



# Mt. Salem Newsletter in Rockford Park

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



Mt. Salem UMC

**REACH UP**  
**REACH IN**  
**REACH OUT** winter 2017



## FROM THE PASTOR:

Stewardship: To give God tithes (1 out of 10)

Dr. Towns teaches a stewardship lesson in "Who Owns Your French Fries." It is the story of a man who buys his little boy some french fries. Then the father does what all fathers do, he reaches over and takes one french fry to taste it. The little boy slaps his father's hand and says, "Don't touch my french fries." The father thinks that his son is selfish. The father knows that he bought the french fries and they belong to him. The father knows that his son belongs to him. The father could get angry and never buy his son french fries again to teach his son a lesson, or the father could "bury" his son in french fries. The father thinks, "Why is my son selfish, I have given him a whole package of french fries; I just want one french fry." God has given us money, when He asks for a tithe, people figuratively slap His hand and say, "Keep Your hands off my money." God owns everything we have. He wants us:

1. To manage what we have for His glory. God expects us to manage our time, talent, temple, testimony and treasures.
2. To give back a portion of what he has given us.

If any of you struggles financially, I'd like to recommend that you begin tithing. It will be difficult to give tithes to God because when you calculate all the bills to pay and things you need to buy, there seems to be no room to give tithes to God. However, God never said that God wanted our left-overs. God desires our first fruits. Let us listen to the Scriptures: "[Honor the Lord by making him an offering from the best of all that your land](#)

produces. If you do, your barns will be filled with grain, and you will have too much wine to store it all" (Proverbs 3:9-10).

"And all the tithe of the land... is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30).

When we give God our tithes first, we will experience something we've never experienced before. Give God the first part, a tenth of every dollar, and you shall not lack anything. With the Word of God in Malachi 3, I want to challenge you to test God; tithe first before all the other expenses, and see if God blesses your need. That's what God says in Malachi 3:7b-11:

"Now return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

"But you ask, 'How can we return when we have never gone away?'

"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?'

"You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

When we give God what is God's, we not only acknowledge who the original Owner is, but also become free of material attachment. When we can detach ourselves from money, we can use it as tools for our lives, not goals of our lives. Then, we can use it more for other people, rather than storing it up as if it secures our future.

There's a very well-known story of Rev. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Before he became a revival evangelist, Wesley was a teacher at Oxford back in the 1700s. When he began his career he was paid 30 pounds per year. His living expenses were 28 pounds. So he gave 2 pounds away for the poor people. The next year his income doubled, but he still managed to live on 28 pounds. So he gave away 32 pounds. The third year he earned 90 pounds, but still lived on 28 and gave away 62. The fourth year he earned 120 pounds and lived on 28, giving away 92. One year his income was a little over 1,400 pounds (since his books and articles were published, his income had been increasing), but he still lived on 28 pounds and gave away the rest of his income for the poor. Wesley limited his expenses to the same sum (28 pounds) throughout his life, so he was able to give away a lot of money every year to those who needed it more. Methodists! Let us be blessed by giving God what is God's.

Gratefully,  
Rev. SunAe Lee-Koo

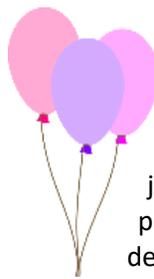


## CELEBRATIONS:

**Happy Birthday to:**

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|----------|--|
| January  | :Cathie McCloskey (2 <sup>nd</sup> )<br>Joan Knotts (28 <sup>th</sup> )  |
| February | :Jean Boyer (9 <sup>th</sup> )<br>Justin Koo (13 <sup>th</sup> )<br>Troy Scheaffer (23 <sup>rd</sup> )   |
| March    | :Joyce Shimp (3 <sup>rd</sup> )<br>Linda Schivo (17 <sup>th</sup> )<br>Mary Alice Wilkinson (18 <sup>th</sup> )<br>Hazel Raduszewski (31 <sup>st</sup> ) |

If you would like your birthday or joy listed, please email: [susannielsen1@yahoo.com](mailto:susannielsen1@yahoo.com).



## Praise/Joy:

Mt. Salem has an author!

Gail Stallings is a former television news reporter and public relations expert who jumped at the opportunity to retire from her position as a government spokesperson decidedly to serve God with her various talents. In so doing, she has plunged into work to assist organizations who serve the needy and lost. As well, she is using her love and talent for writing to reach and inspire those who want a relationship with God, but for whatever reason are not on that path actively. Gail is the voice behind the blog "I Am Not The Pastor." It is a platform in which she presents candid commentary on the church, God and Christianity. Her book series is an extension of that. "Who Are You When No One Is Watching" is the first in that series.



In her book, "Who Are You When No One Is Watching," Gail introduces an exciting new era of ministry targeting the church, the unchurched, the discouraged Christian, and the "bedside Baptists." The prose and conversation is presented in the raw, authentic voice of a struggling believer and blogger, Wilmington,

Delaware own Gail Stallings. An extension of her online ministerial blog, "I Am Not The Pastor," and the first in a series, this book addresses the secret thoughts and walk of those who, like herself, want to go to heaven, want a relationship with God, but for whatever reason find themselves holding back or struggling.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:



- For Peace in the world
- For our country
- For the city of Wilmington
- For our church, Mt. Salem
- For our loved ones in need of healing of broken relationship in body, emotion, and/or spirit

## NEED PRAYER?

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call Pastor SunAe Lee-Koo at 302.658.1807 or email: [mtsalemumc@gmail.com](mailto:mtsalemumc@gmail.com).

## STEWARDSHIP:

We are in need of stewards of time, talents, and money. Please offer yourself through tithes, your attendance and participation during service, and volunteering at Tower Treasures.

