

# Pastor's *helper*

SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS | SEPTEMBER 2019

## THERE AND BACK AGAIN

— *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

My Friends:

My first thought is to once again say 'thank you' for the privilege of observing my recent sabbatical. It was a leap of faith for you as a congregation as well as for me as one who is somewhat cemented in a daily routine of ministry. What a wonderful break from that routine! So thank you for your prayers and for your support, and for the personal gift (you know who you are!) that Lisa and I were able to take advantage of.

I completed my primary goal, which was to write a short manuscript. My topic changed on me after the first couple of days struggling to make much of my initial subject. I settled on a series of stories from my past, stories set in an annual practice of taking a camping trip with my best friend. Out of those stories of potential trouble and tragedy came a series

of encouraging messages. I based each of the messages on the wisdom and worship of the Psalms. Where this will lead I do not yet know. I am being prayerfully deliberate about seeking wise input on the next steps. I hope I will be able to share this writing with you in the future.

Another, unexpected, result of my time away was a refining or honing of my thoughts and beliefs on worship. I won't go into detail here, but just know that I believe that we have sought after and are working at a form of worship here that follows God's plan for worship, and honors Him in every step. We could always do better, be more excellent, and show God our hearts more than we do. But I think that in comparison with some other services of 'worship' that I experienced, we are in a good place. As a bonus, let me commend you again on the

*Continued on p. 2*



<b>Announcements.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Attendance.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Calendar.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Consistory Minutes.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Directory.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Giving at a Glance.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Heavenly Humor.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Music Director's Note.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Pastor's Message.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Worship Assistants.....</b>	<b>5</b>

warmth and friendliness that you all show to strangers and guests who show up here. I did not find that to be universal.

I am deeply grateful to those of you who took on ministry responsibilities in my absence, and hope that you will continue to be involved in those things as we move forward. Ministry is not the sole responsibility of the pastor, but is the work of the church. To those who filled the pulpit while I was away, thank you for taking good care of this congregation's spiritual hearts. That is a special gift.

Now it is back to work! Our sermon series on John will ramp up once more. The Gathering will begin in earnest in September. Prayer groups and committees will once again dot my calendar's pages. If anything, I would encourage you to consider making a sabbatical a written part of the church's by-laws, as an encouragement and gift to future pastors. It makes for a healthier church altogether.

Please feel free to come and talk with me if you'd like any more details on my work and my experiences during this past six weeks. I would love to share with you and get some input on how you got along while I was out.

Just a short note on what is yet to come: my father is failing in his health. I spent two weekends in Ohio with him, not knowing when it might be my last time to speak with him. Sometime soon he will go home to be united with his Savior. My sisters and I have made arrangements for that when it happens. I will not be going back home, unless there is a further need in helping with those arrangements. We will simply have a memorial service sometime in the future. In addition, the good news is that our daughter Laura is being married here at Hellers' Church in September. We are so looking forward to her being united with Jeremy and starting a new life as part of a new family. We welcome Jeremy to our little clan!

That's all for now. Blessings on each of you. God's peace and love be with you.

*Pastor Bruce*

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**Consistory:** Mark Steller, President;

Harold Teigland, Vice President;

George Cooper, Secretary;

Ron Nickel, Treasurer; Ragen Burns;

Marie Peazzoni; Eugene Rodgers; Larry Stoltzfus; Merv  
Bare; Bruce Tully

[www.salemhellers.com](http://www.salemhellers.com);

[www.facebook.com/salemhellers](http://www.facebook.com/salemhellers)



### Happy Birthday!

Dave Sensenig.....September 3  
Cindy Portner..... September 5  
Mary Ann King .....September 7  
Sandy Geist.....September 10  
Scott Gribble.....September 11  
Jaylynn Rineer..... September 15  
Ruth Roye.....September 20  
JoAnn Gribble.....September 25  
Bob Burns.....September 26  
Joanne Mateer.....September 26  
Deb Burns.....September 27  
Lisa Tully.....September 30

### Happy Anniversary!

Don & June Steller.....September 9, 1956 (63 years)

Doug & Mary Rineer.....September 16, 1989 (30 years)



# A FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jubilation Jazz Christian Big Band Summer Tour was a great experience for Robbie Sue and me.

