

Pastor's *helper*

SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS
APRIL 2020

GOD IS STILL SOVEREIGN

— *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

My Friends:

I would really like to skip over the obvious...you and I have heard enough about the coronavirus and its impact on our lives. As much as I want to do that, I really cannot. This has made a huge dent in our sense of normalcy. By now we have missed a couple of weeks of worship services, and most of our meetings have been canceled. What do we do now?

The first thing on our minds is your safety and health. Of course that is why we have gone to the extremes of postponements and cancellations. There is nothing we do here that is worth putting your lives at risk. We can take steps to accommodate some of the activities here and still include you in them in some way. One thing we are working on is acquiring the proper equipment to allow us to

place sermons on the website in our 'podcast' tab. For those of you with access to a computer or smartphone, you will then be able to keep up with the sermon series without physically being present at Hellers on Sunday morning.

Other meetings are being conducted by email, text, and phone, while some are still face-to-face when there will be limited numbers of people present. Gail will remain in the office during office hours for now.

We will weather this storm. God's will is perfect and He is still Sovereign. Our faith is stronger than any fear in the midst of a pandemic. So please be patient and remain safe. You can always reach the office by phone, or me on my cell phone when necessary. As always, keep an eye on our website for further updates as they

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become available.

Thank you all for your understanding. May you find blessing in the midst of this time of trial. Know that no matter what happens, the Lord our God will be glorified!

Blessings,

Pastor Bruce



Wonderful Peace
W.G. Cooper

Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my soul;
So secure that no power can mine it away,
While the years of eternity roll.

I am resting tonight in this wonderful peace,
Resting sweetly in Jesus' control;
For I'm kept from all danger by night and by day,
And His glory is flooding my soul.

And me-thinks when I rise to that City of peace,
Where the Author of peace I shall see,
That one strain of the song which the ransomed
will sing,
In that heavenly kingdom shall be.

Ah! Soul, are you here without comfort or rest,
Marching down the rough pathway of time?
Make Jesus your friend ere the shadows grow
dark;
Oh, accept this sweet peace so sublime.

Chorus:

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above;
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love.

Salem Evangelical Reformed Church, Hellers

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Consistory President l Cell: 717-951-4212

Consistory: Mark Steller, President, Harold Teigland, Vice President,
George Cooper, Secretary;

Ron Nickel, Treasurer; Ragen Burns; Marie Peazzoni; Eugene Rodgers;

Margaret Sensenig; Larry Stoltzfus; Meri Bare; Bruce Tully

www.salemhellers.com;

www.facebook.com/salemhellers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Arlene Kofroth..... April 3

Cheryl Stoltzfus..... April 3

Lorin Wortel..... April 11

Doug Rineer..... April 11

Jared Kreider..... April 11

Laura Gribble..... April 21

BJ Groff..... April 27

Bob Brinker..... April 27

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Larry & Cheryl Stoltzfus..... April 5, 2008

(12 years)

Levi & Mary Ann King..... April 17, 1966

(54 years)

Skip & Marlene Reynolds..... April 21, 1979

(41 years)

Bob & Rosene Burns..... April 26, 1958

(62 years)

A FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Remember Gumby? Put a superman cape on him and now he is Super GUMBY. Looking ahead is when we will need to be Super GUMBY. And for those of you who don't remember GUMBY, he was that little green guy that was very flexible. You could twist his arms and legs into hundreds of different positions without hurting him.



I am writing this *Pastor's Helper* article on March 17, Saint Patrick's Day. By the time you read this, circumstances will surely have changed, but we don't know what those changes involve. My advice is this: SEMPER GUMBY - Always Be Flexible !

As you are probably aware, I am in a high-risk group regarding the virus, and at this point, I am following the guidelines provided by medical professionals. I am in regular communication with Pastor Bruce regarding both choir activities and Sunday Worship. Neither of us can predict very far ahead.

I have notified Pastor Bruce that my attendance for Sunday Worship must be based on current medical professional guidelines. Pastor Bruce is totally supportive of this decision. It is not worth the risk to be around groups of people because of the accelerating pace of the spreading virus.

I recently advised the choir that as Easter approaches, we will need to be musically flexible as we may not be ready to sing what we have been preparing, and a trip to our musical archives may be necessary. I will make decisions for the choir members that protect their health, and I will stay in touch as things develop.

Not attending regular Sunday worship is not normal for me. Pastor Bruce and I are in total agreement. If you are in a high risk category, stay home.

