

# SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

“187 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating”



SALEM United Methodist Church 2021



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833

12 High Street, Brookeville, MD 20833

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

## A SAD GOODBYE



**Helen Weaver Van Druff**

April 22, 1920 – February 14, 2021

Helen was born and raised in Watsontown, Pennsylvania, a small township right on the Susquehanna River and best known for its production of “Watsontown Brick.” Her father, Drew Weaver, was a carpenter and stone mason. Her mother, Besse, was a homemaker who taught Sunday School at her church for over 60 years. Helen had an idyllic childhood in this small closely knit town. In her high school years, she was very active and had the lead singing part in three different operettas produced by the school. She loved music and taught herself how to play the organ. A couple of years

after graduating and after Pearl Harbor had brought the United States into WWII, Helen moved to Washington, DC to take a job at the US Archives, then located in the Pentagon. One night while out with her girlfriends, she met a handsome young sailor, Robert Van Druff, “Van.” He told her that he had just returned from Pearl Harbor and that he had been there on December 7, 1941 and witnessed the attack firsthand aboard the USS Aylwin, a destroyer. Helen was a bit wary of his tale and actually had him “checked out.” His story turned out to be true and Helen and Van quickly became a couple. Very quickly—57 days later, on July 3, 1942, they were married. Van had to leave and return to the South Pacific, so Helen returned to her parent’s home in Watsontown to wait two years for her husband to return home. Only now it was Helen and her baby girl, Carmen.

Helen now found herself in the role of a Military Wife and adapted quite well to being uprooted and moving to new places. One of those places was San Diego where she found herself again waiting (now with two children, Carmen and Larry) for her sweetheart to return home. This time he was on another destroyer, the USS Hollister, where he was involved in the Korean War. Unlike today, communication was very limited. Her only knowledge of how he was doing was from letters and articles in the San Diego newspaper that tracked the various Navy ships in Korea. She could read when his ship was involved in any attacks on them or the “enemy.”

Life was uncertain, but the family was stable. After 21 years of being a military family, Helen and Van settled in Maryland where Van took a job with Vitro Laboratories. Helen was now able to explore all of her creative interests and made Brookeville her home. She loved children, so after Larry and Carmen were grown, she went to work at a nursery school which she loved. She also took up oil painting and was very good at it. Her gardens were always beautiful and creative and there wasn’t anything she couldn’t sew or knit. But her first love was her family: Van, Carmen and Larry, her grandchildren, Kim, John and Lyndsey and of course, her two great-grandchildren, Kenny and Eric. Their house was always the epicenter for holidays and of course, everyone learned to swim in the pool.

The Van Druffs loved traveling. They took trips to Colorado where Van’s family lived, and they made frequent trips to Pennsylvania, once during a blizzard. Here’s the story—Vitro Laboratories had closed because of weather so Van came home and said, “Let’s go to Pennsylvania.” He put chains on the car, and off they went! Being from Colorado, he at one time drove tourists up Pikes Peak, so this was no big deal for him. They also went back to Hawaii where they had lived for a while after the war. Sometime around 1981, they started traveling south in the wintertime to Florida where they purchased a place in an RV resort community. They loved traveling and their new friends.

Both Helen and Van were faithful members of Salem since 1960. Helen directed the Junior Choir and was part of the Senior Choir for a while. Van taught Sunday School and worked the sausage grind. As a matter of fact, he was accused at one time of “stealing the recipe” from the Mt. Carmel Church. Both participated in various other Salem activities. Actually, here in Brookeville, Van became known as Bob after his retirement from the military. But he was always “Van” to Helen.

Sadly, on their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary four years ago, Van passed away at the age of 97. Helen left us this year on Valentine’s Day at age 101. I’m sure it must have been a long wait for him.

-Thank you, Carmen Harding, for this lovely tribute to your Mother.



