



HBC ALIVE

A Publication of Harrisonburg Baptist Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia

February 2021

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INVESTING IN PARTNERS

DR. MATT WINTERS

As the year came to a conclusion, so many of us celebrated the end of 2020, which was a hard year on so many levels. Our country dealt with chaos, a virus altered our lifestyles and we had to reimagine what church could be. Yet, Cathy Baugh's testimony on Founder's Day reminded us of how much we contributed to the life of the community. We gave food, led Bible studies, worshiped outside, and shined light. We purposefully and safely engaged even when our spirits may have hoped we would become passive. We thank everyone for doing your part to keep us healthy and safe. We know that many of you have not been a part of the visible journey but without your support we could not have done what God did through us. Each of you have provided the foundation for what we've done.

I'd like to take a moment to share a new ministry opportunity that the pandemic created. Due to the reduced operating costs as well as your generous tithes and gifts, we had a surplus at the end of 2020! First, we praise God for this immense blessing! While there are a lot of ways to invest this money in the operational costs of the church, the Finance Committee chose to invest a tithe of the surplus into the life of the community. They allocated \$6,000 for a grant to local non-profits who can help HBC achieve its goal of loving the Shenandoah Valley. A special committee has been formed to create the grant and allocate the award. I'm so humbled by this act of selflessness and am so proud of the church's ability and willingness to invest in our community. Together, we can make our community stronger. We all know the challenges that 2020 brought, but we hope this gift will inspire our partner organizations to keep their work alive. Who knows, we may find God at work in new and unusual ways.

Please hear me say thank you to each of you as you enabled this opportunity to happen. We'll share more as the committee begins its work.

-Pastor Matt

THE FUTURE—NOT TO FEAR

BILL LEE, LEADERSHIP TEAM

Well, 2020 is over. The new year is here. I think 2021 was perhaps looked forward to more than any other year, certainly, that I can remember. Things aren't back to normal, but I think many can start to see that light at the end of the tunnel. What can each of us do at this time? The Bible has many passages that tell us not to fear the future. Romans 8:28 says "All things work together to those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

The book of Daniel tells of this also. Daniel and his friends were taken captive by the king. He continued to believe in God and His message. Nebuchadnezzar had the dream that none of the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, or astrologers could explain. Daniel showed wisdom and tact with his calm assurance in God and he thanked and praised God for making known to him the meaning of the king's dream. What does our future hold? Just like Daniel, it holds the eternal plan of God. God is in control. He wants us to have faith, to follow him, to respect him, and to serve him.

So, what can we do? Obviously the first step is to stay true to our God. HBC in the past year has done some wonderful things – Outdoor Services, Online Worship, Cheese Ministry, Blessing Box, Grattan Street Ministry, the Nasaruni Academy, and so many, many others. This year make a plan to share your love with others. I was so touched when I heard of the 900 people, who over 3 days, just paid for the person in line behind them at a Dairy Queen in Minnesota. Pay it forward, it is called—such a simple thing.

There are many opportunities to do good in our church. You can send a note to members who need extra prayers, or to thank someone for some of the good things they have done. You can help our community by supporting the new Alzheimer's Ministry (whether in person or online with the planned book discussion) or add to the Blessing Box. Also, there are opportunities with HBC being very active recently with Open Doors, Bag Lunch, the Cheese Ministry, and even delivering food to under-resourced COVID-19 patients who are in need of food upon discharge. Pray about it, get involved,

reach out to others, and be a force for good. You can do it! If you do, this year will be a lot better for our world, for our community and for you.

Psalms 121 says "The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over you coming and going both now and forevermore."

Do not be discouraged. Live in the hope and promise of Good. And be part of that Goodness. Love God and love others. Remember, that's the greatest commandment.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE 2021

DEB DOUGLAS, LEADERSHIP TEAM

We appreciate the privilege of reading through the Bible together as a church. We would like to invite you to discuss what we are reading by joining us on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm via the internet. We are using Teams (same concept as Zoom) to connect and are trying to keep our time together to an hour. If you are interested, please contact Deb Douglas at dad5775@gmail.com or let the office know and we will get you the information and set it up for you to join us.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Matthew 24:35