So if I find myself having to stay home, you may ask, "What should I do?" Pray for our country, pray for our national leaders, pray for our medical professionals, pray for our church leaders, and pray for each other.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).

Until Next Time, Ron

CONSISTORY MINUTES, MARCH 10, 2020

1. Called meeting to order: Mark Steller
2. Devotional by Mark from *Jesus Always*. Live in the present; be grateful for everything.
3. Roll call: Present: Mark Steller, Marie Peazzoni, George Cooper, Harry Teigland, Larry Stoltzfus, Gene Rogers, Merv Bare, Ragen Burns and Margaret Sensenig. Pastor Tully absent.
4. Treasurer's Report: Financial report for February was reviewed and approved.
5. President's Report: Congregational Meeting on February 23. Annual Report approved.
Safety and security preparedness discussed. Cameras and computers ordered.
6. Pastor's Report:
 - ♦ Gathering continues its study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. We will most likely conclude this study as of March 11. There will be a break, probably through the Easter season, before we return with a new study.
 - ♦ Met with Mission on the 17th. Our host for the mission trip was present, and we had a chance to review the agenda for that week, to ask questions, and to find out what we need to do in preparation. I will be preparing daily devotions for the team while we are away.
 - ♦ CVM Bible Study on the 18th.
 - ♦ Worked the set-up for the lasagna dinner. Also worked the dinner itself and helped with the cleanup afterward. We had a record-setting event in terms of number of meals served and the income that goes along with that number.
 - ♦ Worship committee meeting on 24th. Prepared for the upcoming season: Lent, Easter, and beyond. We are putting together a special service tentatively titled, *When Memories Fade*. It will be directed for those who deal with people suffering from dementia or other memory issues. We will be inviting the community, the workers and families from medical and nursing homes, and any other interested parties.
 - ♦ Also, we are hosting the community Good Friday service this year.
 - ♦ Spiritual Council met on the 25th. We are talking further about what we can do as a church to have a greater impact on the community around us. Discussion will continue in March
 - ♦ The 26th was Ash Wednesday. In addition to the special service at 7 PM that evening, I was also privileged to offer a very small personal service of the imposition of ashes to one of our regular churchgoers who was unable to be present in the evening.
 - ♦ On the 28th I met with two of the local Ministerium pastors for a time of fellowship and sharing. As I mentioned last month, we are trying to do this on a monthly basis.
 - ♦ CVM met at Faith Church on March 3. Discussed the Good Friday service. I have invited several outsiders to be speakers, and have asked for any other musical groups to announce their interest. We talked about Lenten community meals. If there are enough volunteers, we may hold three Friday evening meals during the season. They would be held at Zion at the same time our regular meals are held—5:55.

7. Reports of Ministries

A. Lay Life/Fellowship: No report.

B. Worship: Setup plans for coming services surrounding Resurrection Sunday.

C. Property— Finished Projects:

1. Received the contract from the DWD Landscaping Services for the grounds mowing and trimming. Per week we should save about \$170.00 due to lesser rates and weed trimming every other week. Durrell was \$ 490-\$525 per week vs DWD will be \$320.00 per week.

2. Comparison between 2018 and 2019 for electric and gas utilities usage. Factors:
 - a. Took on All Saints in March 2019. The only increase from All Saints has been water usage salt consumption, no charge for well water and not an increase in sewer.
 - b. Fall and winter of 2019 has been relatively warm.
 - c. Replaced many bulbs with more efficient LED's.
 - d. Re-roofing project added some additional insulation.
3. Purchased a 3' by 5' white board for \$83.00 plus markers for church use.

Current Projects:

1. Ragen finished installing the thermostat switch in the boiler room to control an auxiliary heater.
2. Ragen is working on an emergency layout plan for the building.
3. We are running wire to install speaker and or CCTV for worship services coverage in the new nursery room.
4. Plans are continuing for blocking up the double door closet in Cowan Hall in the spring.

Old Business:

1. The yard sale is scheduled for March 20th and 21st, 2020
2. The motion was made and carried to replace three flat sections of roof over Cowan Hall with B&E Roofing for a price of \$22,595.00. This will be done as soon as weather permits.
3. We received a purchase history of our HVAC units from Ressler and Mateer and will be getting a quote on replacing the roof top unit, reviewing our contract and report on the Jan 9 service call and the status on ordering a damper for the church office (Gene and Skip).
4. We will be looking at the front slab pad for cracks at the brick and wire inlet.
5. Ragen is looking into installing a remote temperature sensor to replace the current thermostat controls.
6. Ragen is working on a new surveillance camera system for us that has added coverage and Recording capability.
7. We are working for a door closer for the kitchen door.
8. Topics for Consistory: Remove the basketball hoop.

