



JUNE 2021

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

God's Economy

REV. MATT WINTERS

I remember the summer between my junior and senior year of college. My home church, Marion Baptist, had two openings for summer interns. One of my best friends and I were both selected to serve that summer. We had both been away at college for three years—he at JMU, of all places—so it was a neat opportunity to come back to the familiar but in an unfamiliar role: leading a ministry.

A home church is a beautiful environment in which to learn. One can see the familiar faces and easily know how to navigate the community. Yet, challenges abound. How will a person be recognized as a leader? How can one overcome errors of years gone by? What I found to be true wasn't in the comfortable or in the uncomfortable. What mattered was the spirit that lingered. The church wanted to be a teaching church—a church of invitation and hospitality, which allowed us to be stretched, to grow, to ebb and flow, to make mistakes, and to practice grace.

I can't fully recall much of anything that we accomplished in the way of landmark success. But, I did decide that God had called me to church ministry. That summer helped provide a foundation for the future. And, while I rarely ever returned to that community for more than a few days at a time, they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

This issue:

Covid-19 Update
Welcome to Our Summer Intern
PAGE 02

Vacation Bible School
Summer Small Groups
Farewell
PAGE 03

Youth Spring Retreat
PAGE 04

Recognition of Graduates
PAGE 05

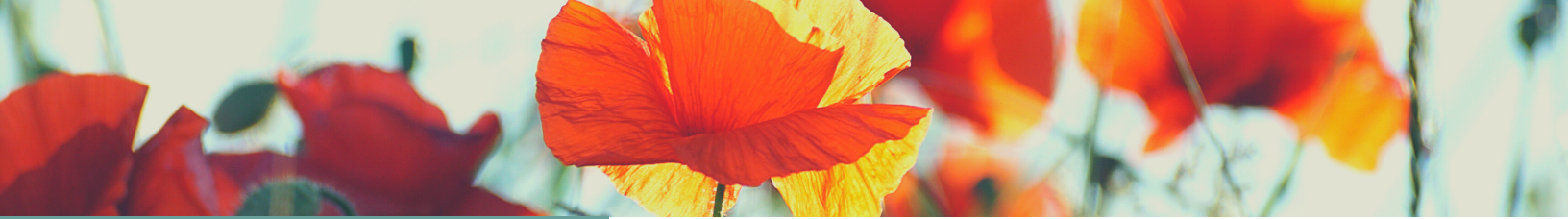
Moving Forward Together
PAGE 06

Missions Committee Updates
PAGE 07

New Normal
PAGE 08

Prayer Concerns
Financial Updates
PAGE 10

Calendar & Birthdays
PAGE 11



Covid-19 Update

With respect to the new guidance issued by the CDC and Governor of Virginia, we want to announce the following updates to our policies. We want everyone to be healthy and safe. Each of us have done our part over these many months, and we thank you for what you've done!

- If you have been vaccinated for COVID-19, you are welcome to leave your mask at home. Of course, you may still wear a mask if you so choose.
- If you are unvaccinated, we encourage you to wear your mask for your own health benefit.
- Parents should decide what's best for their children with regard to masks.
- We plan to eliminate the pew ribbons as social distancing measures have been relaxed as of May 28.

"GOD'S ECONOMY" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

decided I was worth the investment regardless of how I might benefit them in the long run. The truth is, they were trusting God's economy. They were willing to share their space so that one of God's ministers could grow.

That's the beauty of our opportunity this summer. We have a chance to offer space for a young man who is exploring how God plans to use him—in vocational ministry or in some other facet. We want to give him the opportunity to learn. We want to extend grace, hospitality, love, encouragement, honor and peace. We want to see him become who God is creating him to be, even if that vantage point is years down the road. We trust in God's economy and what God is doing. In truth, the fact that we can be a part of his story is worth praising God that he sent Justin our way.

So, this summer, take a moment to do your small part to invest in God's kingdom work. Take Justin out to a meal, invite him into your home, share life with him, and offer to help him. You may find that it helps your ministry as much as it does his.

Welcome to Our Summer Intern

Justin Mofield is joining us as a student intern for the summer! Justin attends Clemson University and has a background in electrical engineering but is exploring a call to ministry.