LENTEN SERIES

Several local churches are offering an online Lenten Worship series for the Wednesdays of Lent, as well as Holy Week. From 12:15-12:35 each Wednesday in Lent (February 17-March 24), local churches will partner and offer a brief worship time of prayer, devotional thought, and song. We hope you'll worship with us on those days during your lunch break. The services will be available online after they go live, as you'll find with our worship services. HBC will participate on Monday, March 29 (the Monday of Holy Week). We'll send more information as it's updated by the local leadership team.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Scout Sunday

FEBRUARY 14

On February 14, we look forward to sharing another Scout Sunday with the church. While we won't be able to have our pancake breakfast, we still look forward to the Scouts joining us in worship. We are also hoping to put together a work project for the Scouts and church members to accomplish together.

Gather Service/Ash Wednesday

6:30PM, FEBRUARY 17

Psalm 51:10-12 offers us this prayer... "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit."

This prayer becomes our prayer—especially each year during the Lenten season. Lent is a season of repentance and preparation to help us more fully celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. On Wednesday, February 17, at 6:30 pm, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly Gather Service as we begin the journey of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Join us in this service for all ages as we pray together to God for a clean heart and a new and right spirit.

Small Groups

Most of our small groups continue to be on hold through the winter. The plan is to get them going again once the surge in Covid cases has died down a bit. If you have not been plugged into a small group and are interested in getting plugged into one in the Spring, feel free to reach out to Eli at any time. We will have another group studying *White Fragility* as well as a continuation of the *Change & Growth* group on Monday evenings with Nancy Shomo (studying the book *You Are Not Alone* by Max Lucado); *What's Next?* for college students led by Brandon Hawley; *Juggling*

Life's Demands led by Chris and Katelyn Belcher; *Living Lives in Response to Jesus* group with Eli on Thursday afternoons, and *Serving Christ Together* led by the Cudes at a time TBA.

Safety and Security Team

KAREN FOLSOM

You may not be aware that HBC has a Safety and Security Team. We started working on this team over a year ago but before we could really jump into it, COVID hit. Before the pandemic, the LT approved the formation of this team and we purchased an upgraded first aid kit, an AED, radios with headsets, and 12 cameras. Some of these cameras are located outside and some inside the building. They record only video and no audio is ever available. Outdoor cameras have also been installed on the Liberty Street properties.

HBC felt the need for a more structured plan in case of any emergency. The Safety Team consists of Phil Douglas, Chris Belcher, Mark Griffin, Jeff Obenschain, Gary Lohr, TW Johnson, and Kent & Karen Folsom. If you see us on a Sunday morning with something in our ears and a radio, not to worry as this is how we communicate to each other without disturbing members during the service. We have 2 large TVs in the secretaries' offices so they can also monitor the grounds and inside the building while they are at work. On each Sunday morning, one of the Team is responsible for watching the monitors and making sure all is well.

All exterior doors are locked at 10:45AM each Sunday as a security measure. There are signs outside the Main Street and Liberty Street doors directing anyone after that time to enter at the office door on the North side of the building. That way, the person watching the monitors can grant them access with the lock system in place. This is a safety precaution to protect all of our members. Remember you can exit ANY door in case of emergency, regardless if it is locked or not.

If you have any questions or concerns about this team, please feel free to contact me at karenkfolsom@gmail.com.



Missions Committee Update

MARY SMITH

SAVE THE DATE: Operation InAsMuch April 17, 2021— This will be an HBC day of service. There will be projects in the church as well as outside in the surrounding neighborhood and community. The date is Saturday, April 17th with a snow/rain date of Saturday, April 24th. More information will be provided in the February Newsletter, or you can contact Mary Smith (540-222-5873).

Nasaruni Academy Updates—At the end of 2020, Nasaruni Academy raised \$33,283 in donations and there is someone who will match these donations up to \$30,000. They are now finishing the construction of the new high school and dormitories. The school will have a library, computer lab, administrative offices and more. They may have enough money to also build living quarters for the teachers. God has honored the efforts of Michelle, Alice, and Moses, and blessed the girls at the Nasaruni Academy. Thank you for your donations and continued support.

