

# Pastor's *helper*

SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS | JULY 2022

## When You Walk With The Lord

— *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

My Friends:

Two weeks ago Lisa and I took a couple of days to ourselves and visited the Grand Canyon of PA in Wellsboro. We had heard of it, been inspired by stories from those of you who have been there, and had read up on it. But we were not quite prepared for the reality of it.

It was a one-mile hike from our campsite to the lookout area of the state park. The view was spectacular from up there. Thankfully, the day was bright, the sky was clear, and the air clean. We could see for many miles. Tree-covered hillsides narrowed to a clear-running creek at its base. It was quite beautiful.

But we couldn't see all the beauty from there. Footpaths switched back and forth down the side of

the gorge for those who desired to see more. We decided to give it a go. Not ALL the way down, mind you; we are not that spry and durable! We did go between half and two-thirds of the way down. It was hard work, and often a bit disconcerting. The path was slim and often damp, leading to uncertain footing.

There were a couple different points along the way that revealed waterfalls, and gave us a closer look at the trees and foliage that made up the greenery of the forested hillsides. Things we could not see from the higher vantage point. We struggled to make it back up the hill. At the top, as we gasped for breath and sat for a few moments on an appropriately-placed bench, we mentioned to each other that, while we would

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not look forward to doing that ever again, we were immensely glad we had made the trek.

God has given us a wonderful world. We each get to choose if we want to live only on the surface, where we can look around at the big picture and stay out of the details. Or...we can opt to take risks, to do the hard work, and then to reap the benefits of deep living. Get to really know people. Visit places that you might not otherwise go. Trust the Lord to reveal things to you that you would never have experienced if you had not taken the opportunity to walk the harder path.

It can be intimidating, this living out of a life of risk. But the rewards are worth it. God calls us to live in this world, to be his representatives to those who are still watching from the viewing deck. There is great beauty to be found in living for Christ, who leads us into valleys and up mountains, across slippery slopes. But He who takes us there walks with us. And the Creator of all things knows what to reveal to you in those moments of trust. Life is fuller and more beautiful when you walk with the Lord, going deeper and seeing the beauty that underlies the superficiality of life without Him.

Too late we discover that our time is running short. It gets harder and harder to do those things that will surprise you, like hiking into the gorge in northern PA. So it is with the Christian life. Take the time now to be involved in the lives of the people you meet. It may involve work, and it may be risky. But there might be no going back if you choose not to engage when you have the chance. The life lived with and for God is glorious when lived fully in Him.

Blessings,

*Pastor Bruce*

**Only One LIFE**  
 twill soon be past  
 only what is done for  
**Christ WILL LAST**

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Mark Steller..... July 1	Linda Ranck..... August 3
Anakin & Oliver Tully July 3	Walt Peazzoni... August 5
Dorothy Ruoss..... July 4	Sophia Ressler August 10
Abbey Rineer..... July 5	Laura Tully..... August 21
Joann Cooper..... July 11	Ivan Brian..... August 25
Pauline Fisher..... July 15	Lois Schrock.... August 26
Dick Ruoss..... July 23	
Russ Latschar..... July 28	
Bruce Tully..... July 29	



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Brian & Ruth Roye	7/9
Walt & Marie Peazzoni	8/5
Bill & Cindy Portner	8/12
Bob & Barb Brinker	8/18
George & Joann Cooper	8/21
Bruce & Linda Ranck	8/27
David & Margaret Sensenig	8/28

# A FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



It was with surgical precision that our wonderful organist, Dave Andrews, became a Doctor of Organology and performed the organ transplant in early June. Dave got his shop vac and climbed up into the chambers up front and in the back, and carefully cleaned



the chambers and the tone cloth as well as the lower chamber behind the opening that you saw one Sunday. He then installed the new speaker system that was

donated anonymously. What a blessing Dave has brought to Salem Hellers to use not only his musical talent but also his technical skill in audio technology!



Dave, with heartfelt thanks we confer upon you the Honorary Doctoral Degree of Audio Organology. With many thanks for all that you do.

On July 31 at 3 P.M., Perfect Harmony “Plus One” will present favorite hymns from the Billy Graham Crusades with stories about how or why they were written. We have enjoyed having Perfect Harmony presentations twice previously and always look forward to their programs. We will have a cookie party after the concert in Cowan Hall. Please mark your calendar and invite your friends.



On October 30 we will have an event in Cowan Hall with a Harvest Gathering theme. Look for more details in the September *Pastor's Helper*.



I have been auditing several cantatas for the 2022 presentation on December 11. I always enjoy the process of selecting a Christmas cantata. Some years I can decide in 10 minutes, and other years it takes several weeks. I try to integrate the main title or theme of the cantata with the candle lighting liturgy and the four Sundays in Advent.



We are looking forward to our Fall Choir Season and all the rehearsals that go with it. Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to ministering in music.

