

The  Newsletter of the  
Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

# Mountain Shepherd

Volume 40 December 2022 Number 12



Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

**FOOD**  
pantry  
TUESDAYS  
6:30-7:30 PM  
SALEM UMC - WOLFVILLE

*the* **FOOD PANTRY**  
is located at  
**12477 WOLFVILLE RD**  
in the  
**PARSONAGE**  
adjacent to Salem Church

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*Celebrating Jesus' Birth*

## Christmas at Salem

Salem Mission Projects No. 2 & 3



Photo by Bill Burrler

November 13, 2022 — Salem members and friends filled **52 shoe boxes** for "Operation Christmas Child" and **25 stockings** for the local "Salvation Army" and **105 reindeer ornaments** for the "Wolfsville Elementary School" Christmas Store.

**Celebrate the Advent & Christmas Season with us . . .**

- \* **Sunday Worship Themes — 9:00 a.m.**
  - Sun Nov 27 "Salvation is Near!" Romans 13:11-14  
First Sunday of Advent
  - Sun Dec 4 "Zechariah & Elizabeth" Luke 1:3-25  
Holy Communion
  - Sun Dec 11 "Mary & Joseph" Matthew 1:18-25  
Special Music: Works in Progress Praise Band
  - Sun Dec 18 "The Wise Men & Herod" Matthew 2:1-12  
Special Music: Adult Choir Anthem "Good News! Everybody Listen"
  - Sun Dec 25 "The Shepherds & God" Luke 2:8-20  
Celebrating Jesus' Birth
- \* **Christmas Eve Program — 7:00 p.m.**
  - Sat Dec 24 **Celebrating the Birth of Jesus**  
Children's Recitations  
Adult Choir Cantata "Jesus, There's Something About That Name"  
Offering to United Methodist "Board of Child Care"





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Chair, Cemetery Committee: George Stottlemeyer  
Food Pantry: Jennifer Gormer, Patrick Boyton,  
Dennis Draper & Tara Birriel

**Salem Membership Statistics:**  
Current Membership: 232  
2022 New Members: 0

**Salem Physical Facilities:**  
Church built 1847  
Educational Building built 1967  
Parsonage built 1974-75

**Salem Website:**  
[www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org](http://www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org)

**Colophon:**  
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**Purpose of Newsletter:**  
The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of communicating with our members, their families, and our many friends of the Wolfsville community and surrounding areas. We pray that this newsletter will inspire you, our readers, to regularly attend worship services, Sunday School, and all other activities of the church. For those who are unable to attend, this newsletter is a means of bringing part of the church to you.

**Salem Mission Statement:**  
At Salem, with God's help, we pledge to INVITE others to Christ, HELP each other grow in faith, and SERVE those in need in our congregation, the community, and the world.

**Salem Vision Statement:**  
We will direct our efforts out into the community to serve people's needs and bring them to Christ.

**Go**  **2022 MISSION PROJECTS** **2022 Goal**

1. Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer, Retired, New Tribes Mission .....	\$2,460
2. Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes) .....	45
3. Salem Mission & Outreach (local needs) .....	1,180
4. Open for 2022 .....	0
5. Wolfsville Food Pantry at Salem .....	1,180
6. Travis & Mary D. (AIM - France) .....	1,320
7. United Methodist Board of Child Care Christmas Offering .....	750
8. Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew) .....	300
9. Open for 2022 .....	0
10. The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic) .....	780
11. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick .....	600
12. Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzania) .....	456
13. Hero's Club (Not meeting but keeping in contact with students) .....	4,500
14. World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia) .....	420
<b>TOTAL GOAL for 2022 .....</b>	<b>\$13,991</b>

**Here's how you can give . . .**

1. Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church, or place cash in an envelope marked "Missions."
2. Tell us which mission project(s) you wish to support by making a note on your check or envelope.
3. Place your contributions in the offering plate at Sunday worship or mail to Salem.  
If you do not designate a project, your contribution will be distributed to the project or projects needing funds to meet the monthly minimum payout goals.

**MISSION PROJECTS - NEWS & UPDATES**

*Mission Project No. 7*

**United Methodist Board of Child Care**


**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING**

Each year, the entire offering received at Salem's Christmas Eve program is given to the Board of Child Care.

The Board of Child Care is an agency within the United Methodist Church that is dedicated to ministering to the needs of troubled children and their families. No matter how a child or teenager comes to be in their care, their goal is to create an environment where they can grow to be successful members of their families and communities.

