

HBC ALIVE

A Publication of Harrisonburg Baptist Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia

April 2021

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PASTOR'S PEN

DR. MATT WINTERS

Every day is an adventure on getting the girls to school. Most of the time, I experience some new delay/procrastination tactic. It still amazes me that shoes can never be found in time, even after an hour's notification that we're leaving for school.

On one recent morning, we made it to school and a teacher opened the door to let Samantha out and she said with lots of energy, "Why, good morning, Katherine!" Leigha and I burst out laughing that Samantha didn't even notice that the teacher called her by the wrong name. On occasion, Leigha has enjoyed needling her by calling her Katherine.

The great lesson is the gusto with which the teacher tried. Yes, she messed up the name but she made the attempt. Too often, we don't want to stretch ourselves for fear of failure. We may prefer to take the predictable route and not extend ourselves into new areas. Failure is ok. Messing up is fine. It's in those times that we actually learn something about ourselves, our ministry or our journey. Google's employees often celebrate dramatic failures that crashed and burned because those lessons learned in that process reveal data to inform future innovation. Not everything we do in worship, in ministry, in classes, in missions or in relationships works out successfully. Not all the sermons, songs or visits are well done. Not all the creative aspects of worship or even the written correspondence communicate the right intentions. But that has to be ok. We have to be ok with trial and error because we are always in the process of learning. As long as we can commit to improving and trying again, then we'll be most like what God wants of us and most like the disciples, who tried and failed, tried and failed, tried and failed—until one day they began to change the world.

-Pastor Matt

HOPEFUL IMAGINATION

MARY SMITH, LEADERSHIP TEAM

I am so excited for April 17th! Operation Inasmuch is a part of our identity at HBC. We believe that we are called to develop and use our God-given gifts for the good of the church, home, and society. This year, we are dedicating our day of work on April 17th to Hank Bowers, who had the vision in 2007 to bring OIAM to Harrisonburg, Virginia through our church. One man let God stir up his imagination. Here we are, fourteen years later, living the Word, not just one or two days a year, but every day, in all of our mission projects and all of our outreach ministries to our neighbors, to our community and to the world.

Jesus said in essence, “Inasmuch as you serve the least of these, you serve me.” *Matthew 25:40*

As I began writing this article, I realized I was quoting the book *Hopeful Imagination* by Mike Queen and Jayne Davis. In 2019, we read the book and held discussions in our Sunday school classes. We met over meals in homes to reflect on questions such as “What are some of the stories of our church?” and “How is God stirring up your imagination?” Operation Inasmuch is one of those stories. It is part of the fabric of who we are, but so are Bag Lunch, the Blessing Box, the Cheese Ministry and the Nasaruni Academy. Each was an idea of the imagination that started with one or two people.

Here are three main questions from *Hopeful Imagination* that we asked ourselves for over a year:

“What is in the shadow of our steeple?”

“What is ‘right next door’ to our church, so close that we can’t even see it—the faces, the needs?”

“What first step would help us to begin to make our way ‘across the parking lot?’”

Reading these questions again, I thought about our neighbors at the Grattan Street apartments, the guys at Phi Beta Chi fraternity who have helped us with several mission projects, and the college students in our houses on Liberty Street. We’ve made new friends over the past year and met the needs of many in our community during this pandemic. We’ve started a food pantry, become a major support for the Cheese Ministry, and extended our giving to

include Open Doors, the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and United in Christ Ministries. I feel this past year we’ve had a renewed focus and expanded our support to those in need.

So let me leave you with this final thought: How is God stirring up your “hopeful” imagination?

