

SALEM

SPEAKS

December 1986

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK by: Rev. Claude E. Shelby, Sr.



The Lord has blessed us to come this far on our journey through the year of 1986. For this I am certain that you join me in expressing our gratitude to Almighty God. Having just celebrated Thanksgiving Day certainly should raise our awareness of the goodness of God. This year, we had our Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday evening, November 26th, in order to give our members the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving Day with family and friends. The sermon title for the service was, Be Thankful In All Things. The text was, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:18). In this message, I said to the congregation: "To give thanks means that we are sincerely aware of our benefits from God, and we acknowledge this before Him. To give thanks in everything means that we are to thank God, not only in present things, but also in small things; not only in rare things, but also in common things. It means that we are to thank God, not merely in things affecting ourselves, but also in things affecting others.

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FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The Sunday School class is a small group setting where truly personal and individual caring can happen within the church. With that in mind, we want to share with you these suggestions for your Sunday School Class:

1. Encourage members to introduce themselves to new members and visitors in worship service and to invite them to your class.
2. Visit or call each regular attendee who misses Sunday School.
3. Plan a class fellowship or gathering at least once per quarter.
4. Have a place in your room to recognize the honors and activities that involve your class members in our community (newspaper clippings, pictures, etc.)
5. Put a large list of your class members on the door of your classroom, so that others can see who they know in your class and feel welcome.
6. Nametags help newcomers learn your names and feel more at home.
7. Encourage class participation in all church events for fellowship, study or service.
8. Invite another class to join you for fellowship, to get acquainted with other church members.
9. Consider other ways to help church members feel cared for or to help our church become a living expression of the Love of God.
10. Pray regularly for the Sunday School as a whole.

Share the Vision

MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION 1986
GOOD, BETTER, BEST
 by: Deacon Sherman Oldham

There is an old adage that says:

"Good, better, best, never let it rest, 'til your good is better, and your better best."

We give God the glory for the success of our Men's Day effort. We were blessed with two spirit-filled sermons by Pastor Shelby in the morning service, and Pastor Johnson in the afternoon service. In addition, we were blessed with songs by the Bethel A.M.E. Church choir, the Four Harmonizers, and our own Male Chorus. We were blessed with not just a tea following the afternoon service, but great fellowship with the members of Bethel. For this, our thanks go out to Sis. Jeffery and her committee. We were blessed with financial success, and we, the laymen of the church, take this time to thank the congregation for supporting us.

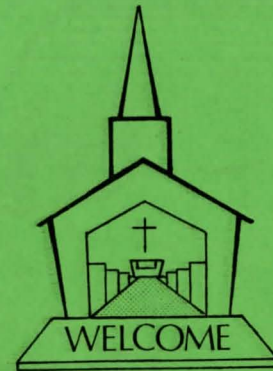
It was a good day, but could it have been better? Was it our best? Are we going to be satisfied with just our best?

God said, "my thoughts are not your thoughts." He does not judge us as men do, but he judges us collectively and individually. Have you done your best? After doing your best, did you walk out on faith? For it is when we walk out on faith we open the door so that God may come in and pour us out a blessing we cannot contain. Our best is but a drop in the ocean, compared to the blessing God has for those who love him. Amen.



REMEMBER THE CHURCH LIBRARY ...

.... When you want to read for spiritual growth;
 When you are looking for current facts;
 When you need to find out something about the scriptures;
 Before you leave on vacation;
 When you would like to relax with a good book.
 If you need help or have questions, contact our new church librarian, Paulette Bell.



WHAT ATTRACTS PEOPLE TO SALEM?

Why do people select a church? A convenient location? Yes. A good speaker in the pulpit? Yes. Inspiring music? Yes. An attractive building? Yes. But a more essential element in attracting visitors, newcomers, and prospective members in **friendliness** — both in the pew and throughout the community. Where there is a warm, dynamic congregation with an enthusiasm that is contagious, visitors will usually be found, and will return.

