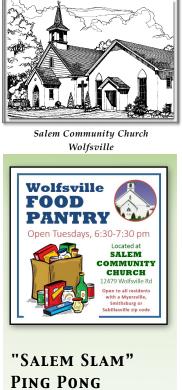
Newsletter of Salem Community Church — Wolfsville

Mountain Shepherd

Volume 42

The

February 2024

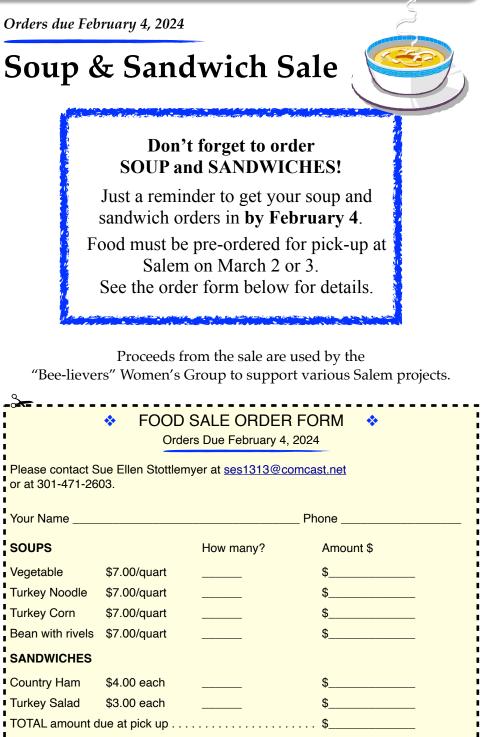


PING PONG Tournament Re-scheduled for Feb 3

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PICK UP (check one) Sat Mar 2 (4-6 p.m.) Sun Mar 3 (9-11 a.m.)

Mountain Shepherd

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Physical address: 12477-79 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD 21773-9303

Mailing address: PO Box 144 Myersville, MD 21773-0144

Newsletter Editor: William G. Burrier BillBurrier@icloud.com

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Neil Suders PastorNeil05@gmail.com 301-293-1616 (Pastor's Office) 717-753-2112 (Mobile)

Salem Email Address:: SalemChurchWolfsville@gmail.com

Salem Website: www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Salem Key Contacts:

Lay Leader: Dennis Leatherman Chair, Church Council: Vernon Stottlemyer Sunday School Superintendent: Bobby Fogle Chair, Board of Trustees: Sue Ellen Stottlemyer Church Treasurer: William Burrier Sunday School Treasurer: Mary Fogle Chair, Personnel: Robin Haupt Chair, Cemetery Committee: George Stottlemyer Food Pantry: Justinn & Holly Irons, Patrick Boyton Tara Birriel, Linda Marenic, and Brynleigh Irons

Salem Vision Statement:

Building Connections. Growing God's Family.

Salem Mission Statement:

Bringing hope by sharing the peace of Christ through teaching His word, extending His grace, and serving others in His love.

Salem Physical Facilities:

Church built 1847 Educational Building built 1967 Parsonage built 1974-75

Colophon:

Produced using macOS Pages 13.1 and macOS 12.7.2 on an **•** M1 MacBook Air computer, HP LaserJet P3015 postscript laser printer, and Ricoh MP-3054 digital copier.

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.



2024 MISSION PROJECTS

"Missions is the Mission of the Church"

	Frank & Nancy Stottlemyer, Retired, New Tribes Missie Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes).	-
	Salem Mission & Outreach (local needs)	-
	Christ Cream Ministry (Tim Leber) NEW in 2024	
5.	Wolfsville Food Pantry (at Salem)	Community Support
6.	Travis & Mary D. (AIM - France & Canada)	\$110/Monthly Min
7.	Board of Child Care (Martinsburg Campus)	Offering Varies
8.	Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew)	\$25/Monthly Min
9.	Open for 2024	0
10.	The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic)	\$65/Monthly Min
11.	Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick	\$50/Monthly Min
12.	Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzan	ia) \$43/Monthly
13.	Open for 2024	0
14.	World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia)	\$35/Monthly
	TOTAL GOAL for 2024	\$10,146

Here's how you can give ...

