



What's Inside

A publication of Harrisonburg Baptist Church, Harrisonburg, VA

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### From the Pastor's Desk by Mark White

Dear Friends in Christ,

Dale Carnegie may not be a name familiar to many of us today, but three quarters of century ago, he was a wildly popular writer and lecturer. His work focused on the topics of self-help and self-improvement, and his landmark book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, was published in 1936. It was an instant hit, selling out 17 editions in its first year. Thirty million copies of this book have been sold since then, and hundreds of thousands continue to be purchased each year. Interest in his ideas has not let up, and some of his most notable students include Warren Buffet and Lee Iacocca.

One idea of his that resonates with me is that we should use whatever influence we have to lift people up, rather than to hurt them. To me, this fits with our faith because we Christians are in the helping business. How are you using your influence? There are two distinct ways we influence people in church life. First, influence happens in private, personal, and one-on-one relationships. And second, it happens through the natural course of being church. Specifically, through our decision-making processes. As Baptists, we value the contributions of everyone, which is why we have a system in which ideas work their way through committees, the staff, the Leadership Team, and the entire membership before they are finally implemented.

The Leadership Team and I have been concerned that our church has not provided enough opportunities for open conversation, discussion and input on church matters. We want people to know that their voice matters.

*continued on page 2*



## Did you know HBC has a Sunday morning Announcement Policy adopted by the LT on August 13, 2012 as part of HBC's Operation Manual?

This policy was established in an attempt to maximize the time available for worship.

- ◆ Verbal announcements from the pulpit during a worship service will be limited to significant events in the life of the church that apply to the congregation in its entirety (i.e. Operation Inasmuch), as determined by the ministry team.
- ◆ Verbal and/or video announcements, apart from the welcome and communication card reminder, will be limited to a maximum of three per Sunday.
- ◆ Requests for either a verbal or a video announcement must be submitted to the ministry team no later than one week before the desired date that the team can plan the worship service accordingly. Only in emergency circumstances will requests made the morning of worship be included in the service.
- ◆ In those instances, where a verbal announcement is approved, announcements are to be no longer than two minutes.

We appreciate your adhering to this policy to allow our Sunday morning focus be on the worship of God.

## From the Pastor's Desk continued

The Leadership Team has, therefore, proposed a constitutional change calling for a second business meeting each year, as well as a restructured business meeting format that will hopefully encourage more participation. More details about this proposal are included in this newsletter.



We will vote on this matter and a vote on Kerry Potter as our church treasurer at a special called business meeting on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. That afternoon, we also plan to have a good ole fashioned church social and fellowship. There will be a cornhole tournament and homemade ice cream at 3 pm on the church lawn with the business

portion beginning at 4 pm in the sanctuary. I hope you will come. The goal of the proposed change to the constitution and the fellowship is to encourage and improve open and healthy communication. Communication is a struggle for most churches. We want to do a better job communicating with each other and to provide more spaces where we each might offer our influence and our contributions to the decision-making process of our church. I hope this will be edifying for the church, for we are called to lift people up, rather than to hurt them. We are called to influence others for Christ – and may it be so!

Grace & Peace,



**Please sign up in the Communication Card if you plan on attending the special called business meeting on Sunday, May 20. Also sign up if you plan on bringing cornhole boards and participating in the tournament. The cornhole is open to both children and adults. We will need quarts of homemade or store bought ice cream. Sign up on Sunday morning if you can provide ice cream.**



**Sunday, August 19  
4 pm  
Hillandale Park**

# It's Coming ... Vacation Bible School!



“At Shipwrecked Rescued-By Jesus,” kids will venture onto an uncharted island where they survive and thrive. They will be anchored in the truth that Jesus carries them through life’s storms. Kids participate in Castaway Sing and Play where they prepare for the day’s adventure by singing fun songs and meeting fun Bible memory Buddies! There is

Ship Rec Games where they will play high energy games like



Landlubber Lacrosse and Silly Lily Lagoon. After all that fun there will a time for “tropical treats.” There is KidVid Cinema where kids will watch films about real kids living out their faith in really cool ways. In Bible Discovery kids will experience each Bible Story with all five senses. The morning will wrap up with music, drama, science experiment at “Sail Away.”