**Betsy A. Stabler**

December 15, 1940 ~ February 12, 2021 (age 80)

Betsy Adams Stabler passed away at her home on February 12, 2021. Betsy was born on December 15, 1940 in Montgomery County, MD. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Robert N. Stabler, three children: Robin Lechliden (Fred), Randy Stabler, and Pam Velisek (Doug); six grandchildren: David Lechliden (Kimmi), Kimberly Smith (Kyle), Kelsey Thomas (Chris), Shelby Stambaugh (Bud), Bobby Velisek and Emily Velisek and six great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her parents Woodrow and Myrtle Adams, sisters Annabelle Kindred and Nita Pumphrey and brother Woodrow Adams, Jr.

Betsy was a graduate of Gaithersburg High School and Hagerstown Business School. She is a past member of the Women’s Board of MGH for 56 years of which she served as President and on many committees. She also served on the Board of Directors of Montgomery General Hospital. She was a life member of the Montgomery County Agriculture Center where she served as co-chair of the Fair Food Committee for many years. She also enjoyed her monthly get-together with the Wednesday Club of Sandy Spring.

Betsy was an active 4-H mom. She helped many years with the Montgomery County 4-H Livestock Sale. She enjoyed watching her children and grandchildren participate at Fairs and Breed Cattle Shows. She also enjoyed the time she spent at the family lake house in Deep Creek Maryland.

Although no longer an active member of Salem, Betsy remained part of our congregation.

## TO THE BELOVED COMMUNITY AT SALEM UM CHURCH



Rev. Emily and Chris Hart  
and their dogs Teddy and Misha

## A LETTER TO THE CHURCH

The month of February was a busy stressful one for our Pastor as she was taking her ordination exam. Of course, her church helped by keeping her in prayer. An “unknown” person presented her with “I know you can do it!” flowers. Who ever you are thanks for the encouragement! AND SHE DID! Read what she has to say:



Church, I pray you will join me in **celebrating!**

After an eight-year process of education, testing, and application I have officially passed the last test before ordination!

This has been a process full of community. You have been with me on this last 6-month stretch. I am incredibly grateful to and for you.

I am grateful to the people who:

- encouraged me to take the time to write and prepare this year,
- took time to write references for me- a pastor you hardly knew,
- sat with the lay evaluator to talk about what it’s like to have me as your pastor,
- and attended my first Bible study here and let me record it for submission.

Mostly, I am grateful to be your pastor. Part of the exam process is to share stories of how I see God's grace in people's lives. Many of you have shared stories with me. Without you sharing those stories and letting me be part of your life, I would not be able to answer the questions.

Thank you for your vulnerability and the way you welcomed me. My job is to love and lead this church, and yet you have been loving me and giving me space to grow. Thank you for being selfless with your time and encouraging me to take the time for this process right now.

Will this change anything in our work together here? No, probably not. Will it change what you call me? Again, no, probably not.

What will change is my relationship with the conference and it means once we have the ordination service, they are stuck with me (and hopefully, so are you!).

I am thrilled God's call has brought me here. Let's continue doing what we've been doing: worshipping, praising, growing, and living in God's call on this church and each of us."

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Question—Do we at Salem allow something like a virus stop us from worshipping our God and commemorating special events in HIS life? The answer is a hardy **NO!** On February 16 our pastor was participating in Prayer Partners and preparing ashes for our congregation to pick up in preparation of the Ash Wednesday service.



A vial of ashes with instructions on how to prepare them for service.

Then at appointed times, they were set out so the congregation could stop by to pick them up. If you had arrived at the right time, you would have been greeted by Salem's beautiful Greeting Committee.



The ashes were in the basket.

Below is the letter from Ash Wednesday that Rev. Emily, Teddy, and Misha gave to people in their envelopes.



Hello!

Today, we prepare. Ash Wednesday is a beginning and a preparation. Well, the beginning to a season of preparation called “Lent.” Lent is the 40 days (minus Sundays!) that leads up to Easter. Christians have used this time to fast, pray, and overall, prepare for Holy Week and Easter. After Lent, the church celebrates 50 days of Easter. The season of celebration is always longer than the season for repentance and preparation.