 Make checks payable to Salem Community Church, or place cash in an envelope marked "Missions."
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

Salem Mission Project No. 4

Christ Cream Ministry (Tim Leber)

NEW FOR 2024 — Salem's Church Council recently added a new mission project for 2024, Tim Leber's Christ Cream Ministry.

Mr. Leber, a retired Middletown High School teacher, gives out free ice cream from his ice cream truck, with a prayer. He goes wherever invited, church events, youth activities, family reunions, etc.



When Tim was advised Salem had added his ministry as a mission project, he wrote a "Thank You" saying, "Thanks to all of you at Salem for daily shining for Jesus! Your support of the Christ Cream Ministry is greatly appreciated! Please let me know any time you'd like ice creams and prayers for any of your events. Wishing all of God's blessings to all of you at Salem! With much love and gratitude, -Tim Leber

Salem will provide \$50 monthly to this ministry.

Salem Mission Project No. 3

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings

Dear Friends:

We at The Salvation Army would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all your hard work and time that you gave filling stockings this Christmas season. This year the Stocking Program assisted 1,178 children in Frederick County. Thank you again for helping those in need.

May you and your families have a wonderful New Year. Sincerely,

Morrisa Travers

Social Service Program Manager

[Salem filled 25 Salvation Army Christmas stockings this year.]



Who's Doing What, When?

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

Lay Reader

- 4 Michael Burrier 11 Gary Barkdoll 18 Jim Laky
- 25 Dennis Leatherman

Computer

- 4 Robin Haupt
- 11 Wanda Barkdoll
- 18 Wanda Barkdoll
- 25 Sue Ellen Stottlemyer

Acolyte

- 4 Valentina Barkdoll 11 Chevenne Leatherman
- 18 Brynleigh Irons
- 25 Shelby Leatherman

Camera

- 4 Camilo Barkdoll 11 Brandon Leatherman
 - 18 Robin Haupt
 - 25 Cathie Elsbach

4 Sara Weitzel

February 2024

- 18 Sara Weitzel
- 25 Sara Weitzel

- 4 Donald & Susie Stottlemyer
- 11 Dennis & Ruth Draper
- 18 Matthew Stottlemyer
- 25 Barkdoll Family

News and Notes

Inclement Weather Policy

If inclement weather forces the church building to be closed for Sunday service, Pastor Neil will send out an email and voice message by 7 a.m. An abbreviated worship service will still be held at 9:00 a.m. using Zoom, giving folks an opportunity to worship at home.

If you are not currently on Salem's distribution list for prayer requests and church announcements by phone and/or email, please provide your phone number and/ or email address to Pastor Neil (717-753-2112) or Michael Burrier (301-401-7575).

"Salem Slam" Ping-Pong Tournament Saturday, February 3 @ 6:30 p.m.

Get your paddles ready! It's the return of the "Salem Slam" Ping-Pong Tournament at Salem in the social room. All ages are invited from youth to adults. We will start tournament play close to 6:30 p.m. once the team brackets are established via a random draw on the computer.

Please bring a dessert or snack to share. Invite your friends and family to join us for the evening where we can enjoy each other's company and have a little fun while doing so. Hope to see you there! - *Sue Ellen Stottlemyer*

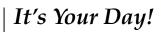
Come Grow With Us 9 AM Worship • 10:15 AM Bible Study

Salem Church is growing. The Lord has blessed our decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church in September 2023 and become an independent, nondenominational congregation following traditional Christian values.

We are excited to share what God has been doing through the ministry of Salem Community Church.

At a recent Church Council meeting, Pastor Neil shared the blessing of increased attendance at worship, now averaging 106 and growing.