The Board of Child Care takes care of children by providing long term places to stay, and schools they can attend while there, as well as sponsoring children for adoption and day care.

Campuses are located near Baltimore and Martinsburg, West Virginia.



"There's hope for your future, declares the Lord."  
JEREMIAH 31:17

**OFFICE HOURS for PASTOR BOB SNYDER**

<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</b>	
7am - Noon	Prep and worship (at church)	6-7 am	Devotions (at home)
		9 am - Noon	Parsonage Office
		Noon - 1 pm	Lunch
		1-5 pm	Parsonage Office
<b>Monday (day off)</b>		<b>Saturday</b>	
6-7 am	Devotions (at home)	7-9 am	Final touches on Sunday's sermon (at home)
9-11 am	Planning Time (at home)		

# Who's Doing What, When?

December 2022

## 9:00 A.M. SANCTUARY & ONLINE ZOOM WORSHIP

### Lay Reader

- 4 Marlene Young
- 11 Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer
- 18 Janice Harshman
- 25 Dennis Leatherman

### Acolyte

- 4 Loralli Snyder
- 11 Valentina Barkdoll
- 18 Loralli Snyder
- 25 Valentina Barkdoll

### Organist/Pianist

- 4 Sara Weitzel
- 11 Sara Weitzel
- 18 Sara Weitzel
- 25 Sara Weitzel

### Computer

- 4 Donna Snyder
- 11 Wanda Barkdoll
- 18 Lori Williamson
- 25 Robin Haupt

### Camera

- 4 Lori Williamson
- 11 Dennis Leatherman
- 18 Wanda Barkdoll
- 25 Dennis Draper

### Greeter

- 4 Donald & Susie Stottlemeyer
- 11 Dennis Draper
- 18 Matt Stottlemeyer
- 25 Barkdoll Family

## Salem Choir Notes

By Sandy Lewis, Adult Choir Director

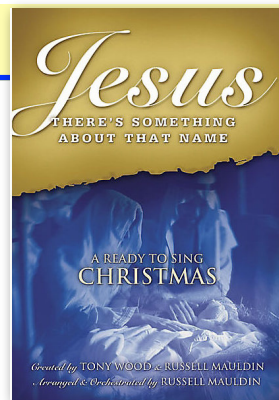
In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1, we read that the angel of the Lord announced to Mary “you will give birth to a son and you are to call Him Jesus.”

Since that time over 2,000 years ago, that beautiful name of “Jesus” has brought healing, forgiveness, comfort, peace and joy to everyone who calls upon it.

The choir will offer praise to this precious name during the month of December. The Sunday before Christmas we will announce the good news of His coming with the joyous anthem “Good News! Everybody Listen.”

On Christmas Eve we will present the cantata “Jesus, There’s Just Something About That Name” which features the beloved song by William Gaither as well as other traditional and contemporary songs that glorify the name of Jesus.

Christmas is a time of giving gifts, and Marlene and I want to thank each member of our choir for giving the gift of their voice and musical talent as we celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas season!



## It's Your Day!



### December Anniversaries

- 12 - Bob & Petie Stup
- 23 - Jon & Fonda Gormer
- 24 - Dennis & Ruth Draper

### December Birthdays

- 3 - Joe Hawkins
- 4 - Judith Harne
- 4 - Dottie Hager
- 6 - Cody Blickenstaff
- 8 - Sara Weitzel
- 9 - Theresa Haupt
- 9 - Mark Koons
- 11 - Amber Breneman
- 12 - Laura Colbert
- 17 - Holly Rippeon
- 18 - Holly Brashears
- 23 - Bill Burrier
- 25 - Stuart Tolland
- 28 - Lavena Jenkins
- 29 - Jackson Haddock
- 30 - Keagan Mellott

### Holy Communion

December 4, 2022  
9:00 a.m.



### Salvation Army Stockings

Thanks to everyone who generously filled Salvation Army stockings for needy children in Frederick County, ranging from ages 0-12.

There were 25 stockings returned and they are much appreciated.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in bringing a little joy to a child this Christmas season.

—Theresa Haupt

## “Bee-lievers” make Gifts for Elementary School

Photo by Fonda Gormer

By Fonda Gormer

The women in the “Bee-lievers” worked on making reindeer ornaments at their October meeting for the Wolfsville Elementary School’s Christmas sale.

They completed the herd of 105 reindeer at the November meeting. This is one of the projects used to reach out to the community.

The next meeting on December 8 will be the annual cookie exchange.