This summer he will work with the youth, children, missions, VBS, outreach and worship. Your assistance and patience will help make the internship successful. As he considers his calling to vocational ministry, this placement will be just one of many markers God uses in his life to provide clarity. Imagine taking two months to experience what your possible new vocation is like. That's what Justin is about to experience with us. I pray that we'll all be excited to play a role in Justin's ministry and look forward to what God will do through all of us together.



Vacation Bible School!

JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 6:30-8:00PM

Now is the time to register your kids for Vacation Bible School! It is important that the kids are registered in advance this year so we can be 100% sure that we have enough volunteers and materials and can keep everyone safe! VBS is for kids from 3 years old (out of diapers) through the fifth grade. Sign up online at hbcalive.org/vbs, or pick up a registration form in the church foyer. Encourage your kids to invite their friends, too!



VBS will be kicked off in Children's Church on Sunday, June 27. We will begin sharing with our children about God's love for this Great Big Beautiful World through the telling the creation story. From Monday, June 28 through Thursday, July 1 we will be meeting each evening from 6:30 to 8 pm. This week will include Bible Stories, arts and crafts, games, and science experiments. Maybe even Dr. Matt and Professor Heidi will make a visit!

Parents and grandparents, if you are available to help with VBS, please contact Sarah Northen or Pastor Eli. This promises to be a fantastic week of ministry with our HBC kids and the kids of our community! Please be praying for this week even now!

Summer Small Group

Interested in joining a summer small group that focuses on learning to be a more committed disciple of Christ? We are planning to do a study of the book The Good and Beautiful God by James Bryan Smith. The main focus of the book is on the character of God and how we move into a life of intimacy with God.

If you would like to join us, please contact the church office or fill out a Communication Card and mark which time of day works best for you to meet. Contact Pastor Eli with any questions.

Farewell

On May 30, 2021, we said, "Goodbye and Thank You" to Ebony Cleveland for five years of excellent leadership as the Praise Team Leader. Her vocals and spirit brought smiles to our faces, and she has been an integral part of our worship these years. We wish her the best in her future endeavors. We thank her for sharing of herself with us in worship and helping us praise God from whom all blessings flow.



Youth Events

JUNE 6, 5:30-7:30PM
Dinner & Bible Study

JUNE 13, 10:30AM
Youth Sunday &
Graduate Recognition

JUNE 13, 5:30-7:30PM
Dinner & Bible Study

JUNE 16-18, 10AM-2PM
Grow & Serve

JUNE 20
No Youth - Father's Day

JUNE 26, 9-11AM
Community Bag Lunch

JUNE 27, 5:30-7:30PM
Dinner & Bible Study

JUNE 28-JULY 1, 6:30-8PM
Vacation Bible School



Youth Spring Retreat

The youth group enjoyed a much-needed retreat to Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center in Lynchburg, VA on April 23-25. We spent the weekend learning about spiritual gifts. We discovered what was considered to be a special gift from the Holy Spirit and we spent some time taking an assessment to learn each individual's top three gifts. After identifying their gifts, the youth were challenged to USE their God-given gifts to serve the church in order to grow God's Kingdom. We are so excited to see how the weekend impacted our teens to use their gifts!

In addition to learning about spiritual gifts, we also took full advantage of Eagle Eyrie's recreational facilities. We played on the swings and giant slide, we played a few games of kickball and beach volleyball. And when the rain set in, we played card games, Clue, and did some diamond painting. There might have even been a pillow fight or two!

We are so grateful for the support of our church for allowing our teens the opportunity to get away for a few days and worship God on the mountain!





The Class of 2021



Hunter Hayes

SON OF
DAVID & ANGELA HAYES

Hunter is graduating from Spotswood High School. He will be attending James Madison University this fall, majoring in Computer Science.



Hayley Simmons

DAUGHTER OF
SCOTT & MISSY
SIMMONS

Hayley is graduating from Turner Ashby High School with an advanced studies diploma. She will attend Blue Ridge Community College for two years and plans to later transfer to James Madison University to prepare for a career in early childhood education.



Addison Ritchie

SON OF
GREG & FAYE RITCHIE

Addison Ritchie graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army on May 22nd. Addison earned his Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Space Science. In July, he will report to Fort Benning, Georgia for training in the Army's Armor division.

Following training, he will be stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado.



“The history of the Harrisonburg Baptist Church is more than the story of brick and mortar. It is the story of the lives of men and women who have sought to find their places of service within the Household of God. Some have served in conspicuous places of leadership; while others have labored quietly behind the scene. All of these members have helped write the history of the Harrisonburg Baptist Church.”