Here are some basic facts: 24 musicians ♪ 14 spouses ♪ 7 concerts ♪ 4 Churches ♪ 1 ballpark ♪ 1 city park 1 national park ♪ 2700+ miles ♪ 9 states

To my surprise, I was the oldest member of the band, and the youngest member was a college student who played bass. We held the rhythm section together and became best friends.

After a two-hour rehearsal in Marion, AR, just a few miles west of Memphis, we left for Selmer, TN. We arrived and set up in a beautiful Baptist church with a nine foot Bosendorfer Concert Grand Piano. After being served dinner, we changed clothes and were ready to begin the concert, not really knowing what to expect. The local high school band director cancelled marching band practice that Friday night, allowing the band to attend our concert.

We opened the concert with a flash-mob-style entry, playing *Amazing Grace*, and on the third verse, the full brass section including a tuba, let loose. I literally saw jaws drop. Those kids were great. They clapped, cheered, and were with us right up to the last note. That first concert was over-the-top for audience response. What a start! We packed up and left for Murfreesboro, TN and arrived there about 11:30 p.m. That was a long day.



On Sunday morning, we provided all the music for the Northside Baptist church. An added bonus was that my son and his family were heading back to Florida, so we had dinner the night before and they were able to stay for church. Although it almost never happens, at the conclusion of our *America the Beautiful* and the end of the *Battle hymn of the Republic*, the emotional power of the music brought the congregation to their feet in a standing ovation. WOW! What a morning!

We left after lunch, drove to Niota, TN, played a concert, and then drove to Kentucky,

where we arrived about midnight. We were tired but happy. The next day, we visited the Ark Encounter, a life-sized detailed replica of the Ark. That afternoon we drove to Somerset, PA, arriving at about 8:30 p.m.



The next morning, we visited the crash Site of Flight 93 and then drove to Lancaster. We had time to check in to the Cork Factory Hotel, change clothes, and set up to play a concert at the Barnstormers Stadium. We played the *National Anthem* at the beginning of the game.



At 7:30 the next morning, we were off to visit the historic area of Philadelphia, eat a cheesesteak, and return to set up at the New Holland Park. We had a wonderful crowd at the park, and they invited us back any time. The next morning, we were up early and drove to Gettysburg, where we set up on the lawn by the Visitors' Center. We were wondering why they set us up in soggy wet grass facing the sun at 10 a.m. After the concert, a couple came up to our director with tears in their eyes. They said that as they got out of the car, they heard the band playing the tribute to the armed forces medley. Their son was being deployed tomorrow. It was a blessing for them to hear that musical affirmation and said, "that is why we were here."

*Continued on p. 4*

The goal of the band is to inspire, encourage and teach Christian integrity and experience through the medium of Big Band Jazz. These are great people who live what they believe.



## **BIG BAND JAZZ**

From Gettysburg back to Lancaster, we got changed, and FINALLY Jubilation Jazz came to Salem Hellers. After setting up in the sanctuary, I led the band down to Cowan Hall. As I opened the door, I heard "OH, WOW!" as they saw the beautifully set tables. After a glorious rendition of the *Doxology*, the best meal of the tour was served amid comments of how great the food was and how nice it was to be served. The ladies made Salem Hellers proud, for sure.

All too soon, the concert was over, but the memories and friendships linger on. The Jubilation Jazz experience not only encourages and inspires those who attend, but the members through a week long association of maintaining a very full schedule, inspire and encourage each other.

As busy as each day was, every day the band paused and a member gave a devotional followed by prayer. My day was Wednesday to give the devotional. As on every other missions trip, it always turns out that you receive more than you contribute. That's how it works when your motives and heart are to serve.

