

Pastor's *helper*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS
NOVEMBER 2020

Our God is Bigger. Our God is Grander. Our God is in Control.

— *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

My Friends:

In just a few weeks we will be celebrating Thanksgiving in our nation. Well, celebrating might be too strong a word for it this year. With so much happening that distracts from our usual way of life, it may seem odd to even consider gathering with friends and family for a feast in which we are supposed to offer thanks for all we have. But gather we will. At least, most of us will get together with immediate family for a good dinner.

So what on God's good earth do we have to be thankful for this year? Do we give thanks for COVID? Are we thankful for the lockdown we endured for months on end? Should we be grateful for

the separation from good friends?
In a word...yes.

As believers in the Lord, our hearts are fixed on something greater, a promise and a hope that reaches well outside the things and events of this world. Our God is bigger. Our God is grander. Our God is in control, so yes, whatever happens is in His hands, and we ought to be thankful, for He knows the entirety of world events and the history involved.

Listen to this: "O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1). Why give thanks? Because the Lord our God is good! There is no end to His love and His grace in our lives. Just a couple verses later the psalmist cries out his thanks:

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“Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can mere man do to me?”

Most of our problems, including those that seem unique to 2020, are created by humankind. They disrupt, they destroy, and they can be painful. But what the things of man cannot do is enslave us and make us fearful. In these times we lean more earnestly on the steadfast love of God. And we know that in all things, God is good. Do not despair. Look forward with hope! For the Lord your God reigns supreme and forever!

So do we have anything to be thankful for? Oh, yes; yes we do! Give thanks for the Lord, and to the Lord. In all things, He brings good to those who love Him. We will be just fine. Our future is planned for us, and it is glorious. It may not be outstanding right here and now, but we live abundantly here and look to the joys of the glory of heaven for eternity! Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Pastor Bruce

November Birthdays

Janet Rodgers.....November 6
Bev Berwind.....November 7
Kim Kreider November 11



November Anniversaries

Brett & Kim Kreider.....November 8, 1980
(40 years)
Scott & Janet Gribble...November 12, 1994
(26 years)
Bruce & Lisa Tully.....November 29, 1986
(34 years)

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

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

Larry Stoltzfus; Margaret Sensenig; Bruce Tully

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A FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Salem Hellers is in need of an ORGAN transplant! What? Why? When? Well, now that I have your attention, as Paul Harvey used to say, “here is the rest of the story.”

As far as I can determine, the Allen Organ in the sanctuary is about 55-60 years old. It has served our congregation well, and at the time it was purchased, it was a state of the art instrument. Just as the dial telephone progressed to a push button telephone to the modern cell phone, electronic organ technology has also progressed. As long as I have served as organist and music director, and even before I came to Salem Hellers, the church has maintained an annual service contract, first with the Allen Organ Company and then with Susquehanna Organ Service, who is our current service company. Typically, there has been one service call a year which performed normal maintenance and not really dealing with repair. However, this year there have been at least 4 service calls dealing with repair and replacement part issues. The caution has been noted that replacement parts are becoming scarce, and the day will come when they are not available. Additionally, the number of required service calls will automatically apply a higher cost for service when the new contract is due in March 2021. I pointed out as much as a year ago that we should be considering future options for our sanctuary organ.



A year ago, my neighbor mentioned that the organ he had gotten for his children was no longer being used because they were grown up and gone from home. He was looking for a place to donate the instrument, and another church organist came to his home and played the instrument, but it did not work out for them to take it. (God is a master at perfect timing). In late August at my annual checkup, I asked Dr. Bensing if he still wanted to donate the organ. He said that they would like to place it where it would be used for worship. So in early October, we placed the organ in Cowan Hall, where it has been happily received and put into use. But that’s not all.

When you look at the console, it has an unusual appearance. It is designed in the classic European tradition. Note from the picture that what are normally white keys, are ebony, and what are normally black keys are rosewood, so it is voiced and appears as a classical pipe organ console. But that’s not all. It has modern electronic technology known as MIDI, which allows the ability to add sounds from an outside source, such as a sound module or a laptop computer and expand the capability of the sounds available. For example, you could have a harmonica play a melody and the background accompaniment play orchestral strings or an acoustic guitar. And that is not all.