A church can buy many advantages with money, such as nice buildings, trained leadership, effective advertising, and an abundance of supplies for spiritual and social use. But old-fashioned **friendliness**, of which the world is sorely in need, cannot be purchased with money. It comes only from the hearts of dedicated people who love God and enjoy helping others feel at home in their church. Therefore, let us continue to be as warm and friendly as we have always been at Salem, in the spirit of Christian love.

*"If I ascend up to heaven,
 thou art there:
 if I make my bed in hell,
 behold, thou art there.
 If I take the wings of the morning,
 and dwell in the uttermost parts
 of the sea, even there
 shall thy hand lead me"*

(Psalm 139: 8-10).

THE JOY IN CHRIST

New mercies, new blessings, new light
on the way,
New courage, new hope, new strength
for each day;
New wine in the chalice, new altars
to raise;
New fruits for thy Master, new garments
of praise;
New gifts from His treasures, smiles
from His face,
New streams from the fountain of infinite
grace,
New stars for thy crown, and new tokens
of love,
New gleams of the glory that waits
thee above;
New light of His countenance, full
and unpriced --
All this be thy joy of the new year
in Christ!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

It means that we are to thank God, not merely in prosperous things, but in adverse things, recognizing the mercifulness of God in them, the supporting grace under them, and the benefit resulting from them. It means that we are to thank God, not merely in things affecting our bodies, but also in things affecting our souls."

For the year of 1987, I am looking forward to a number of new things in our church program. One new thing on the horizon is a **Noonday Prayer Period** from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., one day a week. A time when members and other interested persons can share in prayers to God. Some may want to just stop by for a brief period during their lunch break. If this proves to be beneficial and if I can get enough persons interested, I also would like to begin a **Noonday Bible Study** one day per week. Please let me know your feelings concerning these proposed new programs.

TITHING: A GIFT OF LOVE

It is important to remember that tithing is an attitude of giving. The amount you give or how it compares to the gift of others does not matter.

What matters is that when you give, you give of all yourself, all your loving concern, your affirmation of devotion to God, your good will to humankind, and your service to Christ. When you give with this spirit, then you are giving the fullest capacity of your spiritual, physical, and mental resources.

A true gift is a portion of yourself. When you give in this manner, you become an instrument of God. It is a gift of love.

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE!

A Service of Celebration of the
Second National Holiday Honoring
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 18, 1987 -- 5:00 p.m.

Douglass Center
512 East Grove Street
Champaign, Illinois

Other King Day activities being planned include a Community Prayer Breakfast and several pulpit exchanges. Details have not yet been finalized, but will be available after January 8th. For more information, contact Pastor Claude E. Shelby, Sr. at Salem Church, 356-8176.

Not for one single day can I discern my
way, but this I surely know--
Who gives the day will show the way, so I
securely go.

-John Oxenham

THE YEAR

The Year is closed, the record made,
The last deed done, the last word
said.

The memory alone remains
Of all its joys, its griefs, its
gains.

And now with purpose full and clear,
We turn to meet another year.

-Robert Browning

Please submit your favorite Bible verses, poems, quotes, or writings of your own to Jeanette Goines, editor, throughout the year. These items will be printed as space permits. Thank you.



A NIGHT WATCH SERVICE will be held at Salem Church on Wednesday, December 31st from 10:00 p.m. through midnight. Everyone is invited to attend.



IN THE NEW YEAR

Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away,
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day!



Editor-in-Chief Claude Shelby, Sr.
Managing Editor Jeanette Goines

SELF-EXAMINATION FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

How many morning services would we have had this year, if everyone had stayed at home when I did?

How many times would an evening service or program have been omitted, if no one had gone, except when I was there?

How many times would the Sunday School have met, if they had only met when I attended?

How much Christian instruction would the children of our community receive, if everyone showed as much interest in Operation Excellence as I do?

How many of my neighbors would have been invited to worship or welcomed into the church, if everyone invited as many as I have?

How many prayers would have been offered for my pastor, the church staff, my neighbors, my church?

How many words of faith would have been shared with others? **WHAT KIND OF CHURCH WOULD SALEM** be if every person were just like me?

This newsletter is sent quarterly to Salem Baptist Church members, former members, and friends. If you are interested in receiving a copy, write us at 500 E. Park, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

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