



The Scroll



Volume 76, Issue 5 • May 2024

POWER OF LOVE IN ACTION
Message from Pastor Linda

This past Saturday was the annual meeting of the East Coast Conference churches. During the time gathered, we listen and learn as others share what God is doing through our churches and ministries throughout the Covenant.

A portion of the meeting is spent doing the business of the Church: approving the budget, voting on changes to by-laws, and other less glamorous work of the church.

My highlight of this year's Annual Meeting came unexpectedly through a 'chance' meeting late in the day. Between sessions, I was speaking with a few pastors from New York when a tall, striking man joined our conversation. He was both dignified and down-to-earth. When I discovered he attends the same church as a good friend of mine, I asked him how he became connected with it. His eyes lit up and he became animated as he unpacked his story.

John had regularly attended church in his teen years with his mother and siblings after his father's death. Though the people sang and preached and talked of God's love, he found they were "mean" to children and youth. At one point in time, he pleaded with his mother, "Why do we go to church where the people are mean?" When he reached adulthood, he walked away from church which in his experience was devoid of genuine love and warmth. The Church was place where the people didn't practice what they preached.

Fast forward 20+ years, John found himself in a high-pressure position with enormous stress. People in the office were constantly on edge ... except one ... the office administrator. She seemed unflappable and consistently patient and kind toward everyone. She was the calm in the eye of the storm whirling about her. Exasperated with the continual tumultuous dynamics of his workplace, John asked her one day, "How do you remain so peaceful in the midst of such tension?" She began to share her faith and invited him to come to church with her.

Filled with skepticism, John accepted her invitation. Warily, he attended a service only to be surprised and moved by the authenticity of the love people showed not only toward God but toward each other! It was visibly evident they possessed a genuine desire to love others to the best of their ability, caring for others in need, and putting others' needs first. This was a church that was living into what Apostle John writes in 1 John 3:18, "Dear children let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth." This was a church that practiced what it preached: Love one another. Ultimately, it was the love and grace of God's people that drew John to Jesus.



As I reflect on John's story of faith, I am reminded again of the transformational power of love when it is lived out in practical ways. When we actively love those around us, we become a living, breathing embodiment of Christ's love. People notice. Love brings hope to our divisive, hurting world. Here at Salem, we are by no means perfect. At times, we find ourselves irritated with another, or hoping someone else will volunteer to serve. We may not even like certain folks! It's why John in his epistle urges us to confess our sins.

Yet, I give thanks for our church family's efforts, humbly doing its best to love those who come through our doors on any given Sunday. Imperfect as we are, we are sincerely working, by God's grace, to practice what we preach here: *Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* (1 John 4:11) Not with lip service. Not with empty words. But with action. Dear Church, may we be God's light and love to each other and to our broken world so that others may know God is LOVE.

FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM OUR CHURCH CHAIR

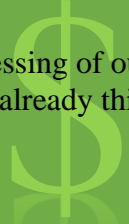
Dear Salem Church family,

I just wanted to give a quarterly update as to the financial state of the church. As of the end of March 2024, we had a \$10,944 deficit between funds received and the church's operating expenses. This is approximately 20% of the deficit we projected in our 2024 budget, which is close to "on schedule" since we are a quarter of the way through the year.

However, God is always faithful, and we remain grateful for, and in awe of, His continued blessing of our church. It is very exciting to see the ways in which God has guided and supported our church already this year! Thank you for your prayers and commitment to the mission and ministry of Salem!

Sincerely,
Elliott Fisher, Church Chair

Church Financial statement for **March 2024**
For March, Net profit, \$2907
Church Budget Year to Date: **(\$10,944.59)**



MAKING THE EARTH A LITTLE BIT HAPPIER



It can be dismaying to drive along our beautiful country roads only to see trash that has been tossed by motorists or has not been properly contained in vehicles. Unfortunately, our own road, Baldwin Hill, has not been exempt from debris littered along it. One doesn't have to look hard to see cans, bottles, plastic and other things nestled in the grass, or sitting out in the open.

Thankfully, there are many residents in town who are committed to helping clean our roads of trash. Every year the town supplies a huge dumpster for Earth Day and the Environmental Council invites neighbors and organizations to adopt a road. Once again, Salem helped with the endeavor as we signed up to tackle Baldwin Hill.

The cleanup was an adventure of sorts as we tallied how many bottles of one particular 'beverage' we picked up, shared with each other what kinds of animal skeletons we discovered (this year it was fox, deer and squirrel), and who picked up the strangest debris.

