



Salem Church of the Brethren

Simply Peacefully Together

4th Quarter Board Report ~ January 8, 2026

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Salem,

Prior to the opening of the 1st Quarter Board Meeting, Chairman Scott White called for the reorganization of the board based on the November 2025 Congregational Meeting & Election. The board was reorganized as follows for 2026:

Katlin Poth will serve as the Board Chairwoman & Scott White will serve as the Board Vice Chairman. Paul Hager, Tom Bryner, & Scott White will serve as Stewards with Paul Hager as Chair. Nancy Fike, Sharon Sisler, & Cathy Hager will serve on the Nurture Commission with Nancy Fike as Chair. Pat Rice, Barb Bryner, & Bethany Rosenberger will serve on the Witness Commission with Pat Rice as Chair.

The 1st Quarter Board Meeting was held at Salem Church on January 8, 2026, at 7:00 pm. Following is a summary of the business & reports of that meeting:

- **In Attendance:** Scott & Becky White, Paul & Cathy Hager, Sharon Sisler, Nancy Fike, Chris & Pat Rice, Tom & Barb Bryner, Ruth Ann Murphy, Kaitlin Poth, Bethany & Sadie Rosenberger, & Pastor Donnie Savage.
- **Call to Order:** Chairwoman Katlin Poth called the meeting to order & asked Pastor Donnie to open the meeting with prayer.
- **Reading of the Minutes:** Becky White read the minutes of the Oct. 2025 meeting. The minutes were approved as read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Ruth Ann Murphy passed out the quarterly budget report for review. There were no questions. *Copies of the quarterly financial report are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary for review.
- **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Donnie continues to serve & loves the work at Salem. He continues to improve in regard to previous health issues.
- **Commission Reports:** Commission reports were presented by each commission chairperson as follows:

***Nurture Commission (Nancy Fike, Sharon Sisler, Cathy Hager)**

*During the month of November, Thanksgiving hymns were added to the worship services. On November 16, "Gratitude to God" was read during worship. The children sang "Give Thanks" with the choir on November 23rd. We also supported a food drive.

*We decorated the church for Christmas on November 23rd. Thank you to everyone who helped. Word Among Us was the Advent devotional. Pat & Chris brought in the Advent season with the skit Fear Not! Hallmark is Here. It was great; thank you Chris & Pat.

*Kids Day was held on December 6th. The kids packed the gift boxes for caroling. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to Ruth Ann & Bethany!

*After lunch, we caroled on December 7th. Thank you, Barb, for organizing the lunch. We caroled to Jane Garletts, Karen King, Jean Kelly, Vera Mitchell, Ina Dennis, & Carol Herring. Joyful Christmas Sing-Along was performed. We thank Renee, Katlin, Becky, & Jerry for the great performance.

*The Candle Light Service was held the evening of December 21st . After the service, we hosted a refreshment & social time. Thank you to Becky & Barb for making the punch. We would like to thank Mark & Scott for picking up the candles & sand bags. We really appreciate it.

*We are continuing to support the Sunday School Program.

The Nurture Commission would like to thank all who helped & participated in these activities. We thank God for all of our blessings.

***Steward Commission (Paul Hager, Tom Bryner, Scott White)**

Projects for 2026:

*Ceiling tile will be replaced in the social hall. (The leak in the roof has been corrected.)

*Lime & fertilize parts of the lawn & around a few trees.

*Pressure wash the siding.

*Roof on the shed needs replaced. Materials are here.

*Old trees will be removed by the power company.

*Shrubs have been protected.

***Witness Commission (Pat Rice, Barb Bryner, Bethany Rosenberger)**

Last Quarter Projects / Activities:

*Food Pantry: Oct. - 135; Nov. - 184; Dec.- 167. We continue to provide 2 items per month. (Costs is approximately \$360 / month.)

*2 CD's are sent weekly. We thank Trinity for running the CD's & Chris for copying them. Chris & Butch also mail them weekly.

*13 Prayer Bears were requested this quarter.

*4 Love Gifts were given this quarter for a total of \$850. (This includes a gift to TA/East Preston Operation North Pole, & 2 love gifts to shut-ins.)

*South Fayette visits were held on Nov. 10th (Lesson: The Lord is My Shepherd); Dec. 16th (Lesson: The Christmas Story & Caroling) No visit was done in October due to covid at the facility. A snack is provided with a time of fellowship following the lesson. Thanks to all of you who support this ministry each month.

*\$300.00 was collected to buy essential items for residents at South Fayette. We delivered several boxes & two large shopping bags of items to the residents on our Dec. 16th visit. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to this effort.

*33 Shoeboxes were delivered to Asher Glade Church on Nov. 23rd as a part of the Operation Christmas Child ministry. Thanks to everyone who participated!

*A gift card tree was presented to Richard Hileman the week before Christmas. Many thanks to all who donated gift cards for the tree. Richard & his family appreciated it very much.

*Thank you Bethany & family & friends for doing a partial luminary on the evening of the Candle Light Service. Your efforts & service are greatly appreciated. We also join Nurture in thanking Scott & Mark for cleaning up the bags on Monday morning following the service.

*The Quarterly Board Report was posted on the website following the October meeting.

New Items for Discussion/Information:

*We continue to look for ideas for devotional lessons to the residents of South Fayette. It is a challenge to engage them as many residents are not able to join in or participate. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please share!

- **Old Business:**

1. Paul brought up the luminary for the future. There are materials for one more partial luminary. We agreed to assess the needs when it was closer to time next year.

- **New Business:**

1. There is a report available for the website activity each month. If anyone wants to see a report, Miranda can run one at any time.
2. Sharon brought to the board's attention that Pat Donnelly is working in Uniontown with a ministry called **Hope Works**. There are two residential homes there now that house men who are under addictions. Counseling & scripture-based help is provided to these men as they work on recovery. Pat is asking for financial support for the houses. It was decided by the Board to send a love gift of \$1000.00 to each of the two houses for support.
3. Nancy asked that the shrubs in the front of the church be replaced. There was a short discussion & Paul, Steward Commission Chair, said that the request would be considered.

- **Adjournment:** Prior to adjournment, Bethany asked for prayer for a family who just lost a husband / father in a tragic accident in the Hopwood, PA, area. Katlin then adjourned the meeting & closed with prayer.