Shipwrecked is for kids from age 3 (must be born before January 1, 2015) through those who just finished the 5th grade.

We are returning to a full week of VBS, so mark your calendar now! Shipwrecked will be held Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29 from 9 am - 12 noon each day.

Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to bring their children.

Registration forms and online registration will be available in early May.



Have you ever considered sharing your musical talents and singing voices? Both are needed for our music programs at HBC. The Praise Band and Adult Choir are looking for new members. The Praise Band continues through the summer and could use your help on Sunday mornings. Contact Ebony Cleveland at [ebony@hbcalive.org](mailto:ebony@hbcalive.org) if interested.


The adult choir’s last Sunday will be June 10 and resume in the fall. The choir is starting to learn music for the Sacred Arts Festival (Sept. 21-22 at two local churches). A men’s ensemble and women’s ensemble will be forming in June to prepare special music for the summer. Contact Gary Ritcher at [gary@hbcalive.org](mailto:gary@hbcalive.org) if you would like to join the adult choir or one of the ensembles.

**If you haven’t signed up to help with Vacation Bible School yet we encourage you to do soon! The time is quickly approaching. Thank you to those who have volunteered. There will be an informational meeting for all VBS helpers on Sunday, May 6 immediately after worship in Room B-4. Please plan on attending. We will discuss where you’d like to help and what are next steps are.**

**If you are unable to commit for the week we can always use help on decorating team. This year promises to be a great week for our kids once again! Thanks so much for your tremendous encouragement and support for our children! If you have any questions please contact our VBS Director, Sarah Northen, at [scclark1981@yahoo.com](mailto:scclark1981@yahoo.com).**



## Youth Frontline by Katelyn Belcher

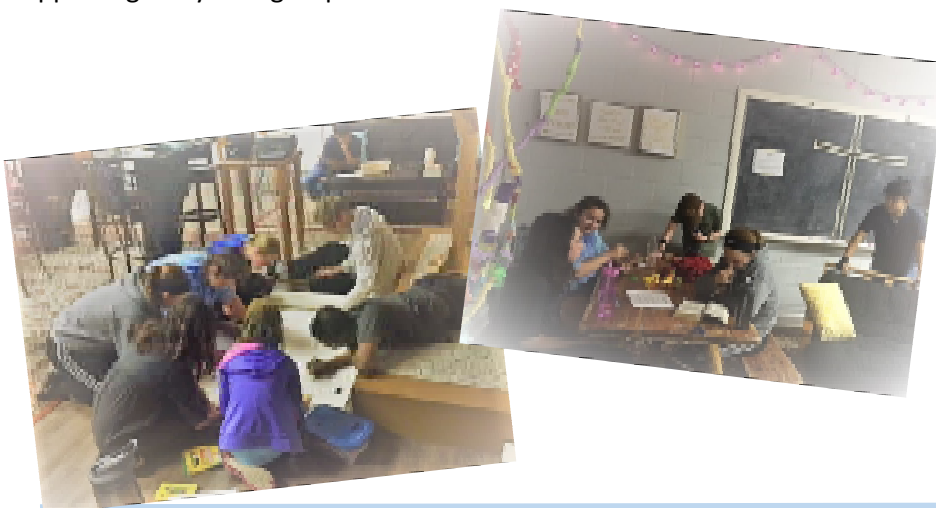


Almost every Sunday evening our youth group comes together to share a meal together and to share life together. The food aspect is a definite incentive to get teenagers in the door, but it is our time during Frontline that really impacts their relationships with each other and with Christ. At a recent Frontline we tried something new and set up interactive prayer stations around the youth room. The youth were actively engaged in prayer time for an hour and voiced that they hoped we'd do Frontline like

this more frequently. Over the course of the hour, they took turns participating in these various stations in the order of their choosing:

- ~H2O: pouring water in a basin while praying, reflecting on the fact that God hears all prayers at all times all around the world.
- ~Word: using Scrabble pieces to describe their relationship with God right now while connecting the word with others.
- ~Idol Worship: using play-doh to mold idols we worship in our lives and then squashing them so that we can worship God only.
- ~Burdens: writing our burdens we are suffering from and taping them to a cross to symbolize the act of surrendering our burdens to Christ.
- ~Forgiveness: writing our sins in sand and then erasing them to symbolize Christ's forgiveness of sins through his sacrifice.
- ~The Journey: using a roll of paper, youth could draw or write about their journeys of being a Christian.