February Anniversaries

- 22 Roy & Holly Rippeon
- 28 Curtis & Dawn Nelson

February Birthdays

- 1 Maria Barkdoll
- 3 Michael Burrier
- 3 Ruth Draper
- 5 Diana Leatherman
- 6 David Woods Jr.
- 9 Robin Haupt
- 9 Robert Keller Jr.
- 10 Trista Wright
- 15 Janet Goetzke
- 16 Polly Miller
- 19 Samuel Sowers
- 19 Michele Kline
- 21 Dianna Poling
- 21 Landon Lafferty
- 24 Scott Wisner
- 24 Gary Barkdoll
- 24 Michael Mellott
- 26 Tonia Mueller

Salem Choir Notes

Salem Community Choir will begin Spring rehearsal on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Marlene and I welcome everyone back and also encourage those who haven't sung with us before to join us.

Marlene has chosen some wonderful selections that will be a joy to sing.

We will be preparing offerings for morning worship, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing everyone as we unite our voices in praise to our Lord!

—Sandy Lewis

"I will sing to the Lord all my life. I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." –Psalm 104:33 NIV

Pastor Neil's OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10:00-5:00 (office) Study and Sermon Prep **Tuesday** 8:30-5:00 (office) Study and Sermon Prep Wednesday 9:00-5:00 Visitation Thursday 8:30-5:00 (office) Study and Administration Friday 8:30-5:00 (office) Study and Sermon Prep Saturday (day off) (I am available to meet with you and family members at the hospital prior to surgery.)





due to power outage.

- **Organist**/Pianist
 - 11 Sara Weitzel

Greeter



By Garnett Ann Schultz

The waiting time — a quiet world When snow is all about, No grass of green, no singing birds, No warmth without a doubt. It surely is the time between With winter dreams to share, A frosty morn, an evening cool, And snowflakes everywhere.

February sometimes lends A touch of springtime charms, A bit of magic, gentle winds To catch with outstretched arms, A different kind of winter world With oft a bit of sun, As patiently we watch and wait For special winter fun.

A time between — and yet so dear. Bright hopes of fall just past While looking forward to the spring Amidst the winter's blast, For February is a span; It tells of things to be, A bridge connecting fall and spring We travel happily.

A February Snow

By Garnett Ann Schultz

The sun shone through a snowy sky And drifts were mounting white and high; Just yesterday it all began — A wondrous February Plan: God sent white flakes, all soft and dear To surely thrill and bless us here.

It lasted far into the night, A beautiful and charming sight — Each branch and tree, a rich design, A forming bit of wintertime, With fields and hills and country lanes All bright and sparkling once again.

Then as the dawn rose in the east, The sun broke through, the snow had ceased — A world of pleasant sweet surprise, A fairyland before our eyes. God sent a February snow.

To love is to find pleasure In the happiness of the person loved. *

INGREDIENTS:

3 cups chicken, cooked and deboned 1 cup carrots 1 cup peas

Crust:

1-1/2 cups flour 3/4 teaspoon salt 1-1/2 cup milk

3 cups broth 1 cup potatoes 1 cup milk 2/3 cup flour

1 tablespoon baking powder 6 tablespoons butter, melted

DIRECTIONS: Cook vegetables in chicken broth until soft; then add meat and stir. Dissolve flour in milk and add to mixture to thicken. Pour into 9x13-inch

pan or baking dish. Mix crust and pour on top. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes or until done.

RECIPE

Chicken Pot Pie Casserole

Selected from "Lancaster Farming"

Valentines

By Elizabeth Rooney

The world's a valentine from God, More intricate than lace. Sweeter than roses, Fragrant with His grace. Look at it closely, Read the words of love He's written over, under, Through and through. Then giving this loving God Your heart, your love So He can have a valentine From you.

Eternal Valentine

By Dan A. Hoover

Did you know each passing minute Makes me love you more and more? How I listen through the hours For your footsteps at the door. If, because life is so busy, I have not renewed my vow, Let me, on this day of lovers, Do it most sincerely now.