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

Sundays, 10:30am—end of service

Children’s Church is resuming! If you have a child in preschool or elementary school, bring them to the balcony by 10:30, where they will sit with the other children and adult leaders. (You can sit with them, too!) The children will stay in the balcony until the Children’s Message has been given and then will be excused into the Kids Alive area for a unique kind of children’s church. We will provide hand sanitizer for each child, as well as their own pencil box full of necessary supplies. We ask that the kids wear masks and that parents come to the Kids Alive area to pick up their children following the service.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering with Children’s Church, please contact Pastor Eli.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 28-July 1, 9-10:30am daily

Vacation Bible School is back! Of course it will look a little different this year, but we still plan on having a blast as we learn about God and the world God created for us to live in and enjoy. The theme this year is “Great Big Beautiful World” and we hope you can join us! There will be classes for preschool through the 5th grade and we need the rest of you as helpers to make this happen. We are planning to hold VBS in our yard outside under tents. We’re looking forward to a brand-new adventure!

If you have any questions or would like to help with VBS, please contact Pastor Eli or Sarah Northen.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Holy Week

Here are several important ways to deepen your faith journey throughout Holy Week as we look forward to a beautiful Easter!



DOWNTOWN LENTEN REFLECTIONS

March 29—April 2, 12:15-12:35pm

On Monday, March 29, Pastor Matt will join other pastors in the Downtown Lenten Series for a lunch time reflection (12:15-12:35). This series will continue each day (Monday through Friday) of Holy Week. Watch HBC's Facebook page for links to the videos.



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 1, 7pm

Join us for a Maundy Thursday communion service in the fellowship hall.

This service will be a gather-style service and will incorporate the hearts that have been hanging in the sanctuary each Sunday of Lent. We will post on our Facebook page an online Maundy Thursday communion service as well, though it will not be a live broadcast of the fellowship hall service.



GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

April 2, 12-6pm

You are invited to do a Stations of the Cross contemplative walk through the sanctuary on Good Friday. Timeslots of 15 minutes are available to allow for best social distancing. Sign up in the church foyer or online at <https://www.hbcalive.org/goodfriday>.



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

April 4, 7am

Weather permitting, we'll enjoy our Easter sunrise service in the yard. (In case of rain, we will meet in the sanctuary.) Our Easter Service will follow at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary.



EASTER FLOWER CROSS

April 4

Celebrate our resurrected Lord! Bring fresh flowers and greenery to adorn the Easter Cross on the lawn near the Main Street entrance. *Hallelujah, He is Risen!*

Deacon Ordination

Sunday, April 18

Last year, we postponed the deacon ordination due to the pandemic, so those deacon ordinations are carrying over to this year. We look forward to ordaining Nancy Shomo, Nico Nguimbi and Karen Burke.

Music Interns

We are pleased to welcome music interns Leisha Nissley and Jeremiah Wilcox to our Praise Team! Leisha is a sophomore studying piano at Bridgewater College. She will be playing piano and adding vocal harmony. Jeremiah is a freshman studying music at JMU and will be playing drums and other percussion.

Spring 2021 Small Groups

Some of our previous small groups have ended, but the following continue to meet:

TUESDAYS TOGETHER meets each Tuesday at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall (or gazebo as weather permits).

WHAT'S NEXT? College students are invited to join Brandon Hawley via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7pm for a conversation about what comes next after college.

LIVING LIVES IN RESPONSE TO JESUS focuses on living a life of discipleship in response to Jesus' call on our lives. It meets every other Thursday afternoons at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. (The dates for April are the 8th and the 22nd.)

MARRIAGE GROUP meets every other Thursday evening at 6 pm at the home of Phil and Debbie Douglas (April dates are the 8th and 22nd). Contact Debbie Douglas for more information.

Another small group meets on various weekday evenings (we decide from meeting to meeting which date is most convenient for the next gathering). Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 13 at 5 pm, at the home of Susan and Sam Huffman. We seek to study God's word and learn how to apply it to our lives. We are open to your suggestions for new topics of study so bring your ideas! If you are interested in joining this group or any of the above, reach out to Pastor Eli.

There is a small group for you!





SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021

8:30AM-12:00 PM

Breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall starting at 8:30.