BGAV Alma Hunt Grant Received—HBC submitted and received a 2020 Alma Hunt State Missions Offering Fund Grant of \$1,000. A stipulation of the grant was that this grant be used for a new ministry within our church that has been a result of the pandemic. The pop-up food pantry HBC created and sustained over the last eight months was that ministry. We asked for the grant money to assist us in creating cabinets to house the staples and supplies for future food needs. Cabinetry across the back of the fellowship stage has been discussed before and seemed the best place to create this space for storage. This grant proposal and submission was approved by the Leadership Team and the Missions Committee.



HAVE YOU HEARD??
Stay tuned for more special announcements about HBC mission projects and ways you can be involved!

Youth Group Update

REV. KATELYN BELCHER



The youth group recently began studying the book of Exodus in a series titled "The Wilderness." We believe this topic is very timely right now because many of us may relate to what the displaced Israelites were feeling and going through. They were literally wandering through the wilderness and waiting for God to make a move and to give them direction. Going through the Covid-19 pandemic, and even just the winter months, can feel like being stuck with no direction. Throughout the series, our youth group will work to understand the trials of the Israelites and how God responds to our disobedience with discipline, and our doubts and fears with gentleness. Ultimately, they will learn that God fulfills the promises made to God's people.

And thanks to a wonderful idea from Rosemary Lonberger, the youth have also been working on making Valentines for church members who are staying home most of the time and those who are in nursing homes. We had a great time trying to come up with cheesy valentines and we hope and pray that they will be a blessing to those who will be receiving them.



FINANCIAL NEWS

2020 Year-End Report

2020 Budget	498,247.00
Year-to-Date Receipts as of 12/31/18	475,987.87
Year-to-Date Expenses Paid as of 12/31/18	420,001.01
Net receipts over expenses	<u>55,986.86</u>
Short-term restricted funds added back	7,340.64
Total End of Year Excess Funds	<u>\$63,327.50</u>

The 2021 budget as approved in Nov is \$543,143.00

The pro-rated weekly amount needed is \$10,445.00

Snapshot for January 2021

Pro-rated budget as of 1/17/21	31,335.00
Receipts as of 1/17/21	19,970.00
Expenses paid as of 1/17/21	610.37
Net Total as of 1/17/21	<u>\$19,359.63</u>
Balance due on Liberty Street Mortgage	\$12,700.00

End-of-Year Surplus Distribution

As mentioned earlier in the Pastor's Article, the fiscal year 2020 allowed the church to have a surplus of \$63,327.50. This is a result of your selfless giving for which we are so grateful. We praise God that even in the midst of a pandemic, we were able to reduce spending and increase giving. The surplus has been distributed in a variety of ways listed below. A tithe is given back to the community through a grant, as Pastor Matt mentioned earlier. The remaining funds are redistributed in the life of the church below:

- \$ 2,000 Missions Committee for building shelving and storage on the back wall of the stage for the development of a Food Pantry Ministry
- \$ 2,000 Summer Ministry Intern (10 weeks) that will be partially be paid by a matching grant from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- \$ 6,000 Tithe of the remaining fund via community grants as allocated by the Grant Committee
- \$ 1,000 Leadership team request for a trash can near the blessing box
- \$ 2,327.50 Deposit into Operational Reserve Fund, for emergency purposes
- \$10,000 Deposit into the operating funds
- \$40,000 Add to Building Major Maintenance Fund for building repairs
- \$63,327.50 Total remaining at End of Year 2020

*Finance Committee — Phil Douglas, Chair;
Don Aittama; David Lawrence; Dustyn Miller; Ted Rose;
Vickie Westlake*

Upcoming Special Offering

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, March 7—Every gift resources thousands of missionaries engaged in church planting and compassion ministries across the United States, Canada and their territories.

Your generosity can change lives. Please pray for God's leading as you consider how you can support missionaries and bring the hope of the gospel to the lost in North America.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Members:

Julie Aittama, Jane Bowers,
David Downey, Dennis Greene,
Wayne & Sally Hannah, Judy Miller,
Karen & Kerry Potter, Jimmy & Nancy Russell,
Daniel Sanger, Constance Via



Extended Family:

Burrell Holland—Rosemary Lonberger's brother
Susan Douma—Sherri Chapman's cousin
Doris Jean Shifflett—Joyce Deavers' sister-in-law
Charles Cavallo—Noelle Carroll's friend
Becky Morris—Ellen Shomo's friend
Dorothy Shenk—Randy Shenk's mother
Margaret Straw—Mother of Courtney Shiffer
Karen Farrier—Jessica Winters' mother



SYMPATHY

We express Christian sympathy to

-Jane Bowers on the death of
Hank Bowers.

