

Pastor's *helper*

SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS
FEBRUARY 2020



Remember That Perfection Is Not Required

—A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully

My Friends,

Because we had attended in the past, Lisa and I received emails encouraging us to apply for free tickets to the upcoming Lancaster Home Show. And, because we may have a need for some form of home improvement in the coming decade, we figured, ‘why not?’ We will be going on Saturday. Oh boy.

What is the purpose for this kind of expo? The exhibitors are fishing for new clients for their home improvement businesses—from roofs to windows to baths and kitchens, all the way to new landscaping and hot tubs. Those of us who will run that gauntlet are going so we can get ideas, and a few will be requesting estimates. All this so that perfectly functional homes can be updated, or “HGTV ready.”

Mass media has created an atmosphere in the U.S. in which we have come to believe that our homes must be perfect before they are sellable, and for some, livable. I have seen this in action. Friends I know refuse to live in a home that does not have state-of-the-art appliances and hardwood floors. It would be inhuman to have to live in those conditions! So we toil and sweat, either to do the work or to earn the cash it will take to complete the modifications.

Some mistaken experts on faith and religion have also led people down this road over the centuries. There is always some part of your life that needs to be better. You need to ‘upgrade’ that aspect of your life or you will miss out on

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perfection. Maybe you smoke. Better stop it or God won't want you! Perhaps your physical condition is less than stellar. Isn't that a poke at God, the One in whose image you are made? Get in shape now, or risk eternity. You don't pray long enough; you missed a week of your daily Bible reading; you have a questionable relationship with your spouse or parent. Clean that up, or the Lord won't be happy with you.

These seem like normal things to tackle...if you need to 'do' things to acquire salvation. After all, didn't the Lord say, 'Be perfect, even as I am perfect?' He did. But He didn't mean that every area of your humanity had to be remodeled into heavenly perfection in order to be acceptable.

No, all you need to do is accept the gift of Jesus' grace, His atoning death on the cross, and His forgiveness of your sins. With that in your life, you are as perfect as you will be this side of eternity, and you will be as perfect as God expects you to be. Those wayward things in life will be part of your ongoing sanctification; that is the stuff you will work on *because you love the Lord* and want to please Him. You do not have to do them to earn a place in God's kingdom.

The inbox of your soul contains an invitation to come to Him. If you have responded, then go...be aware of all the commandments and do the things the Lord requires of you. But be satisfied with the understanding that these are improvements that will make your life a bit shinier and smoother, but will have no standing on your fate at the throne of God's kingdom. If you love Him, please Him. Remember that perfection, idealistic or not, is not required to make you acceptable. Just a humble and willing heart.

Blessings,



Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary, Gil & Jean Keen!

February 14, 1970 - February 14, 2020



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George Cooper, Vice President;
Harry Teigland, Secretary;
Ron Nickel, Treasurer

Ragen Burns; Marie Peazzoni;

Eugene Rodgers; Margaret Sensenig; Larry
Stoltzfus; Bruce Tully

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@ From our Music Director



Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to another wonderful year of music ministry. And may I say how extremely grateful I am for the choir members and Ragen and Deb for all their hard work and contributions to the past year. One of our important but least recognized talents at Salem Hellers is our wonderful church administrator, Gail. She holds my musical ministry life together when it comes to preparing printed materials. Thank you, Gail.

I am taking a brief personal diversion for a moment. After our Christmas Eve Service, Robbie Sue and I came home and completed packing for a trip to spend Christmas vacation with Ron, Jr. and family. We flew out on Christmas morning and met up with the family in Florida. Johanna had gone down on December 21 and was there to greet us.



We had a wonderful time as you can see from the pictures. As it so rarely happens with my family geographically wide spread, my son, Hal, had a flight that allowed time to spend a half day with us. It was the first time in about two years that all five of my immediate family was able to spend some time together. Hence my missing church on December 29 allowed me some rare family time. That day we spent celebrating the 59th wedding anniversary of my brother Ken and his wife Charlotte. It was, all in all, a great vacation.