Until Next Time,

Ron

## **Roofing Project Update**

The 2019 projected reroofing project for Salem Heller's Church is now complete. The final cost amounted to \$144,255.61. We had projected \$140,000 - which amounts to a 3% cost overrun. All together your Property Committee is pleased with these figures since one never definitely knows what surprises will be found until actual construction begins. In our case, since the sanctuary roof sheathing was original from 1860 and had been giving us problems, the best and longest lasting job would be to install new sheathing. In addition, other contingencies included replacing metal vent pipes that projected through the roof so that the roof would not get stained, steeple lights were remounted so as to not rest on the new roofing material, and replacing duct work for the rooftop air conditioner that was deteriorating and too close to the roof. The projected lifespan of a new rubber roof is 30 years whereas for the standing seam metal roof is over 50 years.

Probably in the next year or two we will need to replace the rubber roof over Cowen Hall, the kitchen, and the garage roof across the street at 2575 Horseshoe Road. The projected cost for these additional projects will be around \$17,500. We had been hoping to include all the roofing projects together, but the contingencies took precedence, so these additional projects will have to be postponed.

We certainly appreciate all the support that you have given to this endeavor. As of August 11, we have taken in \$119,365.56 to offset our roofing project. Please understand that even though the physical roofing has been replaced, the need to continue paying for it remains.

On another topic, any money donated to "Perpetual Care" gets invested in long term funds. That money (currently over \$200,000) is untouchable and the only benefit that we receive is interest earned from this account which, in turn, is used to help pay for cemetery mowing and upkeep. Unfortunately, the last few years have seen a decrease in interest earnings. Last year we spent over \$12,700 for cemetery expenses and ended the year being nearly \$2700 short - which had to come out of our Current General Fund. A suggestion would be to donate directly to the "Cemetery Fund." Thank you for all your support. Skip Reynolds, Property Committee Chairman

# ATTENDANCE & TREASURER'S REPORT

## JULY

### ATTENDANCE— WORSHIP

JULY 7 61  
 JULY 14 62  
 JULY 21 61  
 JULY 28 63

Average worship attendance for August is 61.

Jubilation Jazz

## JULY

### ATTENDANCE— SUNDAY SCHOOL

JULY 7 21  
 JULY 14 19  
 JULY 21 17  
 JULY 28 22

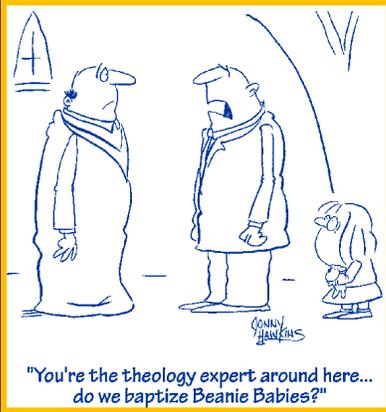
Average Sunday School attendance for August is 19.

### JULY TREASURER'S REPORT\*

Current .....\$14,023.54  
 Missions.....\$990.00  
 Improvement.....\$3,544.00  
 Cemetery Fund.....\$1,533.69

\*For more information, please see the Treasurer's Report on the Community Bulletin Board in Cowan Hall.

## Heavenly Humor



A Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."



After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### GREETERS

Sept 1: Bob & Rosene Burns  
 Sept. 8: Judy Wenger & Kathy Hinerdeer  
 Sept. 15: Mary Lichty and Betsy Lichty  
 Sept. 22: Arlene Kofroth & Elisa Nickel  
 Sept. 29: Bill & Cindy Portner

### FLOWER DISTRIBUTORS

Sept 1: Marie Peazzoni  
 Sept. 8: Judy Wenger  
 Sept. 15: Mary Lichty & Betsy Lichty  
 Sept. 22: OPEN  
 Sept. 29: OPEN

### USHERS

Scott Gribble (Head), Sandy Geist, David Reinmiller, Ron Nickel, and Fair Ayers

### OFFERING BAGGERS

Ragen Burns and Gene Rodgers



### WORSHIP LEADERS

Sept. 1: Margaret Sensenig; Sept. 8: George Cooper; Sept. 15: Linda Ranck; Sept. 22: Mark Steller; Sept. 29: Lisa Tully

