE Meeting
Sunday	Oct. 4	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Worship with Communion Children's Choir Practice after Worship Exhale
		4:00-5:30pm 6:30pm	
Monday	Oct. 5	10:00am	Praise Team Practice Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Tuesday	Oct. 6	7:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Wednesday	Oct. 7	6:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	Evangelism/Worship Committee Meeting Salem Chimes Practice Salem Ringers Practice Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Oct. 8	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday	Oct. 11	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Worship Children's Choir Practice after Worship Exhale
		4:00-5:30pm 4:00-5:30pm	
Monday	Oct. 12	6:30pm	KFC Fall Kick-Off (Hayride & Bonfire) Praise Team Practice
Wednesday	Oct. 14	10:00am 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's Salem Chimes Practice Salem Ringers Practice Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Oct. 15	7:00pm	Guild & Brotherhood Meeting
Friday	Oct. 16	9:00am	November Messenger Articles Due
Sunday	Oct. 18	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Worship Children's Choir Practice after Worship Historical Committee Meeting after Worship Confirmation
		1:00-4:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	
Monday	Oct. 19	6:30pm	Exhale Praise Team Practice
Tuesday	Oct. 20	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Wednesday	Oct. 21	1:00pm 4:30-7:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	Senior Citizens Mission-To-Go Fundraiser Salem Chimes Practice Salem Ringers Practice Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Oct. 22	6:00pm	Memorial Committee Meeting
Sunday	Oct. 25	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Praise Worship Children's Choir Practice after Worship
		3:00-4:00pm	Trunk-or-Treat No Exhale
Monday	Oct. 26	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Wednesday	Oct. 28	6:00pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	Salem Chimes Practice Salem Ringers Practice Salem Chancel Choir Practice



If you are sad or struggling inside, do not suffer alone. Ask for help. We have a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It is confidential too!) Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders listed below. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Rev. Jerry Amiri: (O) 618-488-3215 / (C) 636-328-3332
Pastor John Mindrup: (C) 618-409-3941/ Betty Imboden: (C) 618-973-0572

The Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations Committee

The Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations Committee (PPPRC) is always ready to hear ideas and suggestions. 2015 PPPRC members are: Dennis Conrad, Krista Mansholt, Kathy Porter, Ken Suhre, Linda Uhe, and Lisa Uhe.

The Salem Wire

There is a lot that happens from Sunday to Sunday—deaths, births, weddings, etc. Wouldn't it be nice to know these things sooner than later? The *Salem Wire* is an email message delivery system where you would receive notice of events and happenings in the church. To sign up for the *Salem Wire*, please email the church office at salemuccalh@gmail.com.

The Salem E-Messenger

Would you rather receive *The Messenger* by email? The *Salem E-Messenger* is a delivery system where you would receive *The Messenger* and all committee meeting minutes by email instead of regular mail. To sign up for the *Salem E-Messenger*, please email the church office at salemuccalh@gmail.com.

2015 SALEM CHURCH COUNCIL:

- President Bobby Frank
- Vice-President Gary Boda
- Secretary Donita Prott
- Treasurer Scott Demkey
- Financial Secretary Dawn Reagan
- Dagmar Annable
- Shirley Gall
- Ron Mindrup
- Ronna Renken
- Steve Stille
- Tim Stille
- Christopher Uhe

Pastor Jerry's Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Available for Walk-Ins and Appointments)

Youth Director's Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Office Coordinator's Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Custodian's Hours:

Sunday: 7:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.



Salem United Church of Christ

1117 West North Street
Alhambra, Illinois 62001
Phone: 618-488-3215
Fax: 618-488-3212

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Jerry Amiri, Senior Pastor

Pastor John Mindrup, Assistant Pastor
Rev. Arnold A. Bizer, Pastor Emeritus
Nick Atkins-Harris, Youth Director
Jennifer Henschen, Office Coordinator
Dawn Reinhardt, Music Director
Patti Reckmann, Custodian



THE MESSENGER

~ A Communication Ministry of Salem United Church of Christ ~

Church's Email: salemuccalh@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: jerryamiri@hotmail.com
Web Address: www.salemuccalh.org



Would You Like Home Communion or a Visit From Pastor Jerry?

If you would like or know of someone who would like home communion or a visit from Pastor Jerry in your home for conversation and prayer, please contact him to schedule a time.

Church – 618-488-3215 / Cell – 636-328-3332
Email – jerryamiri@hotmail.com