“THE LIVING CHURCH: THE PAST IS PROLOGUE”
BY WILLIAM P. TUCK
JUNE 1, 1969

Moving Forward Together

MARY SMITH

William Tuck served as pastor of HBC from 1966 to 1969. The above quotation is from his article in the forward of [A History of the Harrisonburg Baptist Church 1869-1969](#). He was reflecting on the men and women who had forged our church for the first one hundred years. In 2019 we celebrated our 150th Anniversary and once again we thought of those founding fathers of HBC, as well as all of the generations of people who came before us and helped make our church what it is today. We are the next chapter, a part of this continuing history.

So how will we honor those who have come before us? What will pages in the history of HBC say about us and our service to God and the Church? This past year we have been resilient in the storm. We’ve learned to navigate COVID restrictions. We’ve used the resources at hand and taken our sermons online. We’ve started new ministries and continued existing ones, feeding our neighbors and those in need in our community. With God’s grace and blessing, we’ve held to our mission and beliefs.

So now, let’s move forward together, using our gifts and serving our God as one body of believers.

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

Our Vision is to reach the next generation for Christ while ministering to all.

Our Purposes are derived from the description of the church in Acts 2:45-47:

Worship, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, and Fellowship

**For we are God’s
handiwork,
created in
Christ Jesus to
do good works,
which God
prepared in
advance
for us to do.**

EPHESIANS 2:10



Missions Committee Updates

CINDY SKELLEY & JULIE AITTAMA

On April 20, we distributed cheese to our non-profit and food pantry partners. Everyone loves getting this cheese! We hear such excitement in our partners voices as they thank us for including them in the distribution. The cheese ministry brings to mind the hymn “Pass It On” as it started with a spark of an idea and has caught fire (good fire!) as it has spread from a local ministry to one that is offering hope in other states such as Kentucky and regions such as Appalachia. It is indeed a blessing for all involved – the farmers, the distribution network, and the recipients.

The food pantry also continues to bless our community. We recently provided food to two families as requested by Sentara RMH. Heidi Ruiz purchased some fresh food (dairy, eggs and produce) using funds in the missions committee budget and augmented it with staples from our food pantry. She and Pastor Matt then delivered the food to both families.

The face of the Missions Committee has recently changed a bit but not its focus. Julie Aittama and Cindy Skelley are now co-chairs through December 2021. We thank Mary Smith for her past leadership of this committee and for helping direct us with what is needed for the rest of the year.

Please feel free to contact Julie or Cindy for missions-related comments and questions.

Cheese Ministry

KEITH TURNER

On behalf of the Board of Directors and management team of Rockingham Cooperative, we want to formally thank Harrisonburg Baptist Church for the coordination and distribution of cheese in Harrisonburg and the surrounding area. We value your partnering with us in this ministry. A special thanks to Pastor Matt, Pastor Eli, and the missions team for the dedication and efforts to increase cheese distribution to help more people in need.

The Board of Directors recently discussed the great needs with so many people who are hungry. A manager shared that he grew up in Wise and Scott counties (the poorest counties in Virginia) and experienced hunger, with nothing to eat. He told us his aunt from near Gate City in Scott County, Virginia, had shared with him that she had received cheese from the Cheese Ministry. He was shocked to learn that cheese from the Cheese Ministry was delivered 275 miles to rural southwestern Virginia! His aunt became emotional when speaking of the blessing of receiving the cheese at a time there was little food available. She asked him how the cheese got all the way to her home.

It turns out Judy Embrey's sister from the Scott County area was visiting Don and Judy in December of 2017 and expressed interest in the Cheese Ministry. Don shared some of the needs of this rural southwest Virginia area during a men's breakfast prayer meeting. So we sent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



New Normal

DAVID DOWNEY, HBC LEADERSHIP TEAM

I hope everyone is ready. It's June and summer is here. It's the time of year when things change. We look forward to outside time, no school, vacations, yard work, fishing, camping, etc.

Summer also means a time for change in church activities at HBC. October through April is the regular church year and May thru September is time for summer programs. Things like Bible School, youth camps and retreats, Sunday School picnics, ice cream socials, adult and youth day trips, etc. Over the years these two divisions of the church calendar have