Those attending are invited to bring a holiday reading and a plate of cookies and the recipe to share.

We will meet at 7 p.m. in the church social area.



Since 1885, **The Salvation Army** has been providing social and spiritual services to the community of Frederick County. The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name.



## Message from the Pastor and Worship in December

■ By PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER

**I** love Advent and Christmas and this year I've yearned for them more than any other year. During Advent and Christmas this year, I want to spend unhurried time watching for Christ and receiving his goodness.

I want to become lost in Jesus' birth story which, along with Easter, are the defining stories of our faith. I want to be reassured and given renewed hope.

The characters in the Christmas story yearned for these same things.

So, let's hear their firsthand accounts of how they journeyed through Advent and Christmas... how they encountered God and God's goodness... how it restored them... and by immersing ourselves in their reflections, perhaps we can find the restoration and renewed hope we are seeking this year.

Watch for Him. He's coming! May God bless you greatly this Advent and Christmas Season! —Pastor Bob

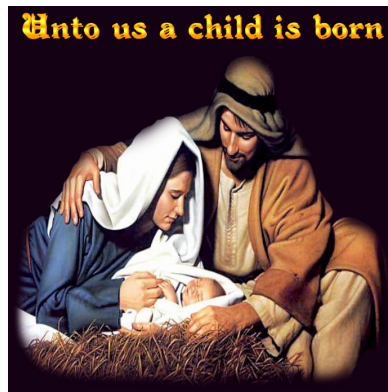
### December 4 Second Sunday in Advent Holy Communion "Zechariah and Elizabeth" Luke 1:3-25

Luke 1:17 – "He will go on before the Lord ... to turn the hearts of the Fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah reflected, "It was hard for me to make sense of my encounter with God while serving in the temple, and hard to believe that his promise of a child would come true. But it did."

Elizabeth reflected, "God told me to name the boy John and I shared the name with my friends, but they thought it was not an appropriate name because no one in our family had ever been called John.

When Zechariah, who had been mute,



repeated the name 'John' I knew God had been working through these events all along."

### December 11 Third Sunday in Advent "Mary and Joseph" Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 1:21 – "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Mary reflected, "I was afraid when God's messenger shared with me that I was with child through the power of the Holy Spirit and would give birth to the Son of God and our Savior.

"But by the end of his visit, an extraordinary peace had overcome me, enabling me to respond, 'May it be as you have said.'"

Joseph reflected, "I was so angry with Mary when she told me she was pregnant. How could she do this with another man. We were engaged to be married!

"But God's messenger visited me and explained that I was to take Mary as my wife, that Mary was indeed with child, not from another man but, through the power of the Holy Spirit. I did as God's messenger said. I married Mary."

### December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent "The Wise Men and Herod" Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 2:1b-2a – "Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'"

One of the Magi reflected, "I did not want to leave all my creature comforts and travel all the way from Persia to Judea, even if it was to see the Son of God. Even if I took the trouble of going, I doubted that he would agree to be my Savior. I'm a Gentile. He was to be the long-awaited Savior of the Jewish people.

"The others went ahead of me, but I started to feel like I was going to miss something, so I set out, caught up with my two other friends, and we traveled to Jerusalem together.

"When we arrived there, we were summoned by Herod, the king. He appeared to us to be very disturbed about the birth of a Savior and we suspected his intentions were not good."

### December 24 Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.

### December 25 Christmas Day "The Shepherds and God" Luke 2:8-20

Luke 2:10b-11 – "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

A shepherd reflected, "I was a shepherd in the fields around Jerusalem the night Jesus was born. It was a night I will never forget as long as I live.

"First there was a star in the sky, more brilliant than any other I had seen before.

"Then came God's messenger from out of nowhere, telling me and my shepherd friends not to be afraid, that our Savior had been born.

"Then a whole company of God's messengers appeared to us, praising God for his gift of a Savior.

"All these things compelled us to go into Bethlehem and see for ourselves what God's messengers had been telling us about. We went, we did see, and the experience changed our lives."





## The Spirit of Christmas

By Christel B. Ellis

Whenever Christmas Carols  
Re-echo o'er the snow,  
The air is filled with laughter  
As the children come and go.

The Christmas chimes are calling  
Everyone to evening prayer,  
And each tired heart is strengthened  
As it kneels in silence there.

We hear the Christmas story  
With our hearts wrapped in awe,  
As we hear again of wise men  
And the Christ Child in the straw.

And each year we offer blessings  
At the birth of Christ our King,  
And each year the earth re-echoes  
With the praises that we sing.