-Amie & Brian O'Dell on the death
of Amie's brother, Steve Sexton.

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Caring Members of HBC,

Thank you for your generous gift bag of Never Alone,
cookies and candy. I pray your Christmas was as
special as mine. I look forward to seeing you without
masks and getting close. Is that wishful thinking?

Love and prayers,
Tracie Ward

Our sincerest Thank You for all the many cards we
received after my Daddy's death. Your words of
encouragement and especially your prayers deeply
touched our hearts. May 2021 bring you abundant
blessings.

Amie & Brian O'Dell

Thank you HBC folks for all the cards and notes we
received from you all for the passing of our mother,
grandmother, and great-grandmother, Betty
(Granny) Acker. We appreciate all the love you have
shown us. We would also like to thank Rev. Matt
Winters for his calls and notes. May 2021 be a year
full of blessings for all of you.

Sincerely,
Bryan Acker; Frank and Annette Sprinkel; Dan and
Katie Hylton, Madelyn and Molly; Grant and Jennifer
Parrish, Allison and Nathan

Dear Members,

Sally and I want to thank you for the book that was
given to us for Christmas. Max Lucado is one of my
favorite authors. He has a great gift for words. I'm
enjoying it greatly. Thank you again for thinking of us
at this special season of the year.

We hope to be able to worship with you again, but
the doctors have said that I could not drive anymore.
So we have to depend on our son to take us to church
with him. Hoping to be able to attend worship again
soon. May God's blessings be with you in your
continued service to Him.

Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Yours in Christ's love,
Wayne & Sally Hannah

PS The ruins on the card (shown to the left) is the
ruins of the castle where my family originated from in
Sorbie, Scotland in the 1500's.





FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts	2 10am Tuesdays Together (FH)	3 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 7pm Choir Practice	4	5	6 10am Community Lunch (HBC Youth Team)
7 10:30am Community Worship 2pm Kachin Baptist Church 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	8 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting (FH)	9 10am Tuesdays Together (FH) 6:00pm Finance Committee Mtg (FH)	10 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 7pm Choir Practice	11	12	13 10am Community Lunch (Obenschain Team)
14 Valentines Day Scout Sunday 10:30am Community Worship 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	15 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts	16 10am Tuesdays Together (FH)	17 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	18	19	20 10am Community Lunch (Rayos de Esperanza) March NL Articles Due
21 10:30am Community Worship 2pm Kachin Baptist Church 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	22 3:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts	23 10am Tuesdays Together (FH)	24 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 7pm Choir Practice	25	26	27 10am Community Lunch (S Miller Team)
28 10:30am Community Worship 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study					<div> Staff Days Off Eli—Feb 10-12 </div>	



STAFF CORNER

We extend our grateful appreciation and congratulations to Susan Kiser, who has been HBC's Financial Ministry Assistant for three years as of February 12, 2018. We appreciate all that you do, Susan!

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Feb. 7 — Faye Ritchie
Feb. 14 — Mary Smith
Feb. 21 — Nico Nguimbi
Feb. 28 — Mark Griffin



7 Patti Good	21 Trace Belcher
Addison Ritchie	Julia Obenschain
8 Judy Simmons	22 Nomene Paul
Jim Wampler	24 Caroline Lohr
12 Dawn Krall	Sharon Lovell
15 Ellen Shomo	25 Ebony Cleveland
16 Jonathan Phaga	26 Tom Ward, III
17 Avery Ellis	Jay Webb, III
Laura Fly	27 Laura Logan
Jimmy Russell	28 Joshua Fly
18 Victoria Moutinho	Don Musselman



Harrisonburg Baptist Church

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801



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Dr. Matthew L. Winters, Senior Pastor

Rev. Eli Withers, Minister of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Minister of Youth

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship Ministries

Ebony Cleveland, Praise Band Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

March Newsletter Deadline: February 20, 2020

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

Let us love
one another
for love
comes
from God
Everyone
who loves
has been
born of God
& knows God

1 JOHN 4:7