New Business:

1. Inquiry from Ron Nickel to increase sales in the cemetery to be continued.
2. We received a quote for labor to install a new ceiling in both the Superintendent's office and the youth restroom for \$850.00. Figure to have Salem Hellers purchase the materials using our tax-free status (approx. \$400.00 + 3 LED lights @ \$56 = 168). Would All Saints be willing to split the costs? Don Graves will check. The motion was made and carried that if All Saints agreed we would go ahead with the project.
3. Mention to Levi about locating a nearer switch for the front heater. We need to designate someone to turn on/off the heaters.
4. We need a work party to finish the painting projects and do spring clean up projects.

D. Personnel- "Everyone working here last month is working now."

8. Committee Reports

- A. Memorial: No meeting
- B. Missions: 1. Lasagna Dinner, excellent turnout; thanks to all the help. Community meal obligation moved to April.
- C. Membership Care/Shut-in: No report

Consistory Minutes Continued on p. 6

9. Old Business:

A. Sharing space/facility with All Saints Church

1. Contract renewal is now on a month to month basis.

B. Sign Project - No Change.

10. New Business:

Discussion concerning Elders responsibilities and Leadership training. Consistory agreed to take 10 minutes each meeting to learn qualities of leadership.

11. Motion to adjourn - Unanimous.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary

from *What Courage Might Corona Unleash?*

“God has prepared good works for us (Ephesians 2:10). He has prepared us for days like these. He plans to show the immeasurable riches of His kindness through simple acts of Christian courage in a world paralyzed and consumed by fear.

Father, in the name of Jesus, use Your church.”

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

You can read the entire article by Marshal Segal—<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-courage-might-corona-unleash>

Heavenly Humor

The pastor came to visit the other day. He said that at my advanced age I should be thinking of the hereafter.

I told him, “Oh, I do it all the time.”

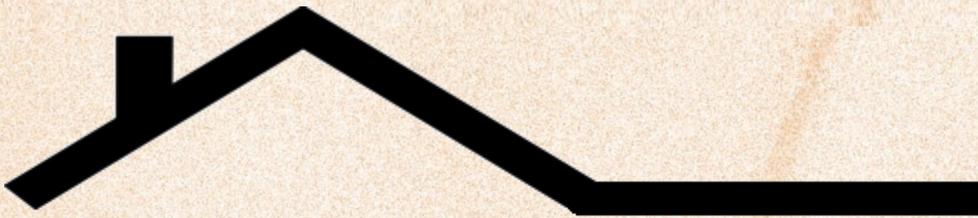
“No matter where I am—in the living room, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I am always asking myself: ‘Now, what am I here after?’”

LIFE IS A GIFT,



THAT'S WHY WE CALL NOW
THE PRESENT.

UPDATES FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

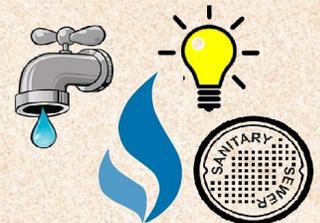


While you are away, things are still happening at the church building. We contracted to complete our roofing project by replacing the remaining rubber roof over Cowan Hall, the stage, and the kitchen. Since there was a marked increase from that quoted last year, we submitted the project out to bid and awarded B & E Roofing (who replaced the boiler room roof two years ago) for \$22,600. It should be finished by early next week (March 23). Of course, contributions towards this roof project are greatly appreciated, and we look forward to no more roof leaks!"



Utility Usage

The people of 2555 Horseshoe Road should congratulate themselves! We've completed an energy audit of how much natural gas and electricity we have used - comparing the year 2018 versus 2019. Even with the addition of All Saints starting in March of 2019, the results have been a pleasant surprise.



For example, gas usage has gone down nearly 15% from 2018 to 2019 while electricity usage has dropped 2%. A few factors that should be considered are these: In 2019 we replaced many light bulbs with more energy efficient LED fixtures, we increased the insulation in the roof when we re-roofed the church and educational wing, plus the fall and winter of 2019 have been exceptionally warm. The only increase we have seen this past year has been in water usage, but since we have well water, this does not significantly increase our costs except to buy a little more water-conditioner salt.

Additional savings we can expect this coming spring involves replacing the three 1000 watt (3000 w) steeple lights with four 200 watt (800 w) LED flood lights. Plus, we will add additional insulation when we replace the roof over Cowan Hall, the stage, and the kitchen.