## When Winter Comes

By John C. Bonser

When winter visits us at last  
With many an icy, chilling blast,  
And scatters mounds of fallen leaves  
Until they hide in shrubs and eaves.  
We mourn the gentler seasons past!

When snow comes down for many days  
And hills are cloaked in silver haze;  
When all the ground is frozen hard  
And slippery slopes put us on guard,  
We rail at winter's devious ways!

And yet, when winter brings, as well,  
A log fire's own delightful smell;  
The rosy cheeks on each small face  
As children play outside our place  
And snowballs fly and "targets" yell.

We find that winter's not so bad,  
But offers much to make us glad:  
Fond memories of holidays  
With loved ones shared in many ways  
That once, in wintertime, we had!

May peace be more than a season,  
may it be a way of life.

It is Christ in the heart  
that puts Christmas in the air.

Submitted by Margaret Yowell



# RECIPE



## White Chocolate Snickerdoodle Blondies

A cross between a chewy blondie and moist butter cake, these blondies are studded with white chocolate chips and ribboned with sweet cinnamon sugar.

### INGREDIENTS for Blondies:

2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour	3/4 cup granulated sugar
1 1/4 teaspoon baking powder	3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt	2 large eggs, room temperature
3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened to room temperature	2 teaspoons vanilla extract
	1 cup white chocolate chips

### INGREDIENTS for Cinnamon-Sugar Filling:

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
1/3 cup granulated sugar

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Line a 11x7 inch baking pan with aluminum foil, leaving enough overhang on the sides to easily pull the blondies out of the pan and cut.
2. In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. Using a hand or stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the butter on high speed in a large bowl. Beat for at least 1 minute until creamy. Add sugars and beat for 2 full minutes on high speed until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs and vanilla on high speed. On low speed, beat in dry ingredients until just combined. With a large wooden spoon or rubber spatula, fold in the white chocolate chips.
3. Spoon half the batter into pan. It will be a relatively thin layer, but try to spread it across the pan evenly. Combine the cinnamon and sugar and sprinkle on top of the bottom layer, reserving 1 Tablespoon for the top. Spread the remaining batter over top. Some of the cinnamon-sugar will mix into the top layer as you spread it, which is fine. Sprinkle the top with remaining cinnamon-sugar.
4. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely for about 1 hour.

Sue Ellen Stottlemyer made this several years ago for the "Bee-lievers" Women's Group Christmas Recipe Exchange.



## In Sympathy

### Hilda Cartee

July 15, 1927 – November 14, 2022

Salem wishes to express sincere sympathy to the family of Hilda Cartee, 95, of Wolfsville, who passed away November 14, 2022.

Although Hilda was not a member of Salem Church, she enjoyed attending many of Salem's activities. She also enjoyed receiving *The Mountain Shepherd* which was mailed to her each month.

She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Wolfsville, where the funeral was held, and burial was in the St. Mark's Cemetery.

## Sticky Buns & Pies For Sale

As a fundraiser for Salem's "Bee-lievers" women's group, Anita Harshman is making sticky buns and pies.

- Pecan Cinnamon Sticky Buns: \$12
- Apple Pie: \$10
- Cherry or Peach: \$11
- Raspberry, Blueberry or Blackberry: \$13

You may purchase these items directly from Anita. To place an order, call Anita at 240-818-0126.

August 2020

Sit and watch the stars as did the shepherds.

## Salem Reaches 175-Year Milestone

■ By Fonda Gormer

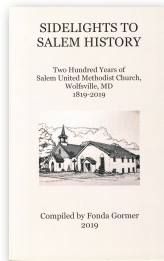
**S**alem United Methodist Church is celebrating a birthday this year. No, not the congregation— we did that in 2019! The sanctuary building itself has reached a milestone. It is 175 years old!

In 1847, Wolfsville was apparently growing in religious fervor. St. Mark's Lutheran congregation built their stone church on the hill above Wolfsville. The St. James Reformed congregation was organized and would soon build their brick church on what is now Black Rock Road. And John Hoover donated land across the corner from his house to the Salem congregation to build a sanctuary.

We don't know what that building looked like when it was built. It is pretty certain that it has always been a stone building with a stucco finish. We do know that there were several major repairs over the years, possibly due to problems with the mortar in the stone walls. But the building still stands in the heart of Wolfsville. Happy birthday, Salem!