Though this year's turnout (5) for Earth Day clean-up was substantially smaller than last year's (30+), eight 30-gallon bags of trash were picked up and added to the dumpster. And even though our crew was smaller this year, so was the amount of trash that needed to be collected. Progress!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

What a joy it was to welcome into our Salem family three new members: Carol and Steve Allison, and Jim Appleyard at one of our recent worship services. It was really wonderful to hear them each share how the Lord led them to Salem and what the church means to them in their journey of faith.

The three have been actively participating in the life of Salem long before becoming members. Among many things, Steve sings in the Choir, Carol has led two sessions of Crescendo, and Jim has been caring for some of our outside property. All have a heart for prayer, service, and a deep faith in the Lord. What a gift they are to all of us! Welcome Jim, Carol and Steve!!



GLOBAL 6K WALK/RUN FOR WATER



This month is our second annual **6K Walk for Water on May 19, 1:00-3:00 pm. Our goal is to raise \$500 for clean water.** Last year was a blast with nearly 30 children and adults participating!

Why 6K?

This is the average distance women and girls in the Congo walk to collect water for their community. (And sadly, the water they do collect is often unsanitary.)

Registration is \$50. (\$25 for children under 18)

Why \$50?

This sum of \$50 will provide water for a lifetime for one child! We will begin at the Church and walk halfway down Popple Swamp Road, to the White Ayre Farm (Whitehead's farm) which is 3.7 miles round trip. Click [Here](#) to register today! If you want to contribute money toward this Walk for Water, you may also do so online. For more information, contact our team captain, Steve Allison, steve.allison25@gmail.com, or Pastor Linda. We would love to see a great turnout for this fun and meaningful event!

**EVERY STEP YOU TAKE
IS ONE THEY WON'T HAVE TO**

THANK YOU!

We have so much to thank you for...

The lovely wind chimes – what a touching way to remember Mom’s wonderful life. We will think of her every time we hear their beautiful song.

The amazing service and uplifting music was a fantastic tribute that Mom would have loved.

The reception, the outpouring of generosity and delicious goodies were overwhelming.

Everyone at Salem goes out of their way to make all feel very welcome. Please accept the enclosed donations to the Salem Choir and to the Fellowship Fund.

Thank you again for everything,
Mark and Lori, Rich and Jack

To my friends at Salem,

Thank you for the lovely Easter gift. The bag was filled with such useful things, and yummy too.

Very appreciated,
Doris Waldron

Dear Salem ~

Thank you for the bag of “Easter Goodies.” I have almost finished the word search book of 122 pages. I appreciated Pam and Linnea delivering them all the way to Newtown.

I also enjoyed being at the Salem Church on Easter. It was great that David [Edie’s grandson] brought me up for the service. It was so nice to see the people.

Sincerely,
Edith C. Johnson

MAY CALENDAR

May 3 – Loaves and Fishes, 3:30 pm

May 5 – Worship & Communion, 10:30

- Family and Fellowship

May 6/13 – **NO** Hangout Haven, 2:45-5:30 pm

May 12 – Mother’s Day

May 19 – **Confirmation** Sunday

- **Walk for Water**, 1:00 pm

May 22 – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

May 29 – Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Lillian Winter
3	Lillian Ames
4	Iona Douskey
5	Betty Sutter
7	Chase Hurley
8	Angela Chase
12	Kiersten Marich
13	Karl Quist
13	Tristan Williamson
14	Steve DeWitte
17	Jane Dickinson
20	Diane Locke
22	Jillian DeRosa

MAY REMEMBRANCES

May 1, 2023	Roland Belanger	Vinny Belanger's father
May 3, 2022	Galen Quist	Barrie Johnson's partner
May 4, 2020	Noel Pilling	Sara Taylor's father
May 10, 2023	Dolly Whitney	Long-time member
May 10, 2019	Lenny Fleet	Charlotte Fleet's son
May 27, 2005	Fred Dahl	Mark and Lori's father
May 29, 2019	Jean Hough	Long-time friend to Salem

SALEM COVENANT'S CORE VALUES

We, the members and friends of Salem Covenant Church, are committed

... to loving God through *worship and praise*,
... opening ourselves to *His Word*, and
... visiting God in *prayer*.

We are SALEM.

Showing compassion to those in need as God gives us grace and ability. (Matthew 9:46)

Accepting one another in grace and love as Christ has accepted us. (Romans 15:7)

Lending a hand to those around through acts of service in Christ's name. (Matthew 20:28; Romans 15:1-2)

Engaging in life together. (Acts 2:42-47)

Moving in one accord. (Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:2-6)