So - what is ahead? Today, January 9, I am in the process of selecting music for our Spring term. I am also deep into an idea that I have for Advent Night - something new, different, and enjoyable for all. I have a lot of details to explore before this plan is fully developed, and it will probably take until the summer to finalize the plan. **STAY TUNED!**

Meanwhile, I leave for a Music Industry Convention in Anaheim, California on January 14 and return January 18. So, between spending time with my family, working on 2020 musical projects at Salem Hellers, and taking care of my piano business, my challenge is to use my time wisely.

You may think that it is a long time away, but Easter will be here before long, and I am currently involved in the plans for Palm Sunday and Easter. I have become aware in this past year of how quickly time passes and how important it is to use your time wisely.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 we read, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

So, dear reader, let's take on 2020 together, being ready to participate in every activity under the heavens, but particularly at Salem Hellers.

Until Next Time, Ron



Ron, Robbie Sue, Hal, Johanna, & Ron Jr.



Consistory Minutes—January 14, 2020

Election of officers for the year 2020

It was decided and voted that the officers from 2019 would continue for the year 2020. Thus the officers for 2020 are Mark Steller, President; Harry Teigland, Vice President; George Cooper, Secretary and Ron Nickel, Treasurer.

1. Call meeting to order-Mark Steller

2. Devotional Mark, from *Jesus Always* All things are possible...Live by faith and not by sight.
3. Roll call: Present: Mark Steller, Marie Peazzoni, George Cooper, Harry Teigland, Larry Stoltzfus, Gene Rogers, Ragen Burns and Pastor Tully. Also present Margaret Sensenig who was elected by the Church to serve with us this year. Ron Nickel and Merv Bare absent.
4. Treasurer's Report: No reports due to Ron's absence. Harry and Merv will do the review of the Financial Books for 2019.
5. Pastor's Report: November/December:

- ◆ Served the community meal at Zion on 11/15
- ◆ Missions meeting 11/18
- ◆ CVM Bible study on the 19th
- ◆ Nov. 24 - following the informal budget meeting some of us stayed and worked with the children from All Saints Church to make decorative ornaments for the main Christmas tree.
- ◆ That evening, attended the community Thanksgiving service at Faith EC Church.
- ◆ Nov. 30 - met with others to prepare the sanctuary and entry for Christmas
- ◆ Dec. 1 - Advent Family Night. Servant Stage once more served as our program. This was a musical program of song and dance and was excellent!
- ◆ Dec. 2 - many from the missions committee gathered for dinner with the Freeds, ORI family from Guatemala. We shared our meal together and watched a presentation on their recent work.
- ◆ Dec. 7 - the Christmas cantata was held at 3 PM.
- ◆ Prayer meetings continued in December up until the weeks of Christmas and New Year. They

resumed again after the first of the year. We have kept the time at 6:15 even when not meeting with The Gathering, so as to maintain consistency.

- ◆ The Gathering has been off since mid-November, but will pick up again on Jan. 15 at 7 PM.
- ◆ Met with church leadership on Dec. 17 in a special meeting.
- ◆ Christmas Eve service was held at 7:30 PM on the 24th. We had a nice service and a decent turnout for our candlelight service.
- ◆ I was off for vacation time from Dec. 26 through Jan 1.
- ◆ On Jan. 5 our Sunday School classes reconvened for the winter.
- ◆ CVM meeting on Jan. 7 at Conestoga Church of the Brethren. Discussion of bringing in a ministry group to deal with youth ministry in CV district. Ongoing conversation will be bundled with talks connected with activities at CVCCS and the high school.

7. Reports of Ministries

- A. Lay Life/Fellowship: No report.
- B. Worship: No report.
- C. Property: Finished Projects

1. All the new bathroom switches are functioning correctly.
2. Ron Gardiner requested a service call for the sanctuary organ, it had developed a hum. The amplifiers were serviced and returned.
3. Ragen completed a business contract with Comcast .
4. Larry Stoltzfus will be handling the facility rental contracts.
5. Pastor Tully, Mark Steller, and Skip wrote a letter to All Saints thanking them for the check for \$9000.00 that will go towards reroofing the flat roofs over Cowan Hall.