Love cannot be forced; Love cannot be coaxed and teased. It comes out of Heaven, Unasked and unsought. – Pearl Buck

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

Do We Dare By Tom Kolb, Frederick, MD

Do we dare to be a Christian And devote our life to God, When there's sin and grave temptation On every path we trod. Do we dare to tell the story Of a God that sets us free, When there are idols all around us For everyone to see. Do we dare to be quite different From the busy passing throng, And always know the difference Between what's right and wrong. Do we dare to stand for something In a world of many creeds, And willing to be Christian When we see our brother's needs.



Message from the Pastor

and

Worship in February

By PASTOR NEIL SUDERS

What's Up with Ash Wednesday?

ebruary 14th, 2024, is not just Valentine's Day. It is also Ash Wednesday. Some people might be prone to ask, "What is Ash Wednesday, exactly?" or "Why is Ash Wednesday significant?"

Ash Wednesday is the day before the Lent season, and it is a day that is marked by solemn mourning and dedication to forego some part of people's lives for the period that leads up to Easter.

The history of Ash Wednesday is linked to Pope Gregory in the 11th century. The church began to smear a mixture of ash and olive oil onto the forehead, in the sign of a cross, to show repentance.

The practice of physical ashes, as part of the tradition, began to really gain momentum around 1970. Adherents to Ash Wednesday point back to the third verse of Daniel 9, where Daniel put on sackcloth and sat in ashes to pray for God's will.

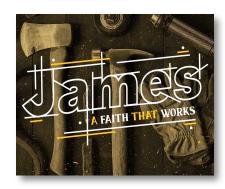
Ash Wednesday is a tradition of the liturgical "high church" (e.g., Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians). Is it right for Salem Community Church? Let us consider some points of clarification.

First, while the concept of sackcloth and ashes does appear in Scripture, their occurrences are limited to the Old Testament, where the people were under the Law of Moses instead of under grace.

A second consideration is that Jesus fasted and prayed, yet he never put on ashes, nor sat in ashes.

Finally, nowhere in the New Testament writing of the apostles do we find a mandate to the church to include the practice of ashes in the church services.

Considering this evidence, Salem



Community Church will not be continuing the practice of smearing the figure of the cross on the forehead with ashes.

At the risk of seeming inconsistent, I am okay with the observation of Lent. While the term "Lent" does not appear in the Bible, there are many examples of forty-day periods of fasting, prayer, and intimate fellowship with God.

The most glaring example was when Jesus, Himself, fasted for forty days before being tempted in the wilderness.

Many believers give up certain aspects of their lives for Lent to dedicate themselves more seriously to their prayer and devotional life.

Preparation Service Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m.

Considering that, we will be having a Preparation Service, in lieu of Ash Wednesday, on February 14, at 7:00 p.m.

We will be preparing our hearts for the season of the year leading up to the highlight of the Christian year; namely, Easter.

Our Preparation Service will involve singing, praying, and worship through the Word of God. It will be both sober yet celebratory. I hope to see many of you here as we prepare our hearts for greater spiritual victory ahead. In Christ, *—Pastor Neil*

Worship *in* February

February 4, 2024 James 2:14-26

"The Whole Faith Versus Works Debate"

Was Paul correct when he wrote that we are saved by grace, through faith and NOT BY WORKS?! Or was James right when he wrote that saving faith is faith that works? Better yet, could they BOTH be right? We will settle the debate from James' perspective.

February 11, 2024 James 3:1-12 "Trash-Talking and the 'Big Game'"

There will be a football game televised on this day. It will be the biggest game of the year. Without a doubt, it will be the culmination of a lot of trash talking between the two teams. Sadly, there is a lot of trash talking in churches across the country. How should we, as Christians, talk to each other? James addressed that in his letter, and we will look at his answer.

February 14, 2024 (Wednesday) 1 Peter 1:13-16 Preparation Service

On the eve of the Lent season, we consider Peter's mandate to be selfcontrolled and holy. As we contemplate resigning some luxury item(s) between this date and Easter, we must prepare ourselves for the journey of a closer walk with Jesus.

