



PASTOR'S *helper*

SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS - JUNE 2021

Stay in Your Lane! — *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

My Friends,

It wasn't long ago that I had the opportunity to test drive a few cars. It is amazing how rapidly technology gets ahead of many of us, and it is no different when it comes to our vehicles. My little truck has almost no tech, so any modern conveniences at all are an upgrade to me! Things like power locks and windows, cruise control, and power seats are true luxuries.

One of the cars I tested had an extremely annoying feature. If I strayed half an inch out of my lane of travel, a warning signal beeped at me. And I couldn't find any way to shut it off! According to the statistics they provide, this feature does help

keep people awake and in their lane of travel. That's a good thing.

While this is fairly new in the world of automobiles, it is nothing surprising to the people of God. On the day of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit blew into the lives of the followers of Jesus Christ, the very first 'lane warning' alert came to us as well. The Spirit of God within each believer works to warn us when we begin to stray from the narrow path that leads to salvation.

A little nudge, a big 'thump' on the noggin, whatever it takes, God does His work in us to draw us to Him and keep us near to Him. Worldly distractions and spiritual sleepiness often cause Christians to

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Ron Nickel, Treasurer

Merv Bare

Ragen Burns

Marie Peazzoni

Margaret Sensenig;

Bruce Tully



weave or waver from the 'straight and narrow.' This can be dangerous to both us and others. To us, in that we risk our relationship with the Lord, and to others, in the way that our witness loses its effectiveness when we stray. So thanks to the Lord for His innovative plan!

Listen to that warning in your hearts and minds. It may be soft and persistent, or it may be loud and blaring. However you hear it, do not ignore it. God's great and perfect plan for you is to keep you close to Him for however long you live and work in this kingdom. All in order to welcome you to His eternal kingdom when the time is right. In other words, stay in your lane!

Blessings,

Pastor Bruce



STAY IN YOUR LANE

Almighty God in Humble Prayer

James Montgomery

Almighty God, in humble prayer
To Thee our souls we lift;
Do Thou our waiting minds prepare
For Thy most needful gift.

We ask not golden streams of wealth
Along our path to flow;
We ask not undecaying health,
Nor length of years below:

We ask not honors, which an hour
May bring and take away;
We ask not pleasure, pomp, or power,
Lest we should go astray:

We ask for wisdom; Lord, impart
The knowledge how to live;
A wise and understanding heart
To all before Thee give.

The young remember Thee in youth,
Before the evil days!
The old be guided by Thy truth
In wisdom's pleasant ways!

A



FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

At the beginning of each choir rehearsal, we open with a devotional and prayer. This keeps our focus on serving and worship ministry. For months we have prayed for Betty Snyder's daughter who is fighting pancreatic cancer. At our rehearsal on April 29, Betty reported that the pancreas is now cancer free. We praise the Lord for answered prayers. What is significant about this good report is that we have prayed continuously. During the devotional, I mentioned that a circle has no beginning and no end; it is a line with a continuous flow. I shared the Legend of Honi, the Circle Maker. As the story is told, there is a legend in Jewish folklore around 2 BC of a wise elder in a village, who was known for his faith in God and for being a man of prayer. This little village had been suffering from a drought for many months and found themselves in desperate need of water. One very hot and dry afternoon, Honi was walking through the village, carrying a long stick. When he arrived at a certain spot, he stopped, took the stick, and drew a circle in the dirt around himself. He then prayed a very bold prayer to God. His prayer went something like this: "Dear God, our Heavenly Father, we need rain for our village. I am standing inside this circle, and I am not leaving this spot until you send rain." The villagers were stunned that Honi would dare to be so bold when speaking to God. Time passed, and we are not told how long Honi waited, but he was a man of faith, and he waited. The villagers went about their daily activities, and every now and then would check on Honi, standing in his circle. As a few assembled nearby, one villager thought that he felt something wet on his arm. Yes, there was a slight drizzle. Could it be? But what happened next was even more outrageous. Honi looked up to heaven and declared "Dear God, we do not need drizzle; we need rain." The clouds opened up & poured so much that the little village began to flood. Once again, Honi prayed, "Dear God, we need a gentle rain that will water our crops and fill our wells." And the storm turned into a gentle rain. Remember Joshua? He circled the city for 6 days with his army, never speaking a word. On day 7, He CIRCLED the city 7 times and with a mighty shout, the walls tumbled. There are so many good lessons in these stories: Obedience, Faith, Perseverance, & BOLDNESS when we pray. Both Honi and Joshua were willing to appear odd or foolish to people who did not understand that they were obeying what God asked of them, like the continuous flow from our heart to God. So, as a choir, we continue to pray each time that we gather. Choir is a ministry that loves people through music. My favorite quotation in answering the question, "What is music?" is this: "Music is LOVE in search of a word."