Meet Dave Andrews. I met Dave in 1987 when he ran a piano store in Lititz. Dave became a great friend and colleague. He went on to run a church organ sound reinforcement company, and was snatched up by the BOSE corporation to become an employee, where he works today as a design engineer. Not only has he had a remarkable career, but he is equally as talented as a keyboard musician. His recent ministry as accompanist for the Congolese Children’s Choir ended when they started a program focused on their ethnic music. This happened simultaneously as the organ was being donated. Dave had asked me in late summer if I could use help with accompanying the choir, as he is aware of my vision limitations. I quickly agreed, and we have enjoyed his skill and more importantly, his ministry at the organ. Encouraging worship through keyboard artistry is Dave’s ministry.

So where do we go from here? We proceed carefully and cautiously. Removing the Allen organ, the amplification system, and speakers is a massive project, and we are not yet ready to do that. The Allen organ was just repaired and is working, and there is not an immediate need to replace it. But having a backup plan is the prudent way to manage the situation. We are considering moving the new organ into the sanctuary, but there are some logistical details to resolve.

We are looking forward to returning to the sanctuary on November 1. The choir recently enjoyed a picnic where we discussed resuming rehearsals, and since then we have started choir rehearsals on October 15. Several members are unable to participate because there are health concerns relating to the Covid situation. Both Pastor Bruce and I encouraged any choir member that feels in any way at risk not to attend. So the choir may look and sound different, but remember this: We sing Soli Deo Gloria, Only to the Glory of God.

Blessings,
Ron



Heavenly Humor

Reverend to his congregation: "We have good news and bad news. The bad news is that the roof needs repairing. The good news is that we have the money to pay for it" (appreciative murmurs all round).
Reverend: "The extra bad news is that it's still in your pockets!"



"I'm happy to hear that you've sought additional information on our Sunday School topic, but which seminary did this Siri person attend?"

SEPTEMBER GIVING

Current	\$10,645.00
Missions.....	955.00
Cemetery Fund.....	100.00
Improvement.....	385.00
Perpetual Care.....	85.00
Harvest Home.....	65.00
Sunday School.....	65.00
Rental Income.....	\$1,615.00
Stained Glass Repair.....	\$5,212.80
Pentecost.....	\$6.00
Cleaning Fee.....	\$75.00

CONSISTORY MINUTES, OCTOBER 13, 2020



1. **Call meeting to order**—Mark Steller
2. **Devotional** by Mark, from *Jesus Always*. Jesus is always with us and He knows the way.
3. **Roll call:** Present: Mark Steller, Harry Teigland, Ron Nickel, Gene Rogers, Merv Bare, Margaret Sensenig, Pastor Tully, Ragen Burns, George Cooper, Larry Stoltzfus and Marie Peazzoni.
4. **Treasurer's Report: Read and approved.** Offering counters needed. Gene and Merv volunteered. Budget projections for 2021 need to be turned in before November 8.
5. **President's Report:** Sang in Church, 9/13/20; Lay Leader 9/20/20; Choir picnic 10/4
6. **Pastor's Report:**
 - ◆ September 14-20—Vacation days. My family and I returned to Ohio to spend time with our families and to finally bury my parents at Western Reserve National Cemetery.
 - ◆ On the 24th, met with other men and Ron to rehearse special music for the following Sunday. The next day a few of us got together to investigate an organ that one of Ron's neighbors was willing to donate. Since our sanctuary organ is on the downward slope, we felt it necessary to begin to pursue other options. This one is very nice and will well suit our needs. We made plans to have it moved to Hellers.
 - ◆ On the 30th, the executive committee met to discuss the possibility of moving back into the sanctuary in the near future. Following a time of discussion, we all agreed that we would make attempts to occupy the sanctuary for worship beginning the first Sunday of November. We will bring the proposal to consistory for discussion, but felt we ought to move ahead with action as soon as possible. I then reached out to Pastor Strawbridge. He noted that they welcome us back and that they have no issues with our being in the space just prior to their worship service. We will still take reasonable precautions as we move ahead.
 - ◆ Attended a social gathering for choir members following worship on Oct. 4th. Thanks to the Wortels for hosting us in their outdoor pavilion, and to all members who attended! We are finding that we can get back to some reasonable activities, and that it is good for us to do so. Ron is planning on assembling those choir members who feel safe doing so to begin rehearsing for some form of musical worship.
 - ◆ On the 7th I met with Ron G. to review the plans for this fall's worship. We worked things out up to and including Advent and Christmas. We will not be having our Advent Family Night this year. We do plan to continue our tradition of lighting the atrium tree by meeting a half hour early on the morning of the first Sunday of Advent. We will light the tree, sing a carol or two, then dismiss to worship.
 - ◆ Oct. 10th was the date of the graveside funeral for Mary Landis.
 - ◆ Sunday School was started up on the first Sunday of October. Both classes have met the past two weeks, and it appears that for the most part our attendance has been near normal. Thanks to all who have asked that we begin this ministry again.