# CONSISTORY MINUTES—AUGUST 13, 2019

1. **Call meeting to order**
2. **Devotional** From *Jesus Always*
3. **Roll call:** Present: Mark Steller, Marie Peazzoni, Ron Nickel, George Cooper, Gene Rogers, Harry Teigland, Larry Stoltzfus, and Ragen Burns. Merv Bare absent and Pastor Tully (on Sabbatical).
4. **Treasurer's Report:** The July Financial Statement was approved, unanimously.
5. **President's Report:** George will be Lay Leader August 11 and August 18.
6. **Pastor's Report: (on Sabbatical)**
7. **Reports of Ministries**

**A. Lay Life/Fellowship:** No Report.

**B. Worship:** No Report

**C. Property:**

-Don Graves is a Deacon with All Saints Church and has been selected by their Consistory to be the liaison between the two churches.

-The Roofing Project is finished as of July 26, 2019 with total expenses to date of \$144,255.61.

-Further Expenses – Placed under “Church Repairs “

-Iddings Electric – Steeple Lights \$313.00

-Ressler Mateer -Hvac ductwork over Foyer \$5,942.20

**Future Expenses**

-Rubber roof for Cowan Hall \$13,656.82

-Reroof garage at 2575 Horseshoe Road \$3,665.94

**Finished Projects**

1. MR Roofing is finished with the roof. We are \$4,255.61 over budget due to contingences like adding OSB board sheathing over the sanctuary, relocating steeple lights, extending vent pipes, and replacing the lower rubber roof over the elevator.

2. Premier cleaned up the July 24 storm tree debris at the north exit of the cemetery for \$100.00

3. Foyer chair has been repaired, returned, and All Saints paid the repair bill.

4. All Saints have been asked not to leave the south door open before services.

5. Skip installed a window air conditioner in the green nursery room.

6. Posted a checklist for closing up the church by the south door. Have given a key to Paul Knepley (All Saints organist's husband) who will take responsibility for locking up. Don Graves will also be receiving a key since he will be helping around the church.

7. A camera was installed by Ragen that is aimed at the front door.

8. Signed a parking contract with Clark Associates for 5 Spaces. The rate is \$10.00/month/per/space.

9. Levi pushed the front AC condenser back into position after being shoved by a car. The unit is working fine.

10. Ragen painted the mailbox and made it look more presentable.

## Current Projects

1. Skip is checking with Ressler and Mateer to see if we can negotiate the bill we received from them.

2. Don Graves will inspect the rooftop air conditioner grill and determine if additional repairs are warranted. We will study the situation for next year.

3. Patching the driveway at 2575 has been tabled for now.

4. Kreider and Flick will complete the repairs on the mortar joints in the Bell Tower. The price to finish is \$1425.00.

5. All Saints has agreed to split the cost of replacing ceiling tiles and lighting in the yellow room (future nursery for both churches). Total cost \$3,375/2= \$1700.00 each. It was decided to use Craig Miller of All Saints as the General Contractor for this phase of the project and we will ask him to draw a suitable contract. The work will be done on a Saturday. Volunteers may help with clean-up or carrying supplies. We will ask Ragen about installing a speaker and CCTV connection for worship service coverage.

6. Don Graves and Skip will tackle painting discolored ceiling tiles in the Narthex.

7. Gene Rodgers is working with Miller and Sons on testing our water for the new public water regulations.



## Consistory Minutes, Continued

### Old Business (Property)



1. Gene reviewed the annual service contracts with Ressler and Mateer and decided to renew them. We just paid \$2,076.95 for their "Preferred Commercial Agreement" that covers two annual full inspections.
2. Kitchen floor tiles (2) still need to be re-glued.
3. Don Graves will inspect the air conditioning units in Cowan Hall and check their performance.
4. Don Graves has volunteered to wind the sanctuary clock every week.
5. Levi is checking with Yale Electric for motion control light switches for the restrooms.
6. Resetting the parking lot poles has been tabled for now.