Until Next Time,

Ron

Circle Maker story from
The Circle Maker by Mark Batterson

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

CONSISTORY MINUTES, MAY 11, 2021



1. **Call meeting to order**-Mark Steller, began with prayer.
2. **Devotional** by Mark, from *Jesus Always: Praise Me for the Help*.
3. **Roll call:** Present: Mark Steller, Harry Teigland, Ron Nickel, Gene Rogers, Merv Bare, Ragen Burns, Pastor Tully, George Cooper. Margaret Sensenig and Marie Peazzoni absent.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Read and approved April report. "PPP" loan was forgiven.
5. **Pastor's Report:**

- ◆ On April 19 I attended the annual fundraiser for Bible2School. This year it was held at Sight and Sound Theater. The guest speaker was Alex Kendrick, the producer of many films, such as *Fireproof*, *Facing the Giants*, *War Room*, and so on. He spoke of praying for God to show us where He is working, so we might go with Him, rather than seeking God's approval on our own plans. B2S is growing, adding new schools each year, bringing more children to know Christ.
- ◆ The CVM Bible Study was rather lightly attended this month. Still, five pastors from the local area met to have fellowship time, a meal, and spiritual discussion.
- ◆ Met with the executive committee on the 22nd.
- ◆ On the 27th I met again with a couple other pastors for prayer and encouragement. We do this as there are a few of us without other support groups, such as denominational groups. Also that evening was the monthly Spiritual Council meeting. Attendance was quite disappointing; only three others showed up. We opted to pray together for about a half hour, then adjourn. The lesson that I prepared for the meeting will be used in our May 25th meeting.
- ◆ The CVM gathering for May was held at CVCCS. We have been opening our meetings with a corporate discussion on a book we all have elected to read. It talks about avoiding the pitfalls of the world as we seek to work out our ministries. Meeting next month will be at Still Waters, a location of Potter's House, and it will be the last meeting until Fall.
- ◆ Lisa and I will be taking a vacation over the last week of July. I have advised Sandi and Gail and George.
- ◆ Thanks to all for your kind words of consolation over the loss of my brother-in-law. My sister is grieving, but has had family with her these past two weeks. Please continue to pray for her peace.
- ◆ The current series of sermons from 1 Thessalonians will come to an end within the next few weeks. As an interim set of sermons, I will be preaching on a few important ideas and topics for our times. I have two topics in mind, and will likely be adding two to four more. Following that, I will return to preaching through a book from God's Word.

6. Reports of Ministries:

Property Committee

The following projects are now finished: Kitchen range hood & related issues are fixed; vole treatment; church & rental house property trees trimmed; asphalt curb straightened; topsoil added at the wellhead; light fixtures in library and church office replaced.

Ongoing/old items: The boiler is now working; cemetery shed will be replaced (\$400); north bell tower door will be repaired (\$1,100); nursery CCTV & speaker installation is in process as is a camera surveillance system. Steeple lights will be adjusted as needed; the door between the Berean Room and bathroom has been replaced with concrete block.

New items include the following: We have a handyman candidate (referred by Mark Steller) to do work on a job by job basis; James Baker will repoint the brick on the old section of the church; Lancaster Poured Walls (across Horseshoe Rd.) will remove the deserted trailer in about 3 weeks.

Future Projects: We are asking for volunteers to help with these projects: Clean up Heller's Cemetery across the road (fill in groundhog holes, reset tombstones, trim weeds & shrubs); replace faulty emergency lighting fixtures; add a switch for the front door slab heater; install receptacle for dehumidifiers in basement; video projector installation; paint ceiling tiles in upstairs men's room. Spring projects include education window cleaning, looking for a stained-glass repair firm, and looking for a concrete crack sealer for the front slab pad.



Personnel

Office Administrator's job responsibilities to be fulfilled at her home as much as possible, was approved by Consistory.

7. Committee Reports

Memorial

Request made to purchase 10 more chairs, like used in the Library, for use in the Berean Class room.

8. **Old Business:** Price for two new video projectors received: \$4,072, estimated installation in June.

9. **New Business:**

- A. Need to establish a 300 Year Anniversary Committee and budget for next year; coming in 2025.
- B. Leadership Training postponed due to lateness of hour.

Motion to Adjourn, unanimous. Meeting closed with prayer. Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper.

Heavenly Humor



"The Pastor keeps referring to 'this morning's text' - but which one?"

1. Applications are now being accepted for 2 year-old nursery workers.

2. Announcement to the Moms Who Care ladies' group: There will be no Moms Who Care this week.



- 3. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on May 24. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- 4. Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.
- 5. Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.
- 6. The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.
- 7. Illiterate? Write to the church office for help.
- 8. The peace making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- 9. The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- 10. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.



Birthdays

Mervin BareJune 2
 Marlene ReynoldsJune 5
 Katelyn Townsley.....June 16
 Levi KingJuly 22
 Bruce RanckJune 24

Anniversaries

Dick & Dorothy Ruoss.....June 29, 1947
 (74 years)
 Mervin & Shirley Bare.....June 30, 1956
 (65 years)
 Ivan & Joann Brian.....June 2, 1957
 (64 years)
 Ragen & Deb Burns.....June 18, 1983
 (38 years)
 Ron & Elisa Nickel.....June 28, 2008
 (13 years)
 Bob & Sandy Geist.....June 19, 2010
 (11 years)
 Gene & Janet Rodgers.....June 8, 2014
 (11 years)



Summer is just about here, and that's a good time to make sure you've updated your address, phone number, and email address with the church office. If you have had any changes with these since the last church directory, please contact Gail with your change. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We could still use extra help from time to time with counting the offering each week. If you are able to help with this area of service, please contact Gail. Thank you.



Giving
 at a
 glance



April 2021

Cemetery.....	\$796.00
Current.....	\$14,647.00
Improvement.....	\$880.00
Mission Trips.....	\$150.00
Missions.....	\$1,114.00
Perpetual Care.....	\$70.00
Sunday School.....	\$42.00

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

Change of Address

Lois Schrock
 3519 SE 61st Avenue
 Portland, OR 97206

Please make note of this change in your church directory. Thank you.



June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 p.m. Property	2	3 6:30 Choir	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	7	8 7:00 p.m. Consistory	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	14	15 <i>Pastor's Helper Deadline</i>	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School 	21 6:30 p.m. Missions	22 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	28 7:00 p.m. Worship Meeting	29	30	31		