Some people claim Lent as a time to restart their New Year’s resolutions, begin a religiously inspired fast from chocolate (gotta lose that weight!), or to berate themselves for still struggling to quit smoking.

This year, please, don’t do that. Please don’t use this time to do something that you kind of want to do anyway but you struggle to stick with it... so you’ll add some religious guilt to make it stick! We don’t give up chocolate or smoking or start keeping track of our finances just to make God happy during a season of preparation. This is a time to draw close to God. If chocolate is a barrier between you and God, sure, give it up for 40 days. If you choose your addictions over God and realize you don’t have the power to do this on your own, yes, draw close to God, get in touch with professional help, and begin your journey. If your finances are desperately out of order and you feel you can’t give to others because of it, yes, managing your finances can be a spiritual discipline.



However, this is a time to look at our ordinary lives and seek out our extraordinary God. The ashes in this Lent kit are just an ordinary tool to help you on your journey towards connecting with God. During our Ash Wednesday service Pastor Will (from St. Paul’s UMC in Laytonsville) and I will guide you through a “self-imposition” of ashes. We will consider who we are, who we want to be, and what God is calling us to be. Consider this before deciding about a Lenten spiritual discipline. If you want help thinking it through, I’m happy to talk with you.

Lenten disciplines can help us to work on our weaknesses. One year I practiced walking rather than driving as much as possible to try to understand homelessness. A friend of mine adds early morning devotions through the season. Our Bishop, LaTrelle Miller Easterling, is encouraging us to give up social media and the echo chambers and meanness that seems to come with it.

Who are you?  
Who do you want to be?  
What is God calling you to?  
Blessings to you,

• Rev. Emily Hart

Our services are broadcast on YouTube and Zoom (you can still view the service by going to youtube, Salem UMC, Brookeville, MD). St. Paul's UMC in Laytonsville joined us online for this awesome service, Their Pastor, Rev. Will Newton was a participant in the service, and a beautiful service it was.

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Rev. Emily will join Rev. Will Newton at St. Paul's UMC in Laytonsville for a Maundy Thursday and Holy Friday service. Stay tuned for links to all the Holy Week services.

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held in the Salem Cemetery. Details to follow.

### **SO LONG TO OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR**



Pictured left to right: Libby Wright, Mary Abramson, Harry Dunstan and Rev. Emily Hart

On Sunday, February 28, we celebrated a Love Feast and commissioned Dr. Harry for his move to Marcus, Iowa, He and his wife, Kay, will be moving this week. We sent them off with a road trip kit, letters of appreciation, and a gift to the charity they are looking forward to supporting. If you are interested in learning more about it, you can check out Josh's Ride at

<https://www.joshsrider.org>. This non-profit provides custom bicycles for kids with disabilities to give them the same access to independence that other kids get on their bikes.

Harry, thank you for sharing your kindness, your music, and your spirit with us. We will be praying for you and will miss you.

Submitted by Rev. Hart

### **OUR SYMPATHIES TO:**

Last year was a very sad year for many of us as we unwillingly sent our Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, Sisters, Husbands, and Wives to Heaven. In many cases, unable to say Goodbye! In this, our third month of the new year, I would like to pay honor to these many wonderful people as our Goodbye to them:

Susan Bartley—01/22

Eric Beebe—02/07

Lloyd Dye—02/14

Bob Brown—03/25

Joanne Rider—04/11

Jane Bartley (Buck's sister)—04/18

Stuart Smith (Virginia Smith's son and Ginny Weinberger's brother)—04/23

Alice Castner

(Deb Ambrose's mother)—04/24

Curt Smith—05/02

Jim Will—05/23

Randy Kennedy—07/29

John Sterling (Chuck Sterling's nephew)

Helen Ambrose

(Fred Ambrose's sister)—05/10

Len Flynn

(Joe Meisner's father-in-law)—05/25

Anna Unglesbee—10/24

Rev. Sue's Mother, Charlotte Gehr—11/28

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Recently there was a question of putting the Birthday/Anniversary list in the newsletter because the newsletter is on the Website. If you want your name removed, please contact me and I will remove it.

