

Salem
Alliance
C H U R C H

Weekend Worship
December 26-27, 2009

Worship Center
A Service of Celebration
SATURDAY
5:00 pm^
SUNDAY
8:00 am • 9:30 am^
11:00 am

^ASL interpretation available

*We exist to exalt Jesus Christ,
become His fully devoted followers
and share His grace and truth
with all people.*

This Weekend's Worship:

- Led by Laura Scharer and the Worship Team in the Worship Center

Today's Message:

**"God's Word. Preacher's Voice.
People's Choice."**

2009: A Look Back
Josh Mann, Youth Pastor, Middle School

Welcome today...

Guests: We're glad you're here to worship with us! Please join our regular attenders in signing the Friendship Register when it is passed to you, and we will send you information about Salem Alliance Church.

Information: Stop by our **Welcome Desk** and pick up a free coupon for an espresso drink in the **Welcome Center**. Located just to the right of the Pursuits Desk, this is a place to get answers for your questions. Speak with some of our hosts, and they will be glad to help. The **Children and Youth Ministries Booth** will help you get all of your children settled, and the **Group Life Desk** has information on all of our groups that meet throughout the week.

MP3s & CDs of the service: CDs of the service may be requested at the **Pursuits Desk**. MP3s of the sermon only can be downloaded from our church website at www.salemalliance.org

Deaf & Hearing Impaired: Our services can be heard live on 88.1FM in our sanctuary on a personal radio receiver. ASL interpretation is offered during our 5:00 pm service on Saturday and our 9:30 am service on Sunday. For more information contact Robyn Brown at 503-581-2129, x241.

We are a people of prayer: We would love to pray with you today! Please come forward at the end of the service, and a member of the prayer team will be waiting for you. In Cedar Hall someone will be available by the cross. **To receive weekly church family prayer requests via email**, contact Rebecca Anderson at randerson@salemalliance.org or **pick up a printed copy at the Prayer Board near the Reception Desk**.

Small Children: Out of consideration to others, we would encourage you to slip out into the lobby if your children become distracting. We have arranged to have the audio of the service in the lobby during all services. Quality childcare is provided during each service for ages birth through 4 years.

Check us out! Our **Newcomers' Reception** is the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 am in the Welcome Center. Meet with others who are new, meet staff members and find out about ways to integrate into the life of Salem Alliance. The next reception is Sunday, January 10, 2009.

Our Church Family

• Please welcome the following new members to the Salem Alliance family: Ginger Barker, Iuri Cernev and Maia Cerneva, Terry and Marilyn Lorange, John and Jodie McCaslin, Jennifer Phelps, Mark and Andrea Sodaro and Monte and Terri Wiens.



Group Life

Shepherding Groups
Mid-sized groups for all adults

Bible Study Groups
Small groups for all adults

Deaf Groups

Women's Ministry Groups

Life Path Ministry Groups
A place to be real



Men's Ministry Groups

Foundations
A safe place to learn core teachings of the Bible

Marriage Enrichment Groups

Newcomers Bible Study Groups
For those who are new to small group experiences

You were created for community! Explore the dozens of group possibilities. Don't miss your opportunity to get into winter groups. Stop by the Group Life desk in the lobby after services for more information or to register for a group.

Bible Study Groups

It's not too late to join a small group! The winter Bible study series, "God for a Lifetime," will focus on the life of Jeremiah. Groups begin the week of January 3rd. If a group Bible study won't work in this season of your life, consider buying a study guide and doing the study on your own. Study guides are available at the Group Life desk in the lobby or at Pursuits for \$12.

Opportunities

Peacemakers: Coaching and Upcoming Seminar

Need help with a conflict? For information or to request mediation or coaching, you can now go to the new Peacemaker page on the Salem Alliance website at www.salemalliance.org. Click on the red button on the left side of the page. To learn biblical peacemaking skills, register online or in the lobby for the four-week Peacemaker Seminar on Tuesday evenings beginning January 19.

Baristas and Bread Deliverers Needed

Our SAC's on 5th espresso bar needs additional baristas to help serve on the weekends. No experience necessary; we will train you! Contact Cyndi Buss at 503-991-5012 or email her at happybuss@comcast.net. We are also looking for a team of two people (i.e. husband and wife or friends) to deliver bread to our first-time visitors in the South Salem area. This is a once-a-month commitment, and you would be our ambassadors to these people who are new to Salem Alliance Church. Please contact Darlene Britton at 503-581-2129, x204 or email her at dbritton@salemalliance.org

Sign Up For Women's Retreat

Bring your family and friends and get recharged at the 2010 Salem Alliance Women's Retreat, January 22-24, at Cannon Beach. The Registration Booth will be open in the lobby beginning the weekend of January 2/3. Registration packets are available now at the Welcome Desk or on the website at www.salemalliance.org. Hurry! January 10 is the last day to register! For questions, please email salemalliancewomensretreat@yahoo.com or call 503-566-7182.