We are also in need of volunteers to help with church building repairs. Please contact Neil Lentz or Pastor Lee-Koo.

Paypal account for online offering: [mtsalemumc@gmail.com](mailto:mtsalemumc@gmail.com)



## BIBLE STUDY:

### On ACTS

Please join us for Bible study on Tuesday mornings at 10:30.

## BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH:

Trust wholeheartedly in the Lord,  
put no faith in your own perception;  
acknowledge him in every course you take,  
and he will see that your paths are smooth.  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Meeting 1: Leadership Training Retreat

On Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10-3

It is mandatory for each Committee chair, and is open to everyone in the Mt. Salem family.

### Fellowship Event

Gather after service each Sunday for a fellowship luncheon. Please volunteer to serve meals.

### Lenten Meditation with Light Supper

Starting from Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> (6:30 p.m.)

We will have weekly Wednesday evening Meditation.

## ONGOING MINISTRIES:

### Tower Treasures (TT)

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2016!** – Conversations, discussions, planning sessions, volunteer sign-up sheets, advertising, applications for vendor table rentals, menu planning, purchase/donations of food and paper products, outdoor signs, Benson Hall decorations and table set-up, vendor table set-up, bake sale donations, etc. – all of this was part of the ongoing process that members and friends of Mt. Salem UMC took part in to help make the Christmas Bazaar a success on Saturday, November 5. The Bazaar Committee thanks all the volunteers who participated and hope that they will be available next year to help out again.

**THRIFT SHOP** – We continue to receive household and clothing donations from both members of Mt. Salem UMC and our community. Periodic discount sales have been held and we feel these help to increase weekly sales. Of course, the customers are happy to do their shopping at Tower Treasures during these sales. Our hours are Thursday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We offer a selection of gently-used clothing, jewelry, and accessories, household goods, linens, pictures, hardback and softback books, novels, cookbooks, craft books, and many more. There is also a special corner, “Four Paws Only,” if you are looking for something for your favorite pet.

**BAKE SALES** – We continue to have monthly bake sales on the second Saturday of each month. If you have any special recipes for cakes, cookies, pies or other tasty goodies, please put your baking skills together and drop off your baked goods at TT on Saturday morning. Or if more convenient, drops-offs can be made the day before.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Please consider offering a few hours of your time by volunteering in Tower Treasures. We have a particular need on Saturdays. You will greet customers and assist them in browsing through the shop, and enjoy meeting new friends and discovering old acquaintances. Signups will always be accepted for weekly, monthly, quarterly or “as needed” hours. If any interest, please call Donna Devine, 302-299-6118.

**SPECIAL BOOK SALES IN 2017** – We have had a large number of books donated this past year and it’s getting crowded! Look for groupings of special books by

authors, themes, etc. and take some home with you.....they will be priced to sell!

**COFFEE CORNER MINISTRY (at TT)** hosted a book signing in December for Gail Stallings, introducing her newly-released book "Who Are You When No One Is Watching". Part of the proceeds of the sale of this book will be donated to Mt. Salem UMC. If you are interested in making a purchase, please stop by TT in Mt. Salem UMC.

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## MUCH APPRECIATED:

We are blessed at Mt. Salem with a membership that pitches in energetically to contribute to all of our activities.

For the **Fall Spaghetti Dinner**, thanks go to:

1. Barbara Commodari for providing the cooks--Lisa and Dan Commodari
2. Lisa and Dan for the sauces, spaghetti, and cooking
3. Frank Holloway for dish washing and cleaning the Kitchen
4. Sandy Crystal for the meatballs
5. David Craig for bread and soda
6. Mitch Reinhart for butter and ice
7. Will Moore for parmesan cheese, takeout containers, plastic cups
8. Jean Boyer for napkins and creamers
9. Tom and Barbara Taylor for sodas
10. Sara Fox and Sherron Guyer for salads and fixings
11. Tom Taylor, Bill McCloskey, Joyce Shimp, and Sara Fox for desserts
12. Donna Devine for paper products
13. Sandy Crystal, Sherron Guyer, Sara Fox, Gloria Dragoo, and Barbara Bolza for all the hard work preparing Benson Hall, and to Sherron, Sandy, and Sara for putting on the finishing touches.

*The dinner was a great success, making a grand total of \$1300. Thanks and appreciation go to all **WHO** made it possible, just as they go to those (like **Donna Devine**) who have made our other projects (like **TT and Christmas Bazaar**) so successful.*

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## POEM

by Gloria Dragoo

"He Lives"

Jesus said to his disciples at Gethsemane  
"My soul is sorrowful, even unto death,  
Tarry ye here and watch with me."

Their eyes grew heavy, they fell asleep,  
Three times Christ prayed alone,  
A vigil for him they failed to keep.

Behold, the time had come,  
The son of man is betrayed into sinner's hands,  
He must drink the cup; God's will be done.

Jesus was feared, rejected, and despised,  
Pontius Pilate judged him,  
The crowds cried out, "Let him be crucified."

In a purple robe, a crown of thorns upon his head,  
The soldiers bowed to mock, then spit upon him,  
They wanted the King of Jews dead.

They crucified him at the place of the skull,  
When he cried, "I thirst,"  
They gave him vinegar and gall.

Darkness covered the earth, Jesus cried,  
"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"  
He cried again, "It is finished," and then he died.

Three days had passed, they searched for him,  
Angels rolled away the stone at his tomb,  
He had risen and walked among them.

The price of our sins he died to pay,  
Sing, Hosanna, His Name be praised,  
He lives and walks with us today.