### New Business (Property)

1. A WORK DAY has been scheduled for October 5, 2019, starting at 8:00 a.m. Please plan to attend.
  2. Gene is getting a quote from Lancaster Stained Glass and is exploring other companies for quotes for the repairs on the large north side windows for next year.
  3. Don Graves will give us a quote on lighting up the 3 G'S in the foyer.
  4. The next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2019.
- D. Personnel**-no report.



### 8. Committee Reports

- A. Memorial:** No meeting. A new computer was purchased for the church office.
- B. Missions:** No report
- C. Membership Care/Shut-in:** No report
- D. Nominations:** No report.

### 9. Old Business

#### A. Sharing space/facility with All Saints Church

1. All Saints contact/liaison is Don Graves
2. Mark had good discussions with him.

**10. New Business** -Three new people have volunteered to help count church offerings.

**11. Motion to adjourn** - Unanimous.

Larry closed with prayer.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary

## CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday, October 5 @ 8:00 a.m.



Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 5, at 8:00 a.m. for our next Church Work Day. We could use your help! Sign up at the Information Desk. Please see Skip Reynolds if you have any questions. Thanks!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 2, for Labor Day.

Join us at The Gathering in our study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. starting Sept. 4.



Choir Practice resumes on Thursday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Agape will be going to the Sr. Expo at Spooky Nook Sports Complex on Wednesday, Sept. 18, meeting in the church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. for car pooling. Lunch will follow at Country Table in Mt. Joy at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us. Questions may be referred to Merv Bare. **THERE WILL BE NO AGAPE MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPT. 3.**



Please sign up at the Information Desk if you are willing to help either with food or serving at our next Community Meal, Friday, September 20, 5:55 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Our Missions' Team is looking for vendors for our Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, October 26. If you are interested in being a vendor, please see Deb Burns.

Save the date for this annual event — and invite some friends to come with you! All proceeds will go to local missions this year. Thank you for your support!



## Westminster Shorter Catechism

William Beveridge, a theologian from the 19th century, said these words near the end of his life: “The older I grow – and I now stand upon the brink of eternity – the more comes back to me the first sentence in the Catechism which I learned when a child, and the fuller and deeper its meaning becomes: ‘What is the chief end of man? To glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.’”

The Westminster Shorter Catechism, consisting of a summary of Christian doctrine in 107 questions and answers, was written by the Westminster Assembly in London over 350 years ago. (<https://banneroftruth.org/>)

Pastor Andrew Conway gives 5 reasons why it is still important to study the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*:

1. The catechism gives a helpful summary of core beliefs
2. The catechism rightly views salvation as past, present, and future.
3. The catechism calls for whole-life discipleship.
4. The catechism opens the door to the wisdom of the Puritans.
5. Our chief end really is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>)

Join us on Wednesdays evenings at 7:00 beginning September 4.



# September 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am – Coffee Hour NO Sunday School	<b>2</b> <b>Office            Closed</b> 	<b>3</b> 7:00 p.m. Property	<b>4</b> 6:15 p.m.- Evening Prayer; 7:00 p.m. -The Gathering	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Begins	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am – Sunday School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 p.m. Consistory	<b>11</b> 6:15 p.m.- Evening Prayer; 7:00 p.m. -The Gathering	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am – Sunday School  <i>Pastor's Helper            Deadline</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. —Agape  6:15 p.m.- Evening Prayer; 7:00 p.m. -The Gathering	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Community Meal—5:55 p.m. at Zion	<b>21</b> 
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am – Sunday School	<b>23</b> 6:30 p.m. Missions   First day of Autumn	<b>24</b> 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council	<b>25</b> 6:15 p.m.- Evening Prayer; 7:00 p.m. -The Gathering	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am –Sunday School	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Worship	<i>" And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries            and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove            mountains, but have not love, I am nothing" (1 Cor. 15:2)</i>				