We are dedicating the 2021 OIAM work days to Hank Bowers. Following is a list of projects. Several of these projects will start before April 17 and may need more time to complete. We need your help to make this day a success. You can sign up at <https://forms.gle/eUmTGoQPZcmcgcCHA> or by contacting the church office or Mary Smith at 540-222-5873 or mary22936@yahoo.com.

AVA Care Donations Drive Thru: We will be collecting specific care items for the new mom and baby. A full list will be sent out by April 7th with instructions of where to order these items online. If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation. Make checks payable to HBC and indicate "AVA Care" on your check.

Baptist College Ministry Revitalization: We'll be taking up carpet, placing discarded furniture in a dumpster, cleaning up the bushes and yard around the building, having the gutters cleaned, and staining the deck.

Harrisonburg Blacks Run Clean-Up, April 10: We have signed up for a team of ten people to clean up a section of Blacks Run. There are lots of sites that need some TLC. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

HBC Liberty Street Garage Clean-Up: We'll be sorting and cleaning out the garage behind our houses on Liberty Street.

HBC Maintenance and Repairs: We'll be discarding old latex and oil paint that have collected over years. Due to regulations for disposing of old paint, this project will be completed over the next two months following city guidelines. The oil paint will be discarded on May 8.

Yard Clean-Up for Jane Bowers: We'll be raking up old leaves, trimming bushes where needed, cleaning out and mulching flower beds.

Yard Clean-Up at HBC and Playground: We'll be cleaning up trash, raking up old leaves, trimming bushes, and pulling weeds around the church and playground. Power washing the gazebo and the white fencing, and a spreading a load of mulch are planned also. Forget-me-nots will be added to the plantings around the church.

Baking Cookies for First Responders/Neighbors: The children, with help from their moms, will be making cookies and boxing them up to give out to our first responders and neighbors. Cookies donated by HBC members will help the children fill up the boxes with a variety of cookies.

Planting Flowers in Pots for Seniors and Shut ins: The children, with a little help, will plant flowers in colorful pots to be given out on Sunday, April 18th to our seniors and shut-ins.

CREATION CARE NEWS

BLACKS RUN CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, April 10, 9am-12noon

Join us for this annual city of Harrisonburg event that is also a project of our HBC Operation Inasmuch, taking place one week before the main OIAM activities. Children are welcome to join our team. Sign up by calling the church office or contact Kathy Ritcher (540-908-0699). Covid safety protocol will be observed. For more info visit <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/cleanstream-clean-up-day>

HBC CREATION SUNDAY

April 25th, 10:30am

We look forward to a Creation Care emphasis in our worship service on Sunday, April 25th. Don't miss it! Our Creation Sunday correlates with this year's Earth Day on April 22nd.

MANY THANKS! to Dustyn Miller and Cindy & Doug Skelley for taking care of HBC recycling on a regular basis.

Because... "the earth is the Lord's!"



DEMENTIA MINISTRY UPDATE

GARY RITCHER

This past month, a small group met twice to discuss the book *Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia Through a Spiritual Lens* by retired Methodist Bishop Kenneth Carder. For our next step we would like to share what we have learned from this rich and challenging book with the others in the church, particularly those who are involved in leadership or in visitation. A meeting is being planned for later in April. We will be inviting representatives from two nearby churches to join the conversation. Please let Mary Smith or Gary Ritcher know if you are interested in learning more.

Forget-me-nots are the official flower of the Alzheimer's Society. They gently remind us to never forget those who have been lost to the disease.



LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS

DEB DOUGLAS, LEADERSHIP TEAM

The beauty of Spring is upon us. We celebrate Easter and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ who gave His life in order that we might have eternal life with Him!

Under the direction of Pastor Matt and the monthly training for the Deacons/Leadership Team, we are discussing the benefits, deficits and challenges related to balancing the servant role and the leadership role on the part of each Deacon. We are working to connect to the committees of the church in a more intentional manner in order to have better communication and oversight as to what is happening in the church. We were reminded and encouraged to consider ways to ensure that visitors (in-person and online) are approached so they feel welcome and know their concerns, requests for prayer and questions are addressed.