December 26/27 and January 2/3 Weekend Changes

- Saturday's 6:30 pm service will not meet. Please plan to join us Saturday at 5:00 pm or Sunday at 8:00, 9:30 or 11:00 am. This service will resume on Saturday, January 9.
- Sunday's Cedar Hall service will join with those in the Worship Center. This service will resume on Sunday, January 10.
- Grade School, Middle School, High School and Adult Shepherding Groups will not meet. Nursery and Preschool in Animal Alley are open all service hours, except for Sunday at 8:00 am.

Office Closure

The church offices will be closed on Friday, January 1, for the holiday.

Three Days of Prayer and Fasting/Prayer and Worship Night

From Wednesday, January 13 to Friday, January 15, 2010, Salem Alliance will be taking three days to pray and fast together for 2010. God is doing a new thing among us, and we want to begin the year with **expectancy!** On Friday, January 15, at 7:00 pm, we'll gather for a night of prayer and worship to celebrate and seek the Lord together. Look for more information next week!

MS/HS SWEAT Fall '09 Fundraiser Thanks

A huge thank you to all of you who answered your phones or listened to your answering machines during the middle/high school Fall SWEAT fundraiser. Approximately \$17,600 was pledged for students to use toward mission trips, retreats and Salem Alliance youth activities. Your support and encouragement of our youth is deeply appreciated!! If you did not receive a call from our youth and would like to contribute, we are still accepting donations. Just drop it in the offering plate in an envelope labeled "SWEAT."

Broadway Construction Blog

After being behind for the last few months, we are just about up-to-date on our Broadway construction blog. You can access the blog from the Salem Alliance website at www.salemalliance.org by clicking on the Broadway Project drawing. We'll continue to post photos with explanations as construction moves along.

Join the Blog Community

For the last ten months, Pastor John has been writing a weekly blog. It's a great way to follow his journey while receiving some genuine spiritual encouragement. It can be accessed through the Salem Alliance website (www.salemalliance.org) or at johnstumbo.org

All event fliers, brochures and registration forms can be found online at the Middle School and High School websites, the Youth Center and the Student Ministries brochure rack near the Reception Desk.



MIDDLE SCHOOL: www.iheartcrash.com

Saturday: No The Link.

Sunday: No The Link.

Wednesday, December 30: No Crash.

LIFE 2010: Collide: 8th graders, you're invited! Louisville, Kentucky, July 5 - 12. This is the once-every-three-years C&MA Youth Conference. The information packet with the registration form is available on the middle school website, at the Youth Center and in the Student Ministries brochure rack near the Reception Desk. The registration **DUE DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED** through noon, Friday, January 8. Please drop registration and \$200 deposit in the Youth Registrations box.

Great Expectations Fundraiser Organizational Meeting: Sunday, January 10, 12:15 pm at the Youth Center for students going to LIFE 2010. Parents of students participating in this event must attend the meeting.



HIGH SCHOOL: www.flipsideyouth.org

Saturday: No Flipside.

Sunday: No Flipside.

Tuesday: No AXIS. Begins again January 12.

LIFE 2010: Collide: Louisville, Kentucky, July 5 - 12. This is the once-every-three-years C&MA Youth Conference. The information packet with the registration form is available on the high school website, at the Youth Center and in the Student Ministries brochure rack near the Reception Desk. The registration **DUE DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED** through noon, Friday, January 8. Please drop registration and \$200 deposit in the Youth Registrations box.

Make Your Film Day: Saturday, January 9, 2:00 pm at the Youth Center.

Great Expectations Fundraiser Organizational Meeting: Sunday, January 10, 12:15 pm at the Youth Center for students going to LIFE 2010 and the Seattle Spring Break Missions Trip. Parents of students participating in this event must attend the meeting.

Seattle Spring Break Mission Trip: March 21-24, 2010. The cost is \$200. The registration **DUE DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED** to noon, Wednesday, January 13. Place registration form and deposit in the Youth Registrations box.

Missionary of the Week



Robin and Wendy Gutierrez serve in Macas, Ecuador, at Emmanuel Christian School (Pre-K through HS). As school administrators, both Robin and Wendy provide spiritual direction for the teachers and staff, organize visits to the homes of students with the greatest needs, develop curriculum and work to give the school a greater bilingual emphasis. They are

also involved in outreach to outlying areas. Macas is located in a jungle area with a population of 15,000. Please pray that their staff would be unified and that God will provide wisdom and clarity around administrative decisions. Pray for their summer school program and that God will send teams and individuals according to His will. Pray for wisdom in planning a furlough trip in March/April to the U.S. and that God will open doors to share about their ministry during this trip. Additionally, pray for funds to cover the cost of travel; the airline tickets alone for their family of four are around \$3,000. *For more information about the Gutierrez family and their ministry pick up a brochure near the missions bulletin board in the lobby.*