### "Sidelights to Salem History" book still available

There are still 8 copies of "Sidelights to Salem History" available. This book was compiled in 2019 in celebration of Salem's 200th anniversary. Cost of each book is \$10. Please call Fonda Gormer at 301-293-2436 to purchase a copy.



## Salem Open for "Christmas Church Tour"

Saturday, December 10 — 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**S**alem United Methodist Church is again participating in the "Country Churches Christmas Tour" offered by the Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society (MVAHS) after a break of a few years due to COVID-19.

The tour will be held on Saturday, December 10, from 1 to 5 p.m. It is free and self-drive at your own pace.

While the churches can be visited in any order, the first suggested stop is at Myersville Town Hall, 301 Main Street, where the tour map and brochure is available, along with historical displays, refreshments and restrooms. Please note that your internet and GPS connection can be intermittent in some parts of our mountains.

MVAHS is grateful to JB Seafood for its generous donation to defray costs of this event. Thank them when you go in for your next "Shrimp Po Boy."

The tour includes eleven churches from Myersville, Harmony, Wolfsville and Foxville. Open this year are Myersville Church of the Brethren (which has been recently refurbished), St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Harmony Community Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, Salem United Methodist Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Hillside Chapel (formerly Pleasant Walk United Methodist Church), Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, and Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church.

Each church interior, altar and choir space will be beautifully decorated in keeping with its Christmas tradition. There will be church docents at each to guide visitors and answer questions.

All of these churches have their roots in small congregations formed in the 1700 or 1800's. Their buildings have changed over time, but still reflect a strong sense of community and location.

For any questions you have about the tour or the churches, contact Fonda Gormer at 301-293-2436.

**SNOW DATE:** If the snow emergency plan is in effect in Frederick County on December 10, the tour will be rescheduled for Sunday, December 11, from 1 to 5 p.m. Check the MVAHS Facebook page or website [www.wmahistory.com](http://www.wmahistory.com) for status.



## NEWS & NOTES

### CROP Walk a Success Despite Rain: Donations totaled \$3,145

September 25, 2022, started out as a rainy Sunday, casting doubts on whether the annual CROP Hunger Walk would take place. At start time there was a break in the rain, and 15 walkers took off on their 5-mile walk. As showers, and then a downpour, developed, 10 of those walkers refused a ride back to Salem. The rain did subside and the temperature was not too chilly as those devoted walkers, along with dogs Binky, Bo and JB, finished the walk.

Donations to the CROP Hunger Walk totaled \$3,145. These funds will be sent to Church World Service to be used for hunger relief programs around the world. Twenty-five percent of the money will be returned to our area, divided between the Salem food pantry, the Middletown Food Bank, and the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs.

Four churches participated in this year's walk:

Salem UMC	9 walkers, 2 dogs	\$1,145
St. Mark's Lutheran	1 walker	\$550
Harmony COB	5 walkers, 1 dog	\$1,275
Grossnickle COB	no walkers	\$175

Thank you to all the walkers, their sponsors and other volunteers who made the walk possible. —Fonda Gormer

### Church Trees Trimmed

In late October, Baker Tree Services, Inc., of Thurmont, trimmed the two Yoshino Cherry trees and the Kousa Dogwood in the front yard of the church. They also trimmed the two Sugar Maples in the parsonage's front yard, as well.

### United Methodist

#### General Conference set for 2024

The 2024 United Methodist General Conference will be held April 23 – May 3, 2024, at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering.

Also, Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling was reassigned by the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy to lead the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences.

In Memory of

## Rev. Hayden L. Sparks

November 13, 1932 — November 11, 2022

### Former Pastor of the Wolfsville Charge: 1989 — 1996

Salem United Methodist Church • Garfield United Methodist Church • Pleasant Walk United Methodist Church

■ By Bill Burrier

**W**e extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Rev. Hayden L. Sparks, who passed away on November 11, 2022, at the age of 89 (2 days before his 90th birthday).

Rev. Sparks faithfully served the Wolfsville United Methodist Charge for 7 years, from 1989 to 1996, from which he retired from ministry. He and his wife Phoebe served 40 years with the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.

#### Ministries Prior to Wolfsville

In the August 1989 issue of *The Mountain Shepherd*, Rev. Sparks wrote “Phoebe and I come to you from 12 years of ministry with St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church in Hagerstown. Preceding that ministry, we served the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church for 14 years. Prior to Poolesville, we served the Bethesda-Hyattstown United Methodist Charge for 5 years, and pastored the Prospect-Marvin Charge near Mt. Airy for 2 years. We reflect upon each of these opportunities with a sense of gratitude for having had the privilege of ministry.”

