

Pastor's *helper*

SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS
NOVEMBER 2019

A Costly Investment

— *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

My Friends:

This past month, at our Ministerium Bible Study, we were talking about the lack of evangelism taking place these days. It's a good point to discuss. The Church will not grow unless its members go into their communities and invite others to come to church with them. Once the topic is opened, it then often involves a discussion about belief. That is where people tend to stop cold.

So the question was asked, 'Why are our members so hesitant to engage in evangelism?' There were any number of reasonable responses. Among those was the tired old idea that it should be the 'paid' staff that ought to do this work. Another claimed that the fear of rejection chases people

away. Who wants to expose their faith to a friend or neighbor, only to be sneered at or turned away?

But I think that what most often scares people from evangelism is this idea that we have to know everything about Christianity so that we can have an answer to every question. There is an area of theology known as 'Apologetics.' This is where one uses facts and knowledge to refute time-honored arguments against the Christian faith. It can get quite complex. It is also quite interesting.

From this branch of theology come books like *The Case for Christ* (Lee Strobel) and *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (Josh McDowell). The first one was made into a fairly decent movie.

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Speaking of movies, perhaps you have seen *God's Not Dead*. These will give you a good idea of what apologetics looks like in the real world. Unfortunately, this leaves the average believer with the impression that he or she has to be well-versed and immersed in theology and associated facts in order to be an effective witness.

I have answered this mistaken charge before from the pulpit and in some of our classes. You do NOT need to be filled with all the knowledge of theology to present the Gospel to someone. All you need is your story. You have a testimony of how God took your worthless, sinful heart and changed it into something new and beautiful. Your life was changed by Christ in you.

The blind man healed by Jesus said it best: *"One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see"* (John 9:25). People want to hear stories of change, of transformed lives. Most of them do not care if you can defend substitutionary atonement or can unleash a timeline of the creation story. In a world of hurt and pain, all they want to hear is that there is someone who can help them with that. And Jesus is just the one to do it. If you relate your personal story of how peace came to your life through Jesus, it is far more effective than anything else you can say.

Practice your testimony. No more than about five minutes should do it. Then share it when you can. When people ask how they, too, can find the peace and joy you now have, then invite them to church. It is as simple as that. Jesus calls his followers to go into the world with the good news of salvation. It is wonderful to have a greater knowledge of what salvation by faith involves, but not necessary to do the work of evangelism.

Everyone can tell a story. That's essentially what person to person evangelism is. Know your story. Tell it to others. In this you fulfill the Great Commission, and you remain obedient to Christ. It's just that easy.

Blessings,



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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.salemhellertown.com;

www.facebook.com/salemhellertown



Janet Rodgers.....November 6

Bev Berwind.....November 7

Kim Kreider November 11



Brett & Kim Kreider.....November 8, 1980 (39 yrs.)

Scott & Janet Gribble...November 12, 1994 (25 yrs.)

Bruce & Lisa Tully.....November 29, 1986 (33 yrs.)

Tom & Ann Dell..... November 30, 2013 (6 yrs.)

A



FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



By the time you read this, the Cantata Choir will be well into rehearsals. I reviewed about 14 cantatas by different composers: Lloyd Larson, Tom Fettke, Mark Hayes, and Mary McDonald. While all of them were very nice, none seemed to be a perfect fit for our needs. I finally found a cantata that I could live with - that is a collaboration of Joel Raney and Mary McDonald. As I was about to place the order, I was looking down several lines of cantatas on the Hope website, and I spotted *Celebrate the Season* by Joel Raney. The cover was not particularly attractive and I had never reviewed it. On a whim, I decided to take a look inside.

Do not judge a book or cantata by its cover. It was the perfect cantata for Salem Hellers.

Joel did a masterful job of incorporating the Children's Choir into the presentation, and the music and text is written in such a way that there are some different presentation possibilities that we are going to incorporate. I always say this, but I think this will be our best cantata that we have ever done.

We are incorporating the theme of *Celebrate The Season* into our Advent wreath liturgy, which will be written by our own Pastor Tully. I even found an Advent song, *Come Celebrate* that will introduce each of the four weeks of Advent at the beginning of our worship service.

There will be a few surprises that I am confident you will enjoy. On Advent Night, Servant Stage returns with a musical presentation called JOY. The season is busy, and there are many activities happening. All are pointed toward celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is so fitting that our theme this year is to Celebrate. We have much to celebrate - from our freedom to worship, to the completion of our roof project - from our good friends that we see weekly from the All Saints Congregation - to our staff, Pastor Tully and Gail - to choir members - and our faithful property committee - our sound and video team - and our ladies who are so great in the kitchen - and on and on it goes - this year we celebrate another year serving the Lord. We are commanded to celebrate in Exodus 12:14 (NIRV):

*Always remember this day. You and your children after you must celebrate this day as a feast to honor the LORD. You must do this for all time to come.
It is a law that will last forever.*

And so we will.