- ◆ October 25 will be the final sermon from the series I have been presenting on the Gospel According to John. It will have run 77 messages, spread out over two years. For me it has been extremely edifying and enjoyable. The plan is to work from November through December with independent sermons. Then in January, I will start a new series on 1 Thessalonians. Please feel free to read ahead.

7. Reports of Ministries

- A. Lay Life/Fellowship: No report.
- B. Worship: No meeting. Will meet later this month.
- C. Property: Not given a written report. Old doorway in Cowan hall closed. Room still meets the fire code. Rewiring of lights in Cowan Hall has been completed.
- D. Personnel: Cleaning done by James Baker until end of year.

8. Committee Reports

- A. Memorial: No meeting
- B. Missions: Will meet next Monday. Community meal will need to feed 170 people on Nov. 20. Harvest Home this coming Sunday.
- C. Membership Care/Shut-in: No report

9. Old Business



1. Sharing space with All Saints Church
 - a. Contact: Don Graves (717-466-7040) dgraves@comcast.net
 - b. Contract renewal: now on a month to month basis.
2. We will return to Cowan Hall on November 1st . Approved. All Saints to use the side door to the sanctuary, Salem Hellers the back door.
3. Question was raised concerning extra equipment possibly from All Saints in the Sound equipment space. Question, what to do with this?

10. New Business

Driveway at the church house to be re-paved. Wall in old part of the building is leaking due to the mortar falling out. Will need re-pointed.

11. **Motion to adjourn** - Unanimous. Meeting closed with prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worshipping back in the sanctuary on November 1. When possible, please sit toward the front.



November 1 is International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Please remember to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ around the world not just today but regularly.

If you would like to contribute flowers for our worship service in the sanctuary, please contact Gail.



There will be no Agape in November or December. Please watch for announcements about when it will resume.

Our next Community Meal is on Friday, November 20. Please sign up at the Information Desk if you can help bring or assemble food. Thank you!



Important DATE!

We will have our Informal Budget Meeting on Sunday, November 22, in Cowan Hall after the worship service. Sunday School is cancelled for that day.

Plan to begin our Advent Season with an Advent Breakfast on Sunday, November 29, at 8:30 a.m. We will continue our time together in worship at 9:30 a.m. with the All Saints Choir as our guest.



We have been blessed to have had special guest musician, Soprano Carolyn Beth McLain, sing for us recently, and we look forward to having her be with us during our Advent Season. Carolyn recently explored a departure from the classical and operatic style and discovered her love of singing beautifully arranged hymns with her accompanist and musical mentor, Dave Andrews. These collaborative efforts have been born out of a shared desire for meaningful music ministry and the sheer joy of singing praises to our Heavenly Father.

Please make note in your church directory this address change:

Harry & Nan Teigland
59 West Ridge Drive Leola, PA 17540
Cell phone numbers are the same.



If you have a new phone number, email address, or physical address change, please contact Gail. Thanks.



Thank you to all of our veterans for your service to our country. May the Lord bless you!

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	2	3 7:00 p.m. Property	4 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer	5 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 9:30 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	9	10 7:00 p.m. Consistory	11 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer	12 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 9:30 Worship 10:15 Sunday School <i>Pastor's Helper Deadline</i>	16 6:30 p.m. Missions Meeting	17	18 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer	19 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 Community Meal	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:15am Informal Budget Mtg.	23	24 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council	25 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer	26 Thanksgiving 	27	28
29 8:30 Breakfast 9:30 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	30 7:00 pm Worship Mtg.			<i>Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!</i>		