



# The Scroll



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**WHEN I LOOK, AND LOOK AGAIN**  
A Message from Pastor Linda

As I look about the church property and building, my heart is light. So many good things are happening here! So much to give thanks for! God is at work in this place. The signs are evident. I see many wonderful physical improvements inside the building and outside. These positive changes have come slow and steady. There have been numerous details to coordinate to make these projects come together successfully; gratefully there are men and women among us gifted in organization and motivated to serve. Many hands have been involved, with people sharing their talents and their time for the church's and community's good. Those who may not have the skills or the physical ability to do the hands-on work have given generously. Together, the church family has invested well in making our church "home" comfortable, inviting and warm for all who come.

Yes, we have the pleasure and privilege to worship and share life together in this beautiful space. Yet there is another vitally important reason we strive to care well for this place – our focus is to be intentional in making Salem a welcoming space for our visitors, and those seeking a spiritual home or place of refuge. We hope to convey that to the measure we care for this place, we care even more deeply for the people who fill this space. Others' spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well-being matters to us.

I take another look around - this time pausing and placing my focus on those moving and milling about here.

Again I see so many good things happening! God's Spirit is evident. I see the energy of the children, hear the chatter of our youth and the distant laughter of our choir. I observe the animated conversations of men and women in the Narthex, sitting in the pews, talking over cups of coffee, circled about a dinner table, or seated in the Lydia room. I hear the genuine concern for others in the questions. People of all ages are engaged in life together, catching up on each other's lives, learning and growing in Christ as they study His Word, encouraging one another, praying for others, visiting the sick, or helping those in various types of need. This is the Body of Christ at its best. This is the Body of Christ alive and active. This I think, is some of what God had in mind – a taste of what His kingdom on earth looks like.



I hope you too feel the warmth and welcome of this place. I hope you may see what I see, hear what I hear – the loving, creative Presence of God moving and active in this place and within our people. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for the brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

*A Side Note:* Last month there were some great opportunities for connection. There are meaningful on-going opportunities to nurture your faith in God and relationships with others, including but not limited to our Sunday morning Adult Bible study, the Thursday evening Dinner & Alpha Study, Choir, and youth activities. This month we are hosting our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Gathering which has steadily been growing in number; this is an inspiring, relaxing time for women to share stories and faith. Our Sister Church, New York Covenant, is hosting its annual Justice Coalition Conference which trains and equips churches in peace-making and social justice efforts to ease the plight of those on the edges. And once again, Starr Evans is at work readying the Annual Penny Auction (which by the way, your children would love!) for the last Saturday of the month.

## COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

This year's joint service with 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church was one of our larger gatherings in the last six years. Many people from Salem were there for their first time. Since it was Rev. Cheryl Anderson's last joint service with Salem before she retires in February, she gave the sermon and designed most of the worship experience. Jesse Ofgang, Choir Director and Organist, played his bagpipes for several of our musical selections adding an evocative and unique sound to worship. As has been the tradition for the last three years, congregants were invited to bring forward something that symbolizes the vocation or work God has called them to. It was a great mix of talents and stories from both churches. The conclusion of our service closed with sharing in Communion in a large circle.



## 9/11 SERVICE

Every year since the horrible tragedy of 9/11, the Washington Fire Department has held a service to remember and honor all those who lost their lives, and those who worked to save lives. This year a number of men from Salem who volunteer as firefighters were participants, including Roger Cannavaro, Karl Quist, Joe Bennett and Mike Andrews (pictured left). Pastor Linda, as Chaplain, offer the Opening Invocation, a short reflection and the Closing prayer. For those who attend, some who suffered personal loss through this act of terrorism, this service is both moving and meaningful.

## BABY SHOWER FOR CAROLYN'S PLACE

It has now been 6 years that the Catholic Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has invited Salem women to a Dinner/Baby Shower to benefit Carolyn's Place, a pregnancy resource center. The dinner was a sumptuous, bountiful affair and the outpour of adorable and/or practical gifts for the mothers and babies was over-the-top. Though the speaker was unable to come this year, Dolly Whitney provided several stories and poems to keep everyone entertained. A wonderful time was had by all and our thanks to all the women who hosted such an important event.



## CLASSICAL MUSIC RECITAL

Several months ago, Susan Anthony-Klein approached Salem and asked if we might be interested in hosting a Classical Music Recital. Mark Silva, an accomplished Tenor and Susan wanted to share their passion for music with others and to benefit others in the community. Salem eagerly accepted their gracious offer, and on Sunday, September 23 the two gave a beautiful performance. Mark Silva sang songs



by composers Gustav Mahler and Benjamin Britten, with Susan accompanying him on piano. Susan played a solo featuring movements from Alexander Tcherepnin. Nearly 50 people came to enjoy this special afternoon, and many stayed after for the light reception coordinated by Robin McHan. Many of the guests donated dry goods for the Washington/Warren Food Bank, and \$350 was raised for the Food Bank. Thank you Mark and Susan for blessing us all with your gift of music! And thank you to those who contributed fruit, cheese and baked goods for the reception. It made for a memorable afternoon!