Ron



CONSISTORY MINUTES—OCTOBER 8, 2019

1. **Call meeting to order:** Harry Teigland
2. **Devotional:** Harry, Vice President, “Rock of Ages,” God is our Rock.
3. **Roll call:** Present: Marie Peazzoni, Ron Nickel, George Cooper, Harry Teigland, Larry Stoltzfus, Merv Bare, Gene Rogers, Ragen Burns and Pastor Tully. Mark S. absent (sick).
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** The September Financial Statement was approved, unanimously. A proposed 2020 Budget was presented, discussed and approved for presentation to the Congregation.
5. **President’s Report:**
 - A. The Informal Budget meeting of the congregation will be held on November 24 in Cowan Hall, at 10:45 as a coffee hour.
 - B. Consistory Christmas Dinner will be held at Oregon Dairy on Tuesday, December 10 at 6pm. Cost to non-staff members will be \$22/person.
6. **Pastor’s Report:**
 - Early in the month met with a member/ministry leader for lunch and to discuss current and future doings here at Hellers.
 - Prayer meetings continue each Weds. evening.
 - The Gathering is moving full speed ahead with our study on the Westminster Shorter Catechism. In the early weeks, it has led us through some very fascinating discussions on the origin of God, of Christ, of all Creation, and the act of the Fall.
 - The week of Sept 16-22, I was officially off-duty, though I did lead the Gathering on Weds. evening and attended choir rehearsal on Thursday.
 - That Friday was the wedding rehearsal for our daughter’s wedding.
 - Saturday, Laura’s wedding to Jeremy Ressler was held here at Hellers, with the reception at Landis Valley Museum.
 - I was off on Sunday the 23rd to attend to family visiting from out of town.
 - Spiritual Council met on the 24th. We had only five elders present at this meeting, but we pushed ahead and had a good discussion on some upcoming ideas for special worship services. When we meet in October, we will begin again with our talks on the Doctrinal Statement found in our Bylaws.
 - Attended and helped out at the work day on Sat., Oct. 5.
 - Oct. 7 and 8 I was involved in jury duty at Lancaster County Court. I was able to participate in a criminal trial, and was intrigued by the actual workings of a court trial. I am happy to be on THIS side of the courtroom!
 - Thanks again to Harry Tiegland who filled in for me this past summer in the Berean Class. His class on Colossians/Philemon ran on a few weeks after. This past weekend I once more took the reins as we returned to our previous format of further dissecting the text and the sermon from that morning.



7. Reports of Ministries

A. Lay Life/Fellowship: No Report.

B. Worship: No Report

C. Property:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Skip Reynolds and opened with prayer by Harry Teigland. In attendance were Levi King, Larry Stoltzfus, Lorin Wortel, Skip Reynolds, Merv Bare, Gene Rodgers, Ragen Burns, and Harry Teigland.

Finished projects

1. Craig Miller of All Saints completed installing a new suspended ceiling and LED lights in room 21 (yellow room). All Saints and Salem Hellers split the cost (\$1640.63 each)
2. Paid Marie Peazzoni's son \$125.00 for the labor to patch the blacktop at 2575 Horseshoe Rd.
3. Ressler and Mateer reduced the bill of replacing the duct work on the rooftop AC unit by eliminating the rental lifts (\$5165.08). It was \$5942.00; we saved \$777.00.
4. MR Roofing caulked a leak in the rubber roof over the stage area in Cowan Hall. The cost was \$221.00.

Current Projects

1. Don Graves is nearly finished painting the discolored ceiling tiles in the Narthex and Foyer.
2. Larry Miller of Miller and Sons gave us an estimate of \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 plus a cost of \$125.00 (\$1500.00 year) to have the well relined. The motion was made and seconded to table this for review and to test it periodically.
3. Ragen and Herb Suereth (of All Saints) will be installing audio and TV to the nursery room.
4. We will be monitoring the performance of the roof top air conditioner and getting a cost estimate of replacing it in the future.
5. Harold Nolt will be finishing up the work on the cemetery renewal project.