The last year has limited the work of many of the committees in the church. The Leadership Team is asking those currently serving on a committee that are scheduled to rotate off at the end of June if they would consider staying on those committees through

December. The Operations Manual instructs the Leadership Team that position descriptions must be updated every five years. In light of this, an ad hoc committee has been established by the Leadership Team to go through the manual. Those serving on this committee are Pastor Matt, Mark Griffin, Laura Fly, Phil Douglas and Janet Smith. Kim Brubaker will assist with tracking any changes to be recommended.

A big praise is the mortgage on the Liberty Street houses has been paid in full! Continue to pray for God's direction for the possible ministries that God will bring for us.

At the end of April, four of the Leadership Team members will end their terms and four new members will begin their terms on May 1st. New officers will be elected in April to begin duties in May and families will be assigned to each of the new Deacons. We are so thankful that the work of the church goes on and that God is blessing this ministry.

As we continue to read through the Bible this year, may we be given a hunger and a thirst for God's Word. May we hear him speaking to our hearts and allow Him to move us in unison to the mission and calling He has prepared for us!

Pray for the Leadership Team to be led by God and to follow His direction as we move into the future for His honor and glory.



TUESDAY, MAY 4

HBC is hosting an appreciation dinner for the Harrisonburg Police Department on Tuesday, May the 4th (be with you). You are invited to join us as Hospitality Ambassadors to greet the police officers and enjoy a homecooked meal with them. Contact the church office or go to <https://forms.gle/2Iz64FjxBWWf245F7> to sign up to be a Hospitality Ambassador at lunch (11:30am-1:30pm) or dinner (6:30-8:00pm).



FLAMINGO FLOCKING ADVENTURES

YOUTH UPDATE

What have the Youth been up to lately? We have been busy fundraising for the mission trip to Mexico for Summer 2022! Throughout the month of March, we have traveled all over Harrisonburg and Rockingham County to deliver beautiful pink plastic birds to grace the yards of church members and their neighbors. During our flocking adventures we have experienced getting the church van stuck in mud, being caught red-handed by a soccer coach, flocking while wearing a large inflatable flamingo costume, and even flocking the wrong address! The youth group has had so much fun participating in this fundraiser and we are beyond grateful to YOU for making it such a success. So far, we have raised \$664.75 and we still have many more “flockings” to carry out. Thank you!



THE BIG PAY OFF

KAREN FOLSOM, TRUSTEE CHAIR

Congratulations HBC members! “The Big Pay Off” has paid off! All of the church’s properties at 301, 303, 305, and 309 Liberty Street are now mortgage-free. Church-wide reading of the book *Hopeful Imagination* in 2019 sparked this idea of paying off the mortgages. Your faithful stewardship dedicated to removing this debt will open other ministries for the church.

I thought you might want to know some history behind these church properties and how HBC acquired them. Many years ago, several members of this congregation had the vision of purchasing these homes, not knowing what the future would hold. The members were afraid the church would be landlocked and future expansion would be impossible. Many homes on the Main Street side were coming up for sale but the church had never purchased them.

The large house adjacent to the parking lot across from the Liberty Street portico is owned by the Knights of Columbus. In the 1980s, the church had an opportunity to purchase this home for \$40,000 but turned it down.

Later, two houses on Liberty Street also came up for sale. The church decided not to purchase them, but in June 1993 several members of the church established Christian Realty LLC with the intent of purchasing properties near the church. Members of the LLC understood that they were making two commitments: 1) Giving to this LLC would be above and beyond their tithe, and 2) The property would eventually go to Harrisonburg Baptist Church. About 34 HBC members bought into this LLC. Shares were \$1,000 each and one could purchase as many shares as desired, or just purchase one-half or one-quarter of a share.