Still we constantly need to remember to turn off unused lights, close windows and doors (especially fire doors), and readjust thermostats after usage. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all activities are subject to cancellation. Please check the cancellations tab on our website for updates: www.salemhellers.com

Agape in April has been postponed.



Please make note in your church directory these two changed addresses:

- Helen Weaver, 433 S. Kinzer Ave., Room 215 Summerfelde, New Holland, PA 17557, Home Phone #: 717-351-2540.



- Lois Schrock, 12200 SW Calico Ct., Beaverton, OR 97008

CVCCS NEEDS: Food Bank: Taco kits, Hamburger Helper and Tuna Helper



Clothing Bank: Men's white undershirts—all sizes; men's casual dress shirts in small and medium; Gently used children's shoes.



Align Life Ministries (formerly Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services) is having its Walk/Run for Life on Saturday, May 9 at the Junction Center in Manheim. For more information or to register online, go to AlignLifeMinistries.org or contact Heather Muncy at 717-274-5128, ext. 315.

Regular giving is appreciated. You may send in your offering to the church office (2555 Horseshoe Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601) or use the PayPal option on the homepage of our website (www.salemhellers.com). Checks will be processed weekly as usual. Thank you!



UPCOMING EASTER EVENTS

April 9: Upper Room Communion has been cancelled.

April 10: Community Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Hellers. Several pastors from the area will be participating in this service, and the Salem Hellers' Choir will be singing. After the service, there will be refreshments with a time to fellowship with our neighbors from other local churches.

April 12: Easter Sunday Morning at 9:30 a.m.

On Easter Sunday morning, celebrate with us the Good News that Jesus rose from the dead. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

ATTENDANCE & TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT*

Current	\$19,994.89
Missions.....	\$2,662.68
Improvement.....	\$2,721.53
Cemetery Fund.....	\$2,467.59

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

As a reminder, at any time, giving envelopes may be mailed to the church office (2555 Horseshoe Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601). Giving is also possible right on our website via PayPal, which is a secure electronic program. It is found on our home page (www.salemhellers.com) on the bottom right of the page. A small fee is deducted from your payment for the transaction.

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE—		FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE—	
WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
FEB. 2	63	FEB. 2	15
FEB. 9	59	FEB. 9	22
FEB. 16	71	FEB. 16	21
FEB. 23	69	FEB. 23	23
Average worship attendance for February is 66.		Average Sunday School attendance for February is 20.	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Due to the current pandemic, worship services are subject to cancellation. Please check the Cancellations Tab on the website for cancellations or updates: www.salemhellers.com

GREETERS

APR 5	Bob & Rosene Burns
APR 12:	Judy Wenger and Kathy Hinerdeer
APR 19:	Mary Lichty and Betsy Lichty

FLOWER DISTRIBUTORS

APR 5:	OPEN
APR 12:	Judy Wenger
APR 19:	Mary Lichty and Betsy Lichty
APR 26:	Marie Peazzoni

USHERS

Merv Bare (Head), Mary Lichty, Betsy Lichty, Dave Reinmiller, and Fair Ayers

OFFERING BAGGERS

Merv Bare and George Cooper

WORSHIP LEADERS

APR. 5: George Cooper; APR. 12: Mark Steller ; APR. 19: Kim Kreider; APR. 26: Lisa Tully

APRIL 2020

All activities are subject to change; please check the Cancellations

Tab on our website: www.salemhellers.com.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose"</i></p> <p>(Rm. 8:28)</p>			<p>1 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer</p>	<p>2 6:30 p.m. Choir</p>	3	4
<p>5  9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	6	<p>7 7:00 p.m. Property</p>	<p>8 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer</p>	<p>9 5:30—7:00 p.m. Upper Room Communion</p>	<p>10 7:00 p.m. Community Good Friday Service here</p> 	<p>11 11 a.m.— Noon - Choir</p>
<p>12 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School</p> 	13	<p>14 7:00 pm Consistory</p>	<p>15 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer</p> <p><i>Pastor's Helper deadline</i></p>	<p>16 6:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>17 5:55 p.m. Community Meal</p>	18
<p>19 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School—</p>	20	21	<p>22 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer</p>	<p>23 6:30 p.m. Choir</p>	24	25
<p>26 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Pastor Asif</p>	<p>27 7:00 pm Worship</p>	<p>28 7:00 pm Spiritual Council</p>	<p>29 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer</p> <p>10</p>	<p>30 6:30 p.m. Choir</p>	31	