Future Projects

1. Skip met with PennDOT and they will be replacing the guardrail with turnouts and they will review placing chevrons to help delineate the curve. At a future date we should get a draft copy of the proposed plan.



Current Projects

1. Cowan Hall leaks- The double door closest to the kitchen is leaking during a driving rain and rusting at the bottom. We are exploring different options and will be discussing it at the next meeting.
2. Ragen is working on a new emergency exit layout for the building.
3. We are waiting on a new written contract for 2020 with DWD Landscaping Services, LLC for grounds mowing and trimming.
4. Ragen has the new Carillon installed and working.



Work Party January 18:

1. Painting the discolored ceiling tiles.
2. Paint the youth bathroom.
3. Paint superintendent's office.
4. Install the speaker and / or CCTV for worship service coverage in the new nursery room.
5. Fix the sanctuary door.

Old Business

1. Ressler and Mateer will perform the annual heating tune-up on system on January 9.
2. Gene is working on an idea for the boiler room air make-up.
3. We received a purchase history of our HVAC units from Ressler and Mateer.
4. All Saints submitted a Serve Safe certificate.
5. Don Graves - status of receptacles in the upstairs classrooms; okay for now.
6. Ragen is looking into installing a remote temperature sensor to replace the current thermostat controls.
7. New steeple lights are on the list to be installed.
8. Ragen is working on a new surveillance system that has added coverage and recording capability.
9. Have asked MR Roofing to requote replacing the remaining three flat roof sections over Cowan Hall.
10. Have the basketball hoop removed.

New Business

1. To clear snow, spread salt on black top only, as concrete steps have heaters in them (turn them on). Shovels are near the doorways.
 2. The elevator will have a hydraulic pressure test on Jan 20 for \$550.00 plus a certified 3 party inspector. This must be done every 3 years (In 2013 it cost \$450.00).
 3. Clark Services will be moving this month and will no longer rent our parking lot for \$150.00 month.
 4. Noticing a marked increase in salt consumption. We will consider asking Miller to check the system. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2020.
- D. Personnel-Annual contracts for Pastor, Choir Director/Organist & Office Administrator have been completed and signed.

8. Committee Reports

- A. Memorial: No report
- B. Missions: 1. Lasagna Dinner to be held on 22 February. 2. Mission trip to Guatemala next Spring. New member Margaret Sensenig will be the Representative for 2020.
- C. Membership Care/Shut-in: No report

9. Old Business

- A. Sharing space/facility with All Saints Church
 1. Some issues were discussed. Agreement with All Saints to be discussed and renewed.
- B. Sign Project - No

10. New Business - None

11. Motion to adjourn - Unanimous.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary



Congregational Meeting—December 15, 2019

In Cowan Hall, the meeting was called to order at 10:35.

The purpose of this meeting was to vote on three issues:

A. The 2020 Budget

1. There was no discussion
2. Motion was made to approve the budget; it was seconded.
3. Vote was unanimous to approve.

B. There was a proposal to add two amendments to the Church Statement of Faith: One regarding marriage and the other the sanctity of life. These articles had been distributed earlier to the congregation.*

1. There was no discussion.
2. Motion was made to approve these amendments; it was seconded.
3. Vote to approve was unanimous.

C. There is a new member to be added to Consistory: Margaret Sensenig. Past active members were also included in the vote to continue for another year.

1. There was no discussion.
2. Motion to approve, by Sandi, seconded by Marie.
3. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary



*Articles of Amendment to the Church Statement of Faith

10: From the beginning of the creation of humankind, God instituted a relationship between one natural-born man and one natural-born woman, which is referred to as marriage. Genesis 2:24 says: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” The writer of Hebrews adds; “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous” (Hebrews 13:4). The Church has traditionally held to the truth that marriage by definition is between one man and one woman alone. God’s Word allows or offers no other definition. Salem Hellers affirms this view of marriage alone.