The red brick houses at 303 and 305 Liberty Street became available first and were purchased by Christian Realty LLC. All the labor to maintain these houses came from the very same members of the LLC so the sweat equity was a real entity. There were members of the church that could not afford to buy into the LLC but gave their time and talent towards all the maintenance. A few years later, 309 Liberty Street became available and the LLC purchased that house as well. The house, however, was in such disrepair that the decision was made to demolish it and create a parking lot.

The property at 301 Liberty Street was owned by Sally Hane. In 1997, Christian Realty LLC negotiated a contract with Sally that paid her \$10,000 with the understanding that HBC would purchase the home upon her death. The church maintained the grounds while she was still living there and provided any help she needed. Christian Realty LLC was dissolved in 2006 and all of the Liberty Street property was handed over to HBC. Sally died in 2010 and the property came into the church’s possession along with a new mortgage. The money from the rental properties has always made it sustainable and the church has never had to use its own operating budget to fund any of the properties. The church now employs a local realty company to manage the rent and maintenance.

The outstanding balance of 301 Liberty Street is where this story takes its final turn. In December 2019, with a mortgage balance of \$113,000, HBC started “The Big Payoff” campaign. Despite the pandemic making attendance and collections problematic, the payoff was successfully completed in March 2021. As of this time, the church is debt-free!

I hope you have had fun going down memory lane with the story of these properties. God had a plan for HBC long before we knew what would unfold and what still is to become of these houses. It almost seems like we could relate all these years to the Israelites and their wandering until God showed them the way.

In Jeremiah 29:11-12 the Bible says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” God works even during a pandemic to move His people to do great things. You rose to the challenge and made us one step closer to envisioning

“The Next Big Step” for HBC’s future.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Members:

Faye Bland, Jane Bowers,
David Downey, Dennis Greene,
Wayne & Sally Hannah, Rosemary Lonberger,
Glenn & Laurie Loucks, Judy Miller, Sara Kate Moore,
Bill & Barbara Pond, Karen & Kerry Potter,
Jimmy & Nancy Russell, Daniel Sanger, Constance Via

Extended Family:

Peggy Miller—Dustyn Miller's mother
Jean Ann & Dennis Smith—Cathy Baugh's sister &
brother-in-law
Ellie Melton—Julie Aittama's great-niece
Wayne Shifflett—Joyce Deavers' brother
Don Havermann—Sherri Chapman's cousin
Ann Fowler—former HBC SS class member
Becky Morris—Ellen Shomo's friend
Dorothy Shenk—Randy Shenk's mother (hospice care)
Margaret Straw—Courtney Shiffer's mother
Karen Farrier—Jessica Winters' mother



FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

(2/28/21)



| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Budget needs to date | \$ 94,005.00 |
| Budget Receipts to date | \$ 72,520.00 |

Non-Budget/Designated Offerings for February

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| • Hank Bowers Memorial | \$ 1,240.00 |
| • Betty Acker Memorials | \$ 80.00 |
| • Cheese Ministry | \$ 40.00 |
| • Love Fund | \$ 150.00 |
| • Nasaruni Academy | \$ 100.00 |
| • Liberty Street Mortgage | \$ 100.00 |



COMMUNITY GRANT UPDATE

The community grant committee received 18 outstanding grant applications. There are so many quality organizations doing good work in the area. Unfortunately, we had to trim the list to two recipients but we wish we could have done more. We will announce the grant recipients at the worship service on Sunday, April 11. We also will introduce you to other grant applicants in the coming months because we believe they could benefit from our church in other ways, which includes shared space, volunteer opportunities and other layers of support. We hope you will prayerfully consider how you can continue to be a part of our community's heritage and narrative.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

As the weather warms up, we will be planning to resume outdoor worship as it allows for more social distancing. Of course, when we're able to worship fully indoors, we'll celebrate that day. But, until then, we are planning on returning to outdoor worship for the summer. We would be very interested to have some assistance moving equipment in and out of the church both before and after worship. If you are able to give us a hand, I hope you'll do so.