Old Business

1. One of the air conditioner units in Cowan Hall is not working, and we will be checking it out.
2. Don Graves will be installing motion controlled light switches in the rest of the rest rooms.
3. We will be getting "Serve Safe" certificates from All Saints.
4. The quote for the stained glass window repair was put on hold for future consideration.
5. The floor work in Cowan Hall and the kitchen will be done after November 13.
6. A camera was aimed from the double doors by the kitchen looking south to show anyone walking down the hall.
7. Don Graves is checking on adding more receptacles in the upstairs classrooms.
8. Levi will be checking on the alignment of the steeple lights.
9. Ragen and Dave Miller will discuss the controls of the air conditioning system to prevent tampering.
10. Levi will check the PP&L box for proper temperature.
11. Close up of the church, lights, AC fans, windows, etc. to be checked before leaving the building.
12. We will ask Gail to make a sign to "Please keep the door closed" for the parking lot door.

New Business

1. In view of the last Treasurer's Report at the Consistory meeting, we will be reviewing our scheduled repairs and prioritizing them.
2. Curt Kofroth cleaned and finished rooms #21 and #24 in the upstairs educational wing on Sept. 4. scrubbed and applied 2 coats of wax. He charged us \$715.00 for both rooms.

Consistory Minutes Continued

3. The clarion CD player needs to be replaced. Levi is checking on options. Possibly the Memorial Committee pay the cost to replace it.
4. We are continuing with PP&L and UGI for the next year.
5. We are looking into quotes for lawn care and mowing.
6. We will be checking the relay for the thermostat in the library.
7. The Property Budget was approved with an increase of church repairs to \$25,000.00. The motion was made to adjourn and approved unanimously.

D. Personnel-no report

8. Committee Reports

A. Memorial: No meeting.

B. Missions: 1. Bazaar to be held on 26 October.

C. Membership Care/Shut-in: No report

D. Nominations: Two people who were proposed will not be able to serve. Several members will stay on for another year.



9. Old Business

A. Sharing space/facility with All Saints Church

1. Contact/Liaison: Don Graves (717-466-7040) dgraves8@comcast.net

B. Sign Project - suggestion made to canvass near neighbors to secure their signatures on a petition to allow Salem Hellers to have an electronic sign.

10. New Business - Indoor Sale to be held in March with collection of goods to begin in January.

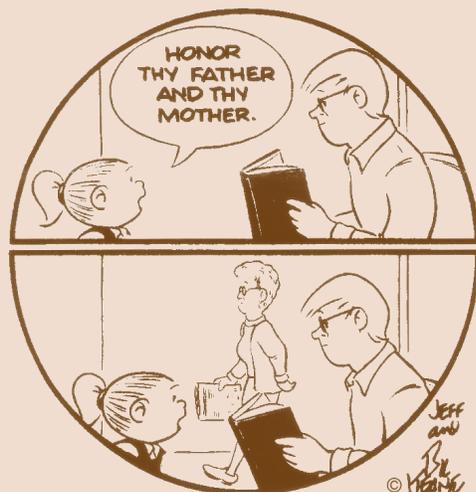
11. Motion to adjourn - Unanimous.

Harry closed with prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary

Heavenly Humor

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"...and thy grandmother."

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and

placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, Naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."

ATTENDANCE & TREASURER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE— WORSHIP

SEPT. 1 64
 SEPT. 8 68
 SEPT. 15 61
 SEPT. 22 77
 SEPT. 29 69

Average worship
 attendance for
 September is 67.

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE— SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEPT. 1 12
 SEPT. 8 21
 SEPT. 15 18
 SEPT. 22 14
 SEPT. 29 19

Average Sunday
 School attendance for
 September is 16.

SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT*

Current\$18,916.32
 Missions.....\$2,226.00
 Improvement.....\$6,140.37
 Cemetery Fund.....\$4,443.58

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



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

GREETERS

Nov. 3: JoAnn Gribble &
 Arlene Kofroth
 Nov. 10: Judy Wenger &
 Kathy Hinerdeer
 Nov. 17: Mary Lichty & Betsy
 Lichty
 Nov. 24: Bob & Rosene Burns

FLOWER DISTRIBUTORS

Nov. 3: None
 Nov. 10: Judy Wenger
 Nov. 17: None
 Nov. 24 Mary Lichty & Betsy Lichty

USHERS

Bruce Ranck (Head), Fair Ayers,
 David Reinmiller, Bob Geist, and
 Merv Bare

OFFERING BAGGERS

George Cooper and Marie Peazzoni

WORSHIP LEADERS

Nov. 3: George Cooper; Nov. 10: Bruce Tully; Nov. 17: Mark Steller; Nov. 24: Lisa Tully



ANNOUNCEMENTS



On Sunday, November 3, we will be remembering those of our congregation who died this past year. Please plan to join us for this special time of remembrance of our loved ones.

This year Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 3. Remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour.



