



Salem Church of the Brethren

Simply Peacefully Together

1st Quarter Board Report ~ February 6, 2025

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Salem,

Annual Re-Organization Meeting:

The annual re-organization of the board was completed at the beginning of the 1st Quarter Board Meeting as follows: Scott White called the meeting to order & opened with prayer. Scott was elected to serve as the board chairman, Paul Hager was elected as the vice-chairman, & board meeting dates were established for April 10, July 10, & October 9, 2025, @ 7:00 pm at the church. The Steward Commission: Paul Hager, Tom Bryner, & Richard Hileman (chair). The Nurture Commission: Kaitlin Poth, Sharon Sisler, & Nancy Fike (chair). The Witness Commission: Cathy Hager, Barb Bryner, & Pat Rice (chair). Scott adjourned the meeting.

The 4th quarter board meeting was held on February 6, 2025. Following is a summary of the business & reports of that meeting:

- **In Attendance:** Scott White, Becky White, Kaitlin Poth, Butch Wade, Ruth Ann Murphy, Cathy Hager, Paul Hager, Nancy Fike, Pastor Donnie Savage, Pat Rice, Chris Rice, Barb Bryner, Tom Bryner, & Richard Hileman.
- **Call to Order:** Scott White, chairman, called the meeting to order.
- **Reading of the Minutes:** Becky White read the minutes of the previous board meeting. The minutes were approved as read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Ruth Ann Murphy gave the treasurer's report. 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:** Donnie reported that he had completed 4 home visits, conducted Love Feast, & continues to nurture Brad Friend in ministry. He expressed his love & thanks to Salem Church.
- **Commission Reports:** Commission reports were presented by each commission chairperson as follows:

***Nurture Commission (Cathy Hager, Sharon Sisler, Katlyn Poth)**

-Thanksgiving was celebrated on Sunday, November 24, with Thankful Leaves that everyone completed & shared. The special service included a skit. Thanks to Nancy & Chris. There was a fellowship Thanksgiving dinner which included chicken & ham provided by the church as well as covered dishes provided by everyone to share. It was a much-enjoyed fellowship. Afterwards, the church was decorated for the Christmas season. Thanks to everyone who participated.

-The Advent Season was celebrated with "Songs of Advent" devotions. Thanks to the readers who made this possible. Kid's Day was held on December 14, & we are so thankful for Ruth Ann & Bethany who provided a wonderful day for the kids. They made gift baskets for the people to whom we caroled on December 15. We caroled to 4 families. A soup & sandwich luncheon was provided at the church before the caroling.

-We stepped out of our comfort zone & tried to change up the Christmas services. On December 22, during our morning service, we were blessed by the Madrigal Choir from Preston High. It was a lovely service & such

a blessing to us. The evening service on the 22nd included a hymn from the choir, reading of the Christmas story from the book of Luke with a silent nativity provided by our young people & children of the church. Also, a message from Pastor Donnie was given & then we celebrated Communion. We are also thankful for Brad who helps in our worship services. We added a few extra treats during the service: quiet bags were handed to the children along with battery-operated candles which was a great joy to them & us. We also had snowflakes covering the ceiling during the candlelight & carol singing. We ended the evening with cookies, punch, & a hot chocolate bar fellowship.

The commission has been blessed & are very thankful for all those making this possible. We praise God who makes all things possible. We are happy to serve Him & our church family.

***Steward Commission (Richard Hileman, Chris Rice, Tom Bryner)**

Projects for 2025:

- Some landscaping has been completed, but there are still some areas being considered.
- Ceiling tiles need to be replaced in the social hall again.
- Lime & fertilizer parts of the lawn around a few trees.
- Gutter covers need replaced.
- Put a metal roof on the shed. Pastor Don is looking into this.

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

Last Quarter Projects / Activities:

- Food Pantry: Oct / Nov = 177/Dec=187. We continue to supply 2 items per month @ approximately \$360 per month.
- 2 CD's are being mailed weekly. We thank Trinity for running the CD's & Chris for copying & mailing.
- 8 Prayer Bears were requested this quarter.
- 3 Love Gifts were presented. (Total: \$750)
- South Fayette Visits: Visits were not held in Oct. & Nov. due to covid at the facility. A visit was held on December 19, 2024. Julie played Christmas carols & those of us in attendance from Salem sang for the residents. We also shared the Christmas story from Luke & provided a snack.
- Our 1st Quarterly Fellowship activity was held on December 15, prior to caroling. We thank the Nurture Commission for arranging the luncheon. The next quarterly fellowship activity will be held in March & we are open to suggestions.
- Bethany arranged for the luminary from the crossroads & around the church before the evening Christmas service on the 22nd. It was beautiful! Thanks to Bethany, her family, & all those who helped as well as those who cleaned up the bags on Monday morning.
- Christmas gifts were provided to 6 Bruceton School students, Ina Dennis, Preston High School, & Terra Alta/East Preston School (Project North Pole) in December.
- The 4th Quarter Board report was posted on the church website following the October meeting.

New Items for Discussion/Information:

- Bethany has requested that we provide a devotional basket to the Bruceton School Calendar Party in March.
- The constitution has been updated based on the vote in November at the Congregational Meeting.

***Old Business:**

1. Vicki is no longer in charge of the cemetery. Peggy Galloway has all of the information/paperwork. Joe Miller is the chairman of the cemetery board. Nancy has also been asked to serve on the board. A

fence is needed around the cemetery to create a boundary. Salem Church will continue to pay to have the cemetery mowed.

***New Business:**

1. Donnie shared that Miranda can track the hits on the church website & how many cite sessions are on record.
 2. Donnie shared that Hugh Dobson requested a church directory. We have no more copies of the last one, so there was discussion about preparing a new one.
 3. The church is insured by Mutual Aid & for the cost of \$87.00 would add the board members to the policy. After some discussion, Paul Hager suggested that we table this & pray about it.
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- **Adjournment:** Scott White adjourned the meeting & Pastor Donnie closed with prayer.