February 18, 2024 James 3:13-18

"The Wisdom of Solomon"

James wrote that there are two types of wisdom; that which is from above and that which is below. In other words, he referred to divine wisdom and earthly wisdom. We will look more closely at what distinguishes the two from each other.

February 25, 2024 James 4:1-10

"The Power of True Humility"

The key to successful relationships is true humility. While the world emphasizes self-exaltation and personal pursuits, God wants us to be truly humble so that we can have relationships that honor and glorify Him.

James wrote that if we humble ourselves, God will lift us up. I do not know about you, but I would rather have God lift me up than lifting myself up!

Salem Iron Men: February events at Salem

By Bill Weaver, Leader, Salem Iron Men

Saturday, February 10, 2024 Salem Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.

The Salem Iron Men will be gathering in the Salem Community Church Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner. Bring a friend and your favorite dish. Following dinner, we will move to the church sanctuary for our evening study and discussion.

Friday, February 23, 2024 6:00 p.m. at Salem Movies for Men

During the winter months, we will be hosting a movie night for men of all ages. For the month of February, we are featuring the film, "**Courageous**" by the Kendrick Brothers. Following the movie will be a brief discussion of personal application.



New Opportunities

New Worship Committee

A new committee is forming to partner with the Pastor in planning worship and special services throughout the year. The committee will meet quarterly. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Neil at the church office (301-293-1616).

Young Adult Ministry is Forming

There will be a new ministry for young adults here at Salem Community Church. The ministry will be geared to post high school graduates to thirty-somethings.

Whether you are single, in a relationship, living at home, living on your own, whether you have children or don't, this ministry is for you.

We will be offering a Sunday school class, taught by Pastor Neil, every Sunday and occasional activities.

For any questions, please direct them to Pastor Neil or Misty. The class will begin the first Sunday of the new quarter, which will be March 3, 2024. Class location will be announced later.

February — A Month of Love

February is the month of love. Valentine's Day gets many people thinking of the person they care most about, and how best to express their love to that one.

Flowers are bought by the truckload. Roses are given, dozens at a time. Hallmark makes a fortune when we all go out to find the perfect card for the one we love.



It's a great thing when it really is true love that lasts forever. But lots of this love celebration will be forgotten not much longer after the roses wilt.

There seems to be less and less real love to celebrate. Thank God for those love relationships that are real and last a long time. But even those won't last forever, and even the best relationships have their limitations.

Call It Amazing Love

But there is one relationship that has no limits and will last forever. Call it amazing love! Wonder how it could ever be? But it's true, straight from the throne of our precious Savior, Jesus Christ. The only way we will be able to celebrate amazing love — true and ever-lasting love — is to know God through His Son Jesus Christ.

First Congregational Meeting

Salem Community Church

Sunday, March 10, 2024

10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO SALEM COMMUNITY CHURCH

- Connection Card If you are new to our church, please complete a Connection Card so we can get acquainted. Connection Cards are located in the pamphlet holder on the back of the pew. You are our special guest – please do not feel obligated to give any money; we pray that the service is meaningful!
- Children's Activity Bags are available outside the sanctuary each Sunday. Each bag contains activities around the scripture reading for the day and other activities to engage your little ones during the service.
- Prayer Requests Pastor Neil is now coordinating the email and telephone prayer chain. Please send prayer requests to pastorneil05@gmail.com or 717-753-2112 (call/text). Due to inconsistent reception, in an emergency, please also leave a message at the church office (301-293-1616).
- Communication Preferences Salem can send prayer requests and church announcements by phone call, email and now text messages. Forms to indicate your preferences are available at church. Give your form to Pastor Neil.

6

The Salem January Challenge



At the beginning of January, Pastor Neil challenged the Salem congregation to read Proverbs— 31 chapters, one chapter per day for the 31 days of January.

Salem's Facebook page, every day, invites folks to post the verse that spoke to them each day. Here is the invitation for Day 22: "It's Day 22 of our Pursue Wisdom challenge! We're reading a chapter of Proverbs each day in January. What passage from Chapter Twenty-two spoke to you today?"