November 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Mark your calendar to attend Agape's meeting on Tuesday, November 5 at 10:00 a.m., when Mark Yoh will talk about "Auto Dealer Shenanigans and Secrets." He will discuss things car dealers do not tell us as well as give a review of auto safety recalls and repairs, and how auto dealers maximize their profits. Compare grocery shopping to car buying to get the best value. This speech will teach us how to hang onto our money. Everyone is welcome to join us in Cowan Hall at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 5. Lunch will follow at

Rosario's.



At the Information Desk there are invitation flyers for our upcoming events this season. Please take one for yourself as a reminder and one to give to a friend.



Leola Area Veterans are invited to join a "thank you" pancake and sausage breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, November 11 at the War Memorial Building, 54 W. Main St., Leola. Pastor Tully will provide the opening prayer. Please RSVP for breakfast: 717-656-6154 or ultwma@gmail.com.

On Friday, November 15, we will have a Community Meal at Zion Lutheran Church at 5:55 p.m. If you would like to help with providing food or serving, please sign up at the Information Desk.



We will have our annual Informal Budget Meeting on Sunday, November 24, as a Coffee Hour in Cowan Hall. Please plan to come!

Our study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism will resume at the Gathering on Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. after the holidays. Even if you did not begin the study, you are welcome to join us.



The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 21 and November 22 for Thanksgiving.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you!

Thank you very much for the cards you sent, and for the *Pastor's Helper*. I enjoy looking at them. Also, thank you for the visits! I am thankful to have a kind, loving church family. Sincerely, Anna Markert

**SERVANT
STAGE**
presents

Joy TO THE WORLD

December 1, 7:00 p.m. at Salem Hellers Church

All tickets are Pay-What-You-Will

Make plans to come and bring a friend!

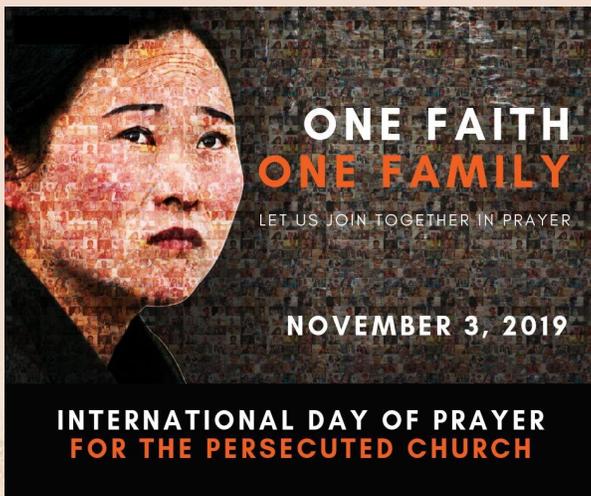
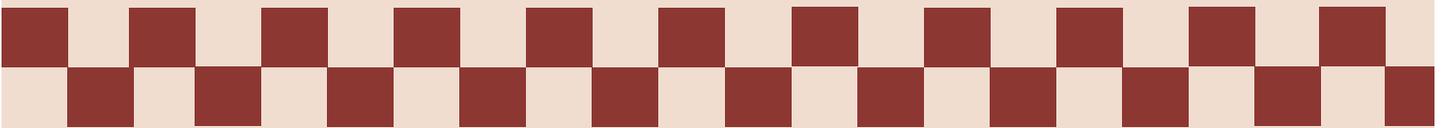
Get into the spirit of the season with Servant Stage's *Joy to the World*. This heartwarming, original Christmas



revue pays tribute to the dozens of

traditional and modern holiday favorites, tracing the magical spirit of the season to its source—the Miracle of the Nativity. With

stunning arrangements and soaring vocals, *Joy to the World* is sure to fill your cup with Christmas cheer!



Our daily prayers should include the encouragement and protection of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are in the midst of persecution because of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. On this one day, November 3, let us especially remember them in prayer.



NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!</i></p> <p>Psalm 118:29</p>					1	2
<p>3 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School</p> <p>All Saints' Day</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5  10:00 a.m. Agape</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Property</p>	<p>6 6:15 pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>7 6:30 Choir 7:15 Cantata Choir</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 9:30 am Worship with Steve Davis</p> <p>10:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>11 Veteran's Day (Leola Breakfast for Local Vets)</p> 	<p>12 7:00 pm Consistory</p>	<p>13 6:15 pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>14 6:30 Choir 7:15 Cantata Choir</p>	<p>15 <i>Pastor's Helper Deadline</i></p> <p>Community Meal—Zion Lutheran 5:55 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 6:15 pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>21 6:30 Choir 7:15 Cantata Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 - 9:30 am Worship; Congregational Meeting followed by Coffee Hour</p> <p>No Sunday School;</p>	<p>25 7:00 p.m. Worship Mtg.</p>	<p>26 6:30 Choir 7:15 Cantata Choir</p>	<p>27 6:15 pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>28 </p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>