## CHURCH PROPERTY

### Pave the Way

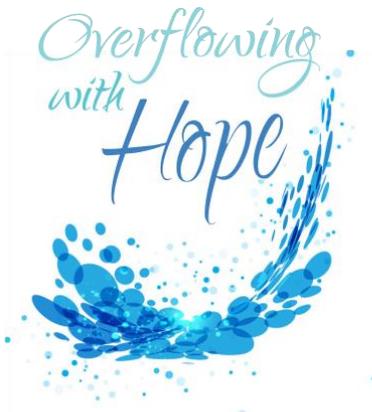
It is with great excitement to report the Church parking lot project has been completed! The top coat is on and all the lines, arrows and handicap spaces have been painted. The ramps leading into the Front Entry and the lower Fellowship Room exterior door are now ADA compliant. The parking lot looks new, crisp and inviting! Thank you to Mark Showalter for coordinating all the pieces that go into a project of this scope. And thank you to the many, many people who contributed to this large endeavor. The next step in store is spreading the top soil on the lower lot and seeding the area for new grass.



The Lydia Room Renovation is completed! What can we say? The pictures speak for themselves! Thank you Donna Alex, Dawn Belanger, Amy Hoeniger, Carol Walzer and Patty Parker for your hard work creating this warm, bright and inviting space! It's elegant and classy!



## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



  
Salem Covenant Church's  
6th Annual  
Women's Saturday Gathering  
October 13 • 9am - 3 pm

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace  
as you trust in him,  
so that you may overflow with hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit."  
Romans 5:13*

This year's 2018 worship leader and speakers...



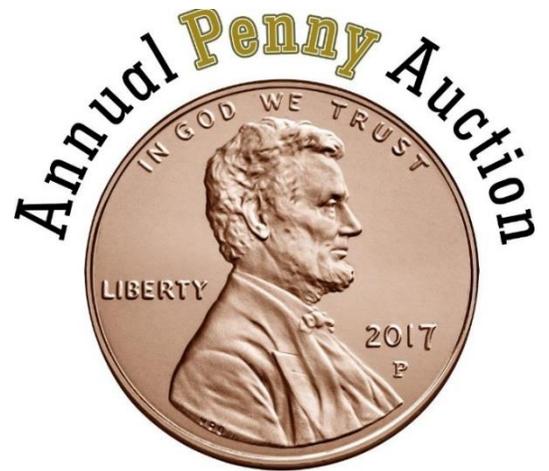
Dianne DeMarco

Eamon Anderson

Roxi Bergfalk

Sandi Lee

Marissa Rapoza



**Saturday, October 27**  
Doors open 11:00 am

### LOVE MERCY, DO JUSTICE

*From our inception the Covenant has been concerned with helping hurting people (love mercy), and addressing the causes of that hurt (do justice). The mission of Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ) is to "Join God in making things right in our broken world."*

Our sister church, New York Covenant, in New Rochelle, NY is hosting its annual Justice Coalition Conference on October 19-20. Some of the guest speakers will include Ambassador Andrew Young, North Park Theological Seminary professors, Dr. Soong-Chan Ra and Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, and others. These are a very engaging two days as participants listen and work together to explore and imagine practical acts of justice to bring peace and hope into our broken world. You may register online at [www.covjustice.org](http://www.covjustice.org).

**Bounce Trampoline Sports Park**, for Youth, Grades 6 and up, late October – Watch for more details!

Thank you!

Dear friends,

Words alone cannot express our appreciation for the continued financial support we received from our partners. Please except our heartfelt thanks for your donation of \$221.78 to the ministry of the New England Seafarers Mission. It is only possible by the faithful giving the partners, who buy their generosity and kindness, that we can extend the love of Christ to the often weary and lonely men and women that work on the sea.

We are now in the busiest time of the cruise ship season. Ships are coming in daily and sometimes 2 to 3 a day. During these months we rely heavily on volunteers to help support our efforts for the seafarers. We offer a friendly environment eager to serve them both physically and spiritually. Along with gifts in prayer during the

season we can always use a helping hand. Maybe your church members or youth groups would consider volunteering one of the days this year.

To hear more about these efforts, please consider signing up for our email newsletter on our web site – [www.neseafarers.org](http://www.neseafarers.org).

Again, thank you and may God bless you.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and our seafarers,  
Steven R. Cushing  
The Rev. Stephen R. Cushing

(Letter edited for length.)



October	
William Hurley	1
Audrey Wright	2
Norma Cummings	4
Preston Rutz	5
Edward Caco	6
Barbara Johnson	8
Preston Rutz	15
Maya Ghose	17
Jean Monteleone	18
Heather Hurley	20
Donna Alex	25
Susan Nelson	28

#### OCTOBER EVENTS

- October 5 -- Loaves & Fishes, 3:30 pm
- October 7 – Communion Sunday, Family & Fellowship, Dianne DeMarco begins
  - Open House @ Gaylinn Fast's home, 3-5:00 pm.
- October 10 – Pastoral Relations, 5:30 pm
  - Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
- October 13 – Annual Women's Saturday Gathering, 9-3:00 pm
- October 20 – Justice Coalition @ New York Covenant Church, New Rochelle, NY
- October 27 – Annual Penny Auction, Doors open, 11:30 am
- October 24 – Evening prayer, 7:00 pm
- October 28 – Youth event – Bounce!