Frontline is such a special time for a group and we want to sincerely thank all of the church members who have provided dinners for us and for supporting our youth group.



Spring cleaning? Decluttering? Trying to clean out those garages and closets? Have lots of good items that you don't have a use for anymore? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you're in luck!

The HBC Youth will once again hold a **Yard Sale** as a way to raise funds to attend Passport Camp this summer. The yard sale will be held on **Saturday, June 16** on the church lawn ... pray for sunshine!!

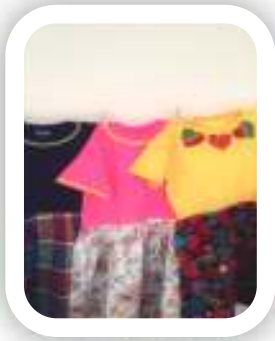
They will begin collecting "gently used" items the week of June 10 in the fellowship hall. Please do not bring items before that date. If you have items you need help getting to church, please contact Katelyn Belcher at [katelyn@hbcalive.org](mailto:katelyn@hbcalive.org).

There will also be **chicken barbeque available** for sale.

## Mission Committee Update by Mary Smith

The HBC Missions Committee has been very busy during the months of March and April. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the committee provided cookies and cupcakes for the Empty Bowls event at Harrisonburg High School. In April, we sent our end-of-year package of school supplies, Early Reader books and a check for \$50 to our adopted second grade teacher and her class at Owsley Elementary School in Kentucky. The money is used to purchase additional materials and a pizza party to celebrate the end of the school year.

One of our mission committee members, Carl Crocker, went on the mission trip to Liberty Texas with Pastor Mark and Don Aittama. The Missions Committee provided \$730.75 to help cover the costs of this trip. On the last Friday of each month, the committee provides snacks and treats for the teachers and staff at Spotswood Elementary to show our appreciation for all they do for the children in our community. Your generous giving to the mission fund makes all of these outreach ministries possible. Thank you!



**Thank you to all those who donated their time and talents to create these t-shirt dresses for the girls at the Nasaruni Academy. A special thank you to Phoebe Renfro for coordinating the sewing group. Your giving spirit has surely blessed many girls!**



## Financial Update by Finance Committee

At the time of this writing we are happy to report that our financial status is better than we expected it would be at this time. However, while tithes and offerings are ahead of expenses, we must remember that expenses for the first months of the year are lower than in later months. Also, giving is 16% behind budget needs (not expenditures). So, as you can see we have come a long way; but, we still have some ways to go. Please prayerfully consider your gifts to HBC. Remember, these offerings are to do God’s work in our community and world.



The Augusta Baptist Association of Virginia’s upcoming Mission Offering is “Striving Together as One for the Gospel of Christ.” Special offering envelopes will be included in the bulletin on Sunday, May 6. Some of the areas the offering helps is disaster relief, youth, college, and senior adult ministries, association’s Operation Inasmuch, pastoral counseling, discipleship training and mission training and trips.

Dear HBC,

Your gift makes a big difference! Thank you so much for your gift of \$2,000 for Bridge of Hope’s work of ending and preventing homelessness for mothers and their children with the help of mentoring groups from churches. It is no small thing that God is doing for these families in need - and your partnership is such a blessing. Recently a 23-year-old woman in one Bridge of Hope affiliate reflected back on being homeless and then finding a Bridge of Hope located in her community and meeting her Bridge of Hope mentoring group from a local church.

“A few days ago, one of the mentors was watching my son at my apartment so that I could go out to the laundry mat. She put post-it notes around my apartment as a way to encourage me. In my refrigerator on the milk carton, I found a note that said, You are a wonderful mom. And on the mirror in my bathroom was a note that said, You reflect God’s goodness.” I’m still finding notes! I’ve never felt so affirmed and loved for just being me.”

Bridge of Hope mentors make a huge difference. And so does your gift!

