

Beloved of God,

Wow, hasn't God been good to Salt Creek Baptist Church in 2025? May Jesus continue to bless, lead, and show us His favor in the year of our Lord 2026. May we never take for granted the love of His people, the Word of His Grace, and the power of His Spirit that is present with us.

May we not become complacent in our faith and mission but rather dig deeper and reach further in His name and for His name. May 2026 be a year of spiritual growth in every heart. May 2026 be a year of faithful service for every saint. And may 2026 be a year where Christ is the center of our worship and devotion.

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:36). Start the New Year off right... See you at church!

Respect the Blood, Dalton Mathis

Bible Verse of the Month:

*"Oh, sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him." Psalm 98:1*

Church History Quote of the Month

"And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also, He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true...It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."

*Jesus Christ
Revelation 21:5-6*

Hymn Line of the Month:

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear Presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.*

Chorus

*Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hast provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.*

Thomas O Chisholm (1913)

REMEMBER - REFLECT - RENEW - REJOICE!

*"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done; I ponder the work of Your hands."
Psalm 143:5*

A recurring theme prior to celebrating a New Year usually entails reminiscing about the past. As we pause and reflect on the rich and beautiful history of Salt Creek Baptist Church; may we also praise the Lord Whose love reaches to the heavens and Whose faithfulness ascends to the skies!

When Salt Creek Baptist Church originated, the "sanctuary" consisted of a brush arbor with no concrete or pavement. "There was just a handful of believing souls worshipping God in the open air, tapping their feet in the dirt as they sang hymns of praise, accompanied by the chirping of birds, the cadence of crickets and June bugs, and the whisper of a summer breeze." (excerpt from "I Am The Church," by Jayne Perry) Space was never an issue - for their cathedral consisted of the vast blue sky above, the soft carpet of green grass below, and the beautiful décor of wildflowers and trees all round.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, a more permanent structure was constructed in 1889. Throughout the years, buildings have been moved in or built as this body of believers grew. In 1935, at year's end there was a grand total of \$1.10 in the treasury. Another statement made by Ms. Perry was: "The account books also reveal that technology and Christianity can grow hand in hand...Although contemporary tools are employed in the ministry, members can rest assured that old-fashioned religion still has its place at Salt Creek Baptist Church."(1989)

In her eloquent account, Ms. Perry stated the mission upon which Salt Creek was established: "I am the membership of the church. I am male and female, young and old, and I am composed of various backgrounds and races. I am striving to become more God-like every day while I spread the teachings of Jesus Christ to those who don't yet know Him...I invite you to come and aid me in my mission, for there can never be too many of us."

Finally, Ms. Perry closes her account of "I Am The Church" with these words of Truth and conviction: "It takes much more than land, a building, dates recorded in a book, or even a pastor and a congregation. It takes God to make a church. All of the above are useless unless His Spirit dwells within me. If my members at Salt Creek continue to glorify and serve Christ as they have done in the past, then their descendants can proudly remember them in the bicentennial celebration."

Precious church family, because a "handful of believers" began worshipping our God under a brush arbor in an outdoor sanctuary, we are here today! Because they embraced the "Macedonian Call" and welcomed lost souls seeking hope, His Truth is marching on. Because past heroes of the faith "died to self" and embraced the Master's Command to love God and love others - we are still carrying out the Great Commission 136 years later!

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE CREEK?

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

†	Wednesday	Dec.	31	-	New Year's Eve Party - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
†	Thur. - Fri.	Jan.	1-2	-	Office Closed
†	Sunday	Jan.	4	-	Trail Life - 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
†	Sunday	Jan.	11	-	Deacons' Meeting - 4:30 p.m. Business Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
†	Wednesday	Jan.	14	-	Child Dedication Class - 6:30 p.m.
†	Sunday	Jan.	18	-	Trail Life 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
†	Wednesday	Jan.	21	-	Good Samaritan - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
†	Wednesday	Jan.	21	-	Child Dedication Class - 6:30 p.m.
†	Sunday	Jan.	25	-	Child Dedication Service
†	Wednesday	Jan.	28	-	New Members Fellowship - 6:30 p.m.

- † CARE Nursing Home Ministry: 2:00 p.m.
- † Prayer Meeting: 5:45 p.m. Join us as we go over our prayer list and pray to the Living God!
- † Children's Ministry: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
All kids 5th grade and under— Bible Study - Fun - Light Meal Served
- † Youth Ministry: 6:30 p.m. Keep up with our Salt Creek Youth on their Facebook page @Salt teens and Instagram @saltteens_youth
- † "Encouraging Words" Ladies Bible Study: All women are invited as we let the Living Word encourage us and help us walk in the footsteps of Jesus at 6:30 p.m. We have begun a study of *Genesis*.
- † Men's Bible Study: All men are invited to meet at 6:30 p.m. We are studying the book of 2 Timothy.

GET TO KNOW MY FAMILY MEMBERS:

- 1) What is your favorite thing about Salt Creek?
- 2) What is your favorite Bible Verse?
- 3) What is your favorite thing about New Year?
- 4) What are you most looking forward to in Heaven?
- 5) If you had to fight satan with a water pistol, who from the Bible (other than Jesus) would you take with you?

Steve Woodard's Answers:

- 1.) No Pressure to join
- 2.) Isaiah 58:9
- 3.) Putting old stuff to bed...
- 4.) Being with my wife!
- 5.) David

Sherri Marshall's Answers:

- 1.) These are my people... My home.
- 2.) Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 34:18, Zephaniah 3:17, Isaiah 43:1-2
- 3.) A chance to refocus
- 4.) Perfect peace, no sin, and an eternity with my Savior and all the people I miss so much!
- 5.) Abigail

Trivia With the Trinity

Who should have made these New Year's Resolutions?

- 1) The next time I see one of Jesus' crazy disciples with a sword, I will duck.
- 2) I will not fall asleep during Paul's sermon.
- 3) We will never ever make fun of a bald-headed prophet.
I will never lose my temper when someone makes fun of me,
- 4) The next time I go to war, I will rely on the LORD - not a pagan king.
- 5) I will never bother the daughter of Jacob!

Salt Creek Baptist Church

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SALT CREEK GOOD NEWS!