Missionary Highlight

Ron Imig serves as Portland Area Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Ron oversees the district, which includes training of teachers in churches and coordinating evangelistic outreaches such as Good News Clubs during the school year, summer 5-Day Clubs and county fair ministries where the gospel is presented. CEF is facing a time of particularly low finances (last month being the lowest in over 6 years), yet God is using this trial to teach them to trust. Pray for their teams as they minister during this Christmas season and share the true meaning of Christmas with children. *For more information on the Imigs please pick up a brochure near the missions board this weekend in the lobby.*

As we head into the final weeks of the year, the Governing Board thought it would be helpful for you to know that December giving generally represents 15% of our annual giving (nearly two times what is given during any other month of the year). While the end of December marks the halfway point in our fiscal year, we rely on strong giving in December to help us balance our budget for the whole fiscal year. As you plan your yearend giving, we want to thank you in advance for helping Salem Alliance Church begin the second half of our fiscal year on a strong financial note.

Yearend Deadline

December 31 falls on a Thursday this year. To claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2009, you will need to mail (and postmark) any checks by December 31 or place them in the offering plate on the weekend of December 26/27.

PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be open on Thursday, December 31, until 5:00 pm.

Stock Transfers

If you plan to donate stocks before yearend, please be aware that the stocks must be received in the church's account or in the church office by Thursday, December 31, to be deductible in 2009. Some brokers may delay transfer until after the first of the year unless they are specifically requested to make transfers before the end of the year. Plan early and notify your broker accordingly. Please notify Lynn in the church office of stock transfers that you plan to make (503-581-2129, x298 or lhopper@salemalliance.org). We will assist in tracking your donations.

More Than Money

Your donations to Salem Alliance enable us to minister to people and encourage their faith to grow or see their need for Jesus and join God's forever family. As the ribbons on the cross symbolize, dozens of people have made Christ their Lord and Savior this past year. Thank you for playing a part in all of the ministries here at Salem Alliance through your generosity.

For additional prayer requests and updates, visit www.salemalliance.org and click "Prayer and Praise" on the left menu or call 503-399-0584 and press "2."

- Pray for Jerri Holt's daughter, Heather, who had a heart artery rupture on December 19 and was hospitalized. It cannot be surgically repaired due to other health issues Heather faces. Pray for God's miraculous healing and strength for Heather and her family.

- Praise! Marty Brown's mother's health has improved enough that she was able to return to her assisted living facility.

To submit a prayer request, call the church office or email Rebecca Anderson at randerson@salemalliance.org



Advent Devotional

Christmas Day has come and gone, but we continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! And, we look ahead to the New Year and all that God has for us in 2010. As we pause to reflect during what can be a busy season, may we be filled with a fresh awareness of the amazing gift the Father gave us in sending His Son.

Sunday, December 27: Read John 1:14a, Hebrews 2:17 and Hebrews 4:14-16.

Reflect: God became man and lived on earth and was tempted in every way just as we are. Approach the throne of grace with confidence today and *receive* His abundant grace and mercy.

Monday, December 28: Read Isaiah 52:7-10 and Matthew 28:19-20.

Reflect: Jesus is the Savior for the nations. What part does He want you to play in taking the good news about Him to the nations?

Tuesday, December 29: Read Luke 2:10-11, Matthew 1:23 and Philippians 4:4-7.

Reflect: Our God is *with us* so we don't have to fear. Ask for a new measure of His peace to guard your heart and mind today.

Wednesday, December 30: Read Galatians 4:4 and Romans 5:6-10.

Reflect: God took the initiative in sending His Son to the earth to restore our relationship with Him. Express your gratitude to Him for His powerful demonstration of love for us.

Thursday, December 31: Read Psalm 100 and Psalm 105:1-5.

Reflect: We enter His gates (His presence) with thanksgiving. Think over the last year and the "wonders He has done" and all the blessings He has poured out in your life. Spend some time thanking Him and rejoicing in who He is.

Friday, January 1: Read Isaiah 43:18-19 and Jeremiah 29:11-13.

Reflect: A New Year! A fresh start! We expect the Lord to do a new thing in us this year and that it's already beginning! He is making a way where there was no way and bringing life to places that were lifeless. He has plans to prosper you and give you hope. Welcome the Lord's work in your life this year. Invite Him to speak to you about the new thing He is doing/going to do in your life in 2010.

Note: We will be posting a daily devotional through January 1, 2010 at www.salemalliance.org These original devotions, solicited through John Stumbo's blog, were written by people from all across the U.S., including many from our own church family.

Salem Alliance Church

555 Gaines St. NE • Salem, Oregon 97301

24 hr. information line: 399-0854, with recorded information regarding:
prayer • directions • middle school • high school

Phone: (503) 581-2129 • Fax: (503) 399-1375

Web Page: www.salemalliance.org