Every day, Salem folks are posting the verse or sometimes verses, that are meaningful to them. Michael Burrier manages Salem's Facebook page.

For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. -Romans 8:24-25 (NKJV)

Birds used to swarm the five feeders outside my office windows year-round. I loved the happy distraction from deep and draining thoughts. Sometimes I took a break, grabbed my bird book, and attempted to identify new fluttering beauties.



Then, all the birds vanished. A week passed . . . a month . . . a second month . . . no birds. I missed my

flying friends. I tried everything to entice them back— tossing seed on the ground, washing the feeders in vinegar and water, dumping the old seed and replacing it with fresh. Nothing worked. Still, I hoped and even prayed for their return.

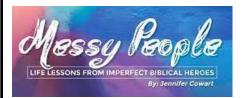
Hope involves a strong desire for something, attached to an expectation of obtaining it. As a believer, I hope for the return of Jesus. The Bible says: "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him." (Revelation 1:7 NKJV)

As a last effort, I purchased a different brand of birdseed and filled the feeders at work. A few chickadees and nuthatches appeared in the yard and glided over for a snack. A tufted titmouse, a cardinal, and a family of sparrows followed. Though I can't see Jesus yet, I eagerly await the day my eyes will behold Him— the Maker of the birds and the Creator of the universe.

Faith Step: If you're not already a bird-watcher, become one for a week. Try to spot and identify various kinds of birds. Allow them to remind you of the hope you have for Jesus' return. *—Becky Alexander*

Selected from Mornings with Jesus - Daily Encouragement for Your Soul

More NEWS & NOTES



Ladies Bible Study at Salem

Ladies Bible Study started a new study on Monday January 8th, 6:30 pm.

The new study is "Messy People" Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes by Jennifer Cowart.

We invite you to join us for fellowship, support and growing in your walk with God. The study is in person and also on zoom. Please contact Debbie Irons for any questions at 301-271-7012.

God can turn your messy life into a masterpiece.

Every life gets messy at times. Sometimes these messes are literal, like a house that would be easier to condemn than to clean. But sometimes they are intangible messes such as illness, conflict, depression, abuse, bankruptcy, divorce, and job loss. And these messes can be painful, hurting our hearts and our homes. But as we see in the Bible, God loves to use messy people!

In this study, we will dig into the lives of Biblical heroes who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways. Together we will examine the stories of five wonderful but messy people and one messy parable character: Rahab, the Prodigal Son, Josiah, Mary, David, and Daniel. From their stories, we will learn how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, give us power to handle our critics, and help us deal with the hard moments of life.

Along the way we'll discover that we don't have to just endure messy lives but can actually learn to thrive with God's guidance and help. In the hands of God, our messes can become His masterpieces!

Your Own Version

You are writing a Gospel, A chapter each day, By deeds that you do, By words that you say. 7



1. Offering Plate in Sanctuary

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

2. By Mail

You may mail your tithes and offerings to: Salem Community Church Church Treasurer P. O. Box 144 Myersville, MD 21773-0144 Make checks payable to: Salem Community Church

3. Electronically Online

You may give electronically by viewing our website <u>SalemChurchWolfsville.org</u> and select GIVE.

Some thoughts to ponder . . .

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.

the head.

The secret of contentment is knowing how to enjoy what you have and be able to lose all desire for things beyond your reach.



The Mountain Shepherd

Salem Community Church, Wolfsville P. O. Box 144 Myersville, MD 21773-0144

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Address Services Requested

SERVICE TIMES 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School



WRONG OR RIGHT

An unbeliever sneered, "So many things in the world are made wrong.

Look at that little acorn on that big tree and that big pumpkin on that little vine!

"People talk about an all-wise God at the head of this universe. Now if I had been doing it, I would have put that acorn on the vine, and the pumpkin on the oak."

Just then an acorn fell and hit him on



Place

Stamp

Here