Soli Deo Gloria, Ron

# CONSISTORY MINUTES, JUNE 14, 2022

1. Call meeting to order-George Cooper, Secretary. President and Vice Pres. Absent. Opening prayer: Pastor
2. Devotional by George: How Should a Christian Live? From Colossians 3:1-17
3. Roll Call: Present: Ron Nickel, Ragen Burns, Pastor Tully, George Cooper, Marie Peazzoni, Merv Bare and Margaret Sensenig. Mark Steller and Harry Teigland absent.
4. Treasurer's Report: Read and approved May financial report.
5. President's Report:
  - May 5, Lay Leader
  - May 10, Approved request for Perfect Harmony to practice on July 31 (5:00-8:00)
  - May 19-31, Illness.



## 6. Pastor's Report:

- ◇ May 19, 26, June 2: final choir rehearsals for the spring session
- ◇ May 20: community meal
- ◇ May 21: memorial service
- ◇ May 24: Pastor's Breakfast; Spiritual Council: We continued our discussion on 'changing the culture of the church.' Our focus for now is on prayer. Prayer will lift us and mold us, and in the process we will view the church in new ways. As this grows, our hope is that more and more of the congregation will be inspired to deeper and greater prayer as well.
- ◇ May 30: Memorial Day
- ◇ June 1: Prayer Meeting. So far, I have held two meetings on Wednesday evenings. The attendance has been 'light' at best. I would like to encourage anyone whose heart is for the Church of Christ, and ours in particular, to spend a half hour weekly with us in concentrated prayer. We meet at 6:15 in the Berean Room.
- ◇ June 3: Along with a few others, I met with Rob Clarke of China Vision, to hear about the work they do as missionaries to China. We will follow up with the Mission Committee at the next meeting.
- ◇ June 4: presided over a grave side funeral service in Georgetown.
- ◇ June 7: Ministerium meeting. This was our last meeting this summer. Things will pick up again in September.
- ◇ June 9 (afternoon) through June 11: Lisa and I took a few days to relax at the PA Grand Canyon location. God's amazing creation on display!
- ◇ As of two weeks ago, I concluded my series on 2 Corinthians. For the five weeks that follow, I am highlighting the five commands at the end of 2 Corinthians that mark an outline for a thriving gospel-centered church. My plan is to begin a series on Romans at the end of that five-sermon run.
- ◇ July 6 is the start to the summer study on Prayer. Currently there are about 17 signed -2- up for one or the other of the two available sessions.

## 7. Reports of Ministries

- A. Worship - Worship Committee will take up the responsibility for the service of Communion. It had been assumed to be a responsibility of the Consistory.
- B. LayLife/Fellowship: In August the kitchen floor tiles will be removed and replaced. Kitchen will be unavailable August 15-16.

## 8. Committee Reports

**Property:** 1. Skip Reynolds is stepping down from heading Property Committee. He may stay active in some administrative role. 2. Kitchen floor may be recovered with a seamless epoxy coating. 3. Working on securing some carpet replacement in the foyer. 4. Talked to Lawn Mowing people: Do a better job. 5. Every 3rd Saturday will be a work day. Need all kinds of volunteers.

**Missions:** 1. Have talked to another mission outreach to Chinese people here and in China for possible prayer and monetary support. 2. Question raised last month about making 'Missions' an integral part of the Church Budget still needs to be discussed. Will be put on next month's agenda.

## 9. Old Business

A. All Saints agreed to rent of \$2000/month.

B. Review of new sign: Looks great, still need to add our street number.

C. New Ice maker is in the Berean room. Will be installed in refrigerator room soon.

D. Plans for 300th Anniversary in 2025. People will be asked to serve on the committee.

E. Church/Consistory Rules/Protocols & Communications

1. Service Opportunities: Samples of what is wanted has been distributed to Consistory.

2. Procedures Manual: Most pages were assigned to Consistory members for rewriting.

3. Church Member contact List: Chart was prepared and distributed.

10. New Business How can we help members who have special needs?

11. Leadership Training: How Leaders Should Pray.

12. Adjournment - Prayer by G. Cooper.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary



## Heavenly Humor



After the wedding, the little ringbearer asked his father, "How many brides can the groom marry?"

"One," his father said. "Why do you ask?"

"Because the pastor said he could marry sixteen," the boy said, puzzled.

"How'd you come up with that?" his father asked.

"Easy," the little boy said.

"All you have to do is add it up like the pastor said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

11-11

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"... Through the night with the light from a bulb ..."

## MISSION UP- CLOSE: *Nate & Krystal* (Serving in Western Asia)

By Joann Cooper



Eight years ago, this young couple and their baby daughter left the comfort of Lancaster County to serve the Lord in a country in Western Asia with a totally different language, culture and religion. We have been supporting and praying for Nate and Krystal throughout their fascinating journey—a journey that has included delight and discouragement, grueling language study, outreaches to neighbors, a move from the city to work at a retreat center in the country, and the addition of two more daughters!

On Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, Nate and Krystal will share their missionary journey with us in our Sunday morning service. Don't miss this opportunity to hear what God is doing through these dedicated servants in a spiritually needy corner of the world!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



You are invited to a 7 week study on Prayer each Wednesday, beginning July 6 at 9 AM or 7 PM. To participate, please sign up at the Information Desk.

Our Community Meal is on Friday, July 22.



If you can help provide or prepare food, please sign up at the Information Desk. Thank you!



We will be doing work at the church July 16, August 20, and September 17, beginning at 9:00 A.M. If you are interested in helping, please see Ragen Burns. Thank you!

The August and September issues of *Pastor's Helper* will be combined and will come out in September.



## Special Concert in July at Salem Hellers



*Then Sings My Soul*  
BELOVED HYMNS AND SONGS INSPIRED BY THE MINISTRY OF BILLY GRAHAM

Sunday, July 31 at 3:00 p.m. we will be blessed to have Perfect Harmony present an original musical program about hymns, their histories, and how they connect to the life and ministry of Billy Graham. The concert is free, but an offering will be taken. Please plan to come and bring your friends! Invitations and Posters will be available for you to use.

## MY SUMMER VACATION— By Skip Reynolds

On April 12<sup>th</sup> while visiting my mother in Waynesboro, I became very tired after lunch and slept the entire afternoon. That evening she thought I should go to the Emergency Room. Apparently, I did not look too good. The next day I managed to drive back home because I had a doctor's appointment the following day. There, they wheeled me directly to Intensive Care for the next 12 days for Afib and possible heart and kidney damage. During my stay, they were talking a complete remake of my life – possible surgery, inserting stents, restricted activity, strict diet change, and an exercise routine. Of course, the surgeon had to mention the possibility that there may be complications with the procedures. I have never been that low, hopeless, and scared - wondering if this is the end of my life. And then I remembered ... God and my commitment to Him with the promise that He is ALWAYS with me. I recited my favorite verses which go...

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

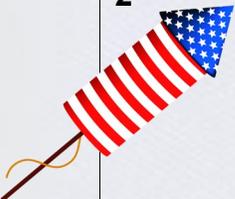
I even mentally sang some of my favorite hymns as I lay there in bed, whiling away the hours. After some necessary procedures, the doctor gave me the option of remaining in the hospital to see if the medications were working or return home. Feeling like a caged animal, guess which I chose.

All was well until the fifth day until my heart started racing again. I could have cried, but seeing the anxiety that my wife was experiencing over this and realizing that I was not over this – I agreed to be readmitted. This time I changed my attitude, resigned that this was bigger than me. So I stopped fighting the situation. Nine days later they finally let me return home again.

In summation, I have never prayed so much in my life. And just before the major procedure, I made peace with the Lord – if this is my time – I will accept it because it is all part of His plan. I sincerely feel that again He has spared my life. I pray that I can again be His faithful servant. And let us not forget to pray for the doctors, caregivers, even the food preparers and janitors who work long hours in such a potentially dangerous environment for our healing. Amen.



Cemetery.....	\$490.00
Current.....	\$13,140.00
Easter.....	\$25.00
Improvement.....	\$2,020.00
Lent.....	\$25.00
Loose Plate.....	\$1,415.00
Mission Trip.....	\$110.00
Missions.....	\$1,535.00
Perpetual Care.....	\$120.00
Rent.....	\$1,720.00
Sunday School.....	\$44.50
Window Repair.....	\$2,765.00

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>July 2022</h1>					1	2 
3 - 9:25 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>4</b>  <b>Independence Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>5</b> 7:00 p.m. Property	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM Prayer Study  6:15 PM Evening Prayer	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  10:00 AM Memorial Service for Carl Pickel
<b>10</b> - 9:25 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>11</b>  6:30 Choir	<b>12</b>  7:00 pm Consistory	<b>13</b>  9:00 AM & 7:00 PM Prayer Study  6:15 PM Evening Prayer	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Community Meal  <i>Pastor's Helper Due</i>	<b>16</b>  9:00 AM  <b>CHURCH WORKDAY</b>
<b>17</b> - 9:25 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>18</b>  6:30 p.m. Missions	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM Prayer Study  6:15 PM Evening Prayer	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Gail is away.</i>						→
<b>24&amp;31</b> 9:25 am Worship; 10:45 am Sun. School	<b>25</b>  7:00 p.m. Worship Mtg.	<b>26</b>  7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council	<b>27</b>  9:00 AM & 7:00 PM Prayer Study  6:15 PM Evening Prayer	<b>28</b>  6:30 PM— Choir Rehearsal (Possible)	<b>29</b>  	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>3:00 PM-</b> <b>Perfect Harmony Concert</b>						