11: We believe that all human life is sacred. God created human beings in His own image. It is sin to do violence against human life in such a way that dishonors God’s intent. Genesis 1:27-28a: “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them.” God has knowledge of each of us, even before we are born. “Behold I formed you in the womb, I knew you...” (Jeremiah 1:5a). The psalmist claimed: “For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:13-14a). God has ordained life in His creation from the moment of conception. For this reason we stand with the biblical command which prohibits terminating a life which God has made, especially in the womb.

Worship Assistants



GREETERS

- Feb. 2: Bob & Rosene Burns
- Feb. 9: Judy Wenger & Kathy Hinerdeer
- Feb. 16: Mary & Betsy Lichty
- Feb. 23: Bill & Cindy Portner

FLOWER DISTRIBUTORS

- Feb. 2: Marie Peazzoni
- Feb. 9: Judy Wenger
- Feb. 16: Mary & Betsy Lichty
- Feb. 23: OPEN



WORSHIP LEADERS

- Feb. 2: Pastor Tully
- Feb. 9: Linda Ranck
- Feb. 16: Mark Steller
- Feb. 23: Kim Kreider

USHERS

Bruce Ranck (Head), Ron Nickel, Scott Gribble, Mary Lichty, Betsy Lichty

OFFERING BAGGERS

Harry Teigland and Ragen Burns

Happy Birthday

Heavenly Humor

Bob Bair, Sr.....	February 2
Jean Keen.....	February 2
Harry Teigland.....	February 3
Miranda Wortel.....	February 5
Rosene Burns.....	February 6
Ann Dell.....	February 6
Joann Brian.....	February 8
Larry Stoltzfus.....	February 21
Patrick Tully.....	February 28



Prayer of Senility: God grant me the Senility to forget the people never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Announcements



On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2, let's have a little competition of our own as we predict who we **THINK** or **WANT** to win the Super Bowl. We will have soup kettles to represent each team in the Super Bowl. We will collect cash in each kettle and count it after church to see which team Hellers predicts will win the game. The money will go to the CVCCS Food Bank. Any food collected along with the cash will also be delivered to the CVCCS Food Bank. Thanks for your support!



SALEM HELLERS' LASAGNA DINNER: It is not just a meal; it is a dining experience you won't want to miss. Our Annual Lasagna Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 22 from 4-7 p.m. All proceeds will go to support our mission trip to Guatemala this year.



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

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, February 21 and Monday, February 24. Gail will be visiting her son and his family in Minnesota.



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, February 23 after the worship service.



If you would be willing to serve as an Usher from time to time, please contact George Cooper or Gail in the Church Office.



Our Friends, We are always so humbled and amazed at your generosity to us at Christmas. Lisa and I are so appreciative of your thoughtfulness and love. Once again, both of us would like to say a heartfelt "Thank you" for this wonderful gift. In His love and service, Bruce and Lisa

Attendance & Giving at a Glance

DECEMBER GIVING at a glance*

Current	\$21,587.90
Missions.....	\$1,474.00
Improvement.....	\$9,356.00
Cemetery Fund.....	\$1,750.27

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

ATTENDANCE— WORSHIP

DEC. 1:	53
DEC. 8:	62
DEC. 15:	69
DEC. 22:	91
DEC. 29:	60
Average worship attendance for December is	67.
CANTATA:	180
CHRISTMAS EVE:	119

ATTENDANCE— SUNDAY SCHOOL

There was no Sunday School in December.





February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Let all that you do be done in Love</p> <p>1 Corinthians 16:14</p>						1
2 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 	3	4 7:00 p.m. Property	5 6:15 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 The Gathering	6 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Resumes	7	8
9 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	10	11 7:00 pm Consistory	12 6:15 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 The Gathering	13 6:30 pm Choir	14 	15 Pastor's Helper Due
16 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	17 6:30 p.m. Missions 	18	19 6:15 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 The Gathering	20 6:30 pm Choir	21 	22 LASAGNA DINNER 4:00-7:00 pm
23 9:30 a.m. Worship 	24 7:00 p.m. Worship Mtg.	25 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council Faschnacht day	26 6:15 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 Ash Weds. Service	27 6:30 pm Choir	28	29