SYMPATHY

We express Christian sympathy to the family of Roger Jones, who passed away on February 26, 2021.



THANK YOU!

Hats OFF to our HBC youth for making valentines for our home bound friends. The enthusiasm and creativeness of our youth was appreciated by many.

We Love our HBC Youth! ❤️ ❤️
- The Visitation Team

Thanks to the Finance Committee who designated end-of-year surplus funds to purchase a new trash can to be installed beside the Blessing Box. This will help keep our yard and gazebo free of trash! Thanks to Deb and Phil Douglas for ordering and setting it up.



APRIL 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Staff Days Off Susan—April 10-21 Eli—April 27-May 3 | | | | 1 7pm Maundy Thursday Service | 2 Good Friday 12-6pm Stations of the Cross | 3 10am Community Lunch (Ruiz Team) |
| 4 7am Easter Sunrise Service 10:30am Community Worship 2pm Kachin Baptist Church | 5 Office Closed 6:30pm Scouts | 6 11am Tuesdays Together (FH) 1:30pm Staff Mtg 4:30pm Missions Committee Mtg (FH) 6pm Finance Committee Mtg (FH) | 7 10am Ladies Prayer Group (B-4) 6pm Choir Practice 6:30 Children's Committee Mtg (FH) | 8 6pm Praise Band Practice | 9 6pm Maranzatto Dress Rehearsal | 10 10am Community Lunch (Petit Team) |
| 11 10:30am Community Worship 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study | 12 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting (FH) | 13 11am Tuesdays Together (FH) 6:30pm Book Club (Gazebo or FH) | 14 10am Ladies Prayer Group (B-4) 6pm Choir Practice | 15 6:30pm PSC (Parlor) | 16 Youth at Eagle Eyrie | 17 8:30am-12pm Operation Inasmuch 10am Community Lunch (Youth Team) 12:15-2:15pm Hanna Maranzatto Recital |
| 18 Ordination Service 10:30am Community Worship 2pm Kachin Baptist Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study | 19 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30 Personnel Committee Mtg (B+) 6:30 VBS Planning Committee (FH) 6:30pm Scouts | 20 11am Tuesdays Together (FH) May NL Articles Due | 21 10am Ladies Prayer Group (B-4) 6pm Choir Practice | 22 6pm Praise Band Practice | | |
| 25 Creation Sunday 10:30am Community Worship | 26 3:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts | 27 11am Tuesdays Together (FH) | 28 10am Ladies Prayer Group (B-4) 6pm Choir Practice | 29 6pm Choir Practice | 30 6pm Choir Practice | |

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Apr 4 — Jeff Obenschain
 Apr 11 — Karen Folsom
 Apr 18 — Joyce Deavers
 Apr 25 — David Downey



| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Pat Dickens | 20 Heidi Ruiz |
| 2 Richard Baugh | 21 Tom Hartman |
| 3 Barbara Betts | Annabelle Porter |
| 5 Shirley Cobb | 23 Rob Lovell |
| 6 Patrick Fly | 25 Katherine Carroll |
| 12 Ellen Lohr | Noah Carroll |
| Neil Showalter | 26 Cathy Lawrence |
| 13 Sharon Wampler | Philecta Staton |
| 14 Jane Messinger | 28 Lynda Lee |
| 17 Bryan Acker | |



ADDRESS CHANGES

Matt & Jessica Winters
 Leigha & Samantha
 2627 N. Star Terrace
 Rockingham, VA 22802



Harrisonburg Baptist Church

501 South Main Street
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"HBC Alive"

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Dr. Matthew L. Winters, Senior Pastor

Rev. Eli Withers, Associate Pastor

Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Minister of Youth

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship

Ebony Cleveland, Praise Band Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

May Newsletter Deadline: April 20, 2020

Please submit articles to
Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