Thank you again. Your gift brings great joy to our work of ending and preventing homelessness. I hope you know the joy of giving, as we experience the joy of receiving on behalf of homeless single mothers we serve. Thank you and blessings to your. Your gift makes a difference! We are also grateful for your support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lois Shank

Bridge of Hope Harrisonburg-Rockingham Board Chair

Relay for Life is Friday, May 4 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Andrea's Army (HBC's Team) will have a campsite and you are invited to come by and join the team. White (\$10) and gold (\$25) luminarias are available for purchase. If you would like to make a donation, you can give a check to Carol Lynch or donate online. Donations are accepted through the month of May. The luminaria ceremony will be held at 9 pm.



## LT Update by Kevin Petit

The Leadership Team is working to improve communication within the church. We are working with Mark and Eli on ways to realize this goal. Currently HBC has an annual business meeting which is held in November each year. After discussion, at our February meeting, the LT "approved a change to the HBC Bylaws Article 2, Paragraph A to provide for regularly scheduled business meetings in May and November, rather than one annual business meeting in November." To approve this change to the Bylaws, there will be a called business meeting the third Sunday of May. This meeting will be in conjunction with an ice cream social and cornhole tournament.

It is our hope that by meeting more frequently we can communicate better with each other regarding important church issues and by combining these meetings with social activities, we will also have more opportunities for fellowship.

## Church Family Movie Night



**On Friday, June 1 all are invited to join your church family for an outdoor game and movie night on the lawn! We will meet at 7 pm for games and cold drinks and as the sun goes down we will start a movie on the big screen outside!**

**(The exact movie we'll watch will be announced closer to the date.) Be sure to bring a blanket to share or lounge chairs to relax in and there will be plenty of popcorn to go around! You can even bring a friend. Please note this is a First Friday for Downtown Harrisonburg and we are hoping to use this event as an opportunity to reach out to our community and invite them to join us. Mark your calendars now and plan on joining us!**

### Plentinine Luncheon

**Wednesday, May 16**

**11:30 am**

**McAllister's Deli**









**LUNCH**

June is National Dairy month and HBC has been invited to set up for the Cheese Ministry at the Farm to City event at Explore More Discovery Museum on Saturday, June 23 from 9 am to 1 pm. Volunteers are needed to give out cheese samples and flyers for our Cheese Ministry. This will be a terrific way for us to reach out to our community. Please contact Mark at [mark@hbcalive.org](mailto:mark@hbcalive.org) or the church office if you are able to volunteer.



Also freezer space is needed for cheese immediately and over the next several months. If you have space available please contact Kathy Rjtcher at (540) 908-0699 or [gkcdrit@aol.com](mailto:gkcdrit@aol.com).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7 pm Plentinine Book Study Rm B-4	2 10 am Ladies Prayer Group at Bridgewater Home	3 12 noon National Day of Prayer (Court Square)	4 	5
					JMU Graduations	
6 Communion 12 noon VBS Workers Meeting Rm B-4	7	8 9 am - 3 pm Staff Retreat Off Site	9 6 pm Youth to Clothes Closet	10 <b>Clean Your Room Day</b> 	11	12
13 	14 7 pm LT Meeting (Rm B-4)	15 7:30 pm Finance Committee (Rm 111)	16	17	18	19 
20 Special Called Business Meeting (See Articles)	21	22	23	24	25 	26
27	28  Church Office Closed!	29	30	31		

**Sundays**

- 9:15 am - Sunday School for all Ages
- 10:30 am - Community Worship
- 6-8 pm - Youth Supper & Frontline

**Mondays**

- 6:30 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mr. J's Bagels on East Market St.)
- 1:30 pm - Staff Meeting (Parlor)
- 7 pm - Scouts

**Wednesdays**

- 10 am - Ladies Prayer Group (B-4)
- 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice

**Saturdays**

- 11 am - Community Bag Lunch

**Ministers Contact Info:**

- Mark White (540-246-9999)
- Eli Withers (804-539-4743)



**Student Day and  
Graduate Recognition  
Sunday - June 3**



We want to recognize the high school and college graduates within our church family. If you have a graduate in your family, or are a graduate, please let the church office know. You can write your info on the Communication Card.

We would like to include photos of our graduates in the June newsletter and June 3 bulletin. Please email a photo and a brief description of the graduate future plans to Amy at [amy@hbcalive.org](mailto:amy@hbcalive.org).

Our youth will be participating in the Sunday worship service that day. Please make sure plans to attend and show them your support.