#### A Three-Church Charge

Prior to Rev. Sparks, Rev. Ellis had served the Wolfsville Charge consisting of two churches, Salem & Garfield.

When Rev. Sparks was appointed to Wolfsville, the District Superintendent of the Baltimore-Washington Conference added Pleasant Walk as a third church on the Wolfsville Charge.

Rev. Sparks was expected to lead Sunday morning worship in three churches every Sunday; Salem at 9 a.m., Garfield at 10 a.m., and Pleasant Walk at 11 a.m.

Church parishioners marveled at how he was able to keep up that pace, after all, he was not a young man at this point. Reflecting on his Sunday morning tight schedule, he had to leave Salem early to drive the 3.2 miles to Garfield to begin their service at 10 a.m. Then leave Garfield to go to Pleasant Walk, 6.2 miles,



Rev. Hayden L. Sparks

by 11 a.m. This proved not to be possible, so Tom Dalton, lay person at Pleasant Walk, conducted the worship service until Rev. Sparks arrived. It was a challenge, but Rev. Sparks did it for 7 years.

At the beginning of his appointment in Wolfsville, Rev. Sparks wrote these words in *The Mountain Shepherd* about the challenge that was before him.

He said, “Keep in mind that yours truly is not only a different voice from my predecessor, H. Ronald Ellis, but I’m also representing an altered charge. Pleasant Walk has been added to the charge, thus we represent a trio of churches. Frankly, the challenge is indeed great and in many ways a heavy one. Hence, at the outset, I request your prayer interest and full cooperation.”

#### Ministry

During his 7 years of ministry in Wolfsville, Rev. Sparks put a great deal of emphasis on missions. His favorite statement about missions was “Missions is the Mission of the Church.”

His obituary reminded us, stating “He had a passion for supporting many missionaries across the globe.”

Under Rev. Sparks’ leadership, nearly

10% of Salem’s offerings were designated for more than 15 mission projects.

Rev. Sparks emphasized Bible reading and study, and also introduced Salem to the *Our Daily Bread* devotional which we are still using today.

We remember his interesting sermon series on the Book of Revelation. In fact, by popular demand, he preached it twice.

Back then, revival services were a common practice in the Wolfsville area churches. Rev. Sparks also embraced the services, renaming them “The Wolfsville Evangelistic Crusade.”

Every year of his Wolfsville ministry, he and Phoebe hosted a visiting evangelist who conducted the crusade services the week before Easter, alternating among all three churches. The evangelist also conducted a daily Bible Study.

During those years, evangelists came from Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, and Kentucky. Phoebe directed the Wolfsville Charge Crusade Choir and led the congregational singing. The three congregations and the community at large came together for these services.

#### Retirement

The June 1996 edition of *The Mountain Shepherd* contained a tribute to Rev. Sparks on his retirement.

It said in part, “During the seven years at Wolfsville, his leadership has brought many positive changes, and a deep bonding of friendship.

“We are reminded of his caring and sharing attitude. Also, his tremendous ability to remember people’s names, and then to connect them with their relatives.

“His memorization of scripture is very impressive, and he challenges us to do the same. He often reminded us of his appreciation for hymns and hymn writers.

“His ministry also emphasized two major priorities: evangelism and missions. His evangelistic approach to preaching encouraged the Salem congregation to make important life-changing decisions concerning Christ.”

**How to Give  
Tithes & Offerings**

**1. Offering Plate in Sanctuary**

For those at sanctuary worship, an offering plate will be available at the rear of the sanctuary.

**2. By Mail**

You may mail your tithes and offerings to:  
Salem United Methodist Church  
Church Treasurer  
P. O. Box 144  
Myersville, MD 21773-0144

Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church.

**3. Electronically Online**

You may give electronically by viewing our website [SalemChurchWolfsville.org](http://SalemChurchWolfsville.org) and select GIVE.

**Heavenly Humor**



**SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT**

*Some thoughts to ponder . . .*

Jesus is the gift that perfectly fits the size of every heart.

There has only been one Christmas; the rest are anniversaries.

The way we spend Christmas is far more important than how much we spend!

Submitted by Margaret Yowell

**The Mountain Shepherd**

Salem United Methodist Church  
12477-79 Wolfsville Road  
Myersville, MD 21773-9303

[www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org](http://www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org)

Address Services Requested

**SERVICE TIMES**

**9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship**

**10:15 a.m. Sunday School**

Place  
Stamp  
Here