If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact:

[velma\\_durant@yahoo.com](mailto:velma_durant@yahoo.com)

We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

### **March Birthdays are:**

Briana Groves	03/11
Nicholas Groves	03/12
George Robinson	03/29

### **March Anniversaries are:**

Fred and Debbie Ambrose	03/22
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## OUR COMMUNITY

Most of our community activities are put on hold because of COVID-19.

### **The Lord's Table:**

The Lord's Table is now at Epworth UMC, 9008 Rosemont Dr., Gaithersburg. Volunteers from Salem serve the first Friday of the month making bag lunches.

### **Snowmen Gifts:**

"Thanks to all of the members of your congregation for your generous support. The children really enjoyed and appreciated your gifts. I look forward to continuing our partnership."

Ottoniel Perez  
Mentoring Coordinator  
YMCA Youth Links  
Mentoring Program

## PRAYER SHAWLS



Prayer Shawls are available in the Salem entry hall on top of the coat rack. There is no cost. If you know anyone you want to share a prayer with all the time, please help yourself to a shawl. The comfort they give is well worth the effort of delivering one to your friends, family, or co-workers. They do help. Just knowing someone cares is sometimes just the right medicine. They will thank you!

### **Methodism: Do you Know...**

#### **When the church first ordained women?**

Women served as preachers from the beginning of the Methodist movement.



#### *Mary Bosanquet Fletcher*

Mary Bosanquet Fletcher (1739–1815) was an early lay preacher credited with convincing John Wesley that some women should be allowed to preach. Women were ordained as ministers as early as the late 19th century. In 1866, Helenor M. Davisson was ordained a deacon in the Methodist Protestant

Church. Anna Howard Shaw, after being refused ordination by the General Conference of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in 1880, that same year joined the Methodist Protestant Church and was ordained by its New York Annual Conference. Ella Niswonger was the first woman granted full clergy rights by the United Brethren Church in 1889. In 1956, The Methodist Church granted women full clergy rights.

**Methodism: Did you know...**

**John Wesley coined the term “agree to disagree.”**

Over the years, Wesley had serious theological differences with another popular pastor named George Whitefield. Though they both argued passionately, Wesley reflected on these differences in a memorial sermon for Whitefield by saying: “There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. ... In these, we may think and let think; we may ‘agree to disagree.’”

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Reverend Emily Hart takes a Sabbath Day on Friday for rest and renewal and a vacation day on Federal holidays. She also honors time with her husband and dogs in the evening. Please do not contact her on Fridays and after 8:30 P.M. only in an emergency (or a scheduled meeting!).

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Rev. Emily's e-mail:

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velma\_durant@yahoo.com

(There is an underscore between my first and last name)

Velma's cell phone: (240) 328-4810

**The Salem Newsletter is assembled and published by  
Velma Durant, and edited by Suzanne Friis**

**ORDINARY : A Lenten Journey for the Curious**

**2 / 2 1**

**Matthew  
6: 5-15**

**Bread**

**2 / 2 8**

**Mark  
8: 31-38**

**Cross**

**3 / 7**

**Mark  
12: 13-17**

**Coins**

**3 / 1 4**

**Exodus  
3: 1-6**

**Shoes**

**3 / 2 1**

**Psalms 23**

**Oil**

<p>God used food as an expression of God's deepest love and most important sacrifice. In our world where carbs are almost considered dangerous, how do you see God's love in food?</p>	<p>The cross was initially seen as a symbol of torture. Now, we see it as a symbol of deep love. Before the crucifixion, Jesus called people to "take up their cross" to follow him. How do you think they heard that? What does it mean to you now?</p>	<p>Ah, money. How do you decide what belongs to God? What does it mean to give something to God?</p>	<p>When do you take your shoes off? Why then/there? What does it mean?</p>	<p>Oil can be a symbol of abundance, extravagance, or decadence. Now, we're unlikely to pour oil over our heads in celebration. How do you celebrate God's goodness in your life?</p>
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