## May Birthdays

1st	Jeannie Petit Cameron Ritcher	20th	Wally Holthaus
3rd	Ainsley Millard	21st	Joyce Deavers Kerry Potter
8th	T.W. Johnson Phoebe Renfroe		Faye Ritchie
9th	Holly Pederson	24th	Annabelle Lehembre
10th	Bill Lee	25th	Greg Ritchie
11th	Olivia Hartman	26th	Rosie Early
12th	Ruth Bryant	28th	Blake Shifflett
16th	Sandy Cude	31st	Grant Folsom
19th	Keith Turner		

## Greeters and Info Desk May Schedule

### May 6

Greeters: Sam and Susan Huffman  
Info Desk/Deacon of the Week: Bill Sanger

### May 13

Greeters: Gary and Ellen Lohr  
Info Desk/Deacon of the Week: Pattie Alvis

### May 20

Greeters: Karen Folsom and Nancy Shomo  
Info Desk/Deacon of the Week: Tony Graham

### May 27

Greeters: Mary Laughland and Ellen Shomo  
Info Desk/Deacon of the Week: Tom Hartman



**The staff will be out of the office on Tuesday, May 8 for a staff retreat. The office will be open.**

**The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.**





Please join the Plentinine Book Study on Tuesday, May 1 at 7 pm. The monthly study will be "The Mountain's Secret" by Mary Fulk Larson. This book is co-authored by HBC's own Mary Smith who will be leading the study. All are welcome to join us in Room B-4.



Please keep the following in your prayers upon the death of loved ones.

**Laura Logan upon the death of her father, Richard Parker.**

**Sherry Miller upon the death of her mother, Mary Stitt.**

**Susan Huffman upon the death of her father, Jerry Garrison.**

**Anita Staats upon the death of her mother, Marian Steffey.**

**Mike McCormick upon the death of his wife, Renae.**



**National Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 3**

The service for the Harrisonburg community will take place downtown on the south side of Court Square. In case of inclement weather the service will relocate to First Presbyterian Church. The service will begin at 12 noon and finish within the hour.

Steve Wingfield will give a message along with community leaders offering up prayers for the nation and our community.

**Prayer List**



**Our Church Family:**

Julie Aittama and Jeanne Christian

**Our Extended Church Family:**

Ryan Honeycutt, grandson of Don & Julie Aittama  
 Emma Holsinger, granddaughter of Mel & Wayne Hannah  
 Pauline Smith, aunt of Ron Smith  
 Patty Hobbs, friend of Julie Aittama  
 Family of Kim Carrington, friend of Julie Aittama  
 Fred Eberly, friend of Shirley Cobb

**Nursing Homes:**

Betty Acker & Libby Keihn, Bridgewater Nursing Home  
 Leary Baker, Hank Bowers & Elma Cobb, VMRC

**A Special Thank You**



In the saddest time after the loss of a loved one the Bereavement Team goes quietly about providing comfort to families and friends. They prepare delicious food and provide beautiful decorations for the receptions in the fellowship hall. This was most recently evident for the lovely reception provided for the Miller family and friends upon the death of their beloved Mary. Your volunteering is an essential ministry to

HBC and you are a blessing to many in their greatest hour and ease their heartbreak.

**Worship Attendance**

Date	Apr. 1	Apr. 8	Apr. 15	Apr. 22
Worship	271	200	166	196
Sunday School	113	92	82	96

# Harrisonburg Baptist Church

501 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

[www.hbcalive.org](http://www.hbcalive.org)



## "HBC Alive"

A Publication of Harrisonburg Baptist Church  
501 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
(540) 433-2456 [www.hbcalive.org](http://www.hbcalive.org)

Mark White, Senior Pastor

Rev. Eli Withers, Minister of Spiritual Formation

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Choir Director

Ebony Cleveland, Praise Band Leader

Dr. Tonya Menard, Pianist

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Katelyn Belcher, Youth Director

Susan Kiser, Financial Secretary

Amy Cyzick, Ministry Assistant

April Newsletter Deadline: May 20, 2018

Our mission is to go and make  
passionately devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



## Save the Date!

The church gazebo in memory of  
Andrea Lynch Lohr will be dedicated on  
Sunday, June 3 at 5 pm.

Please make plans to join us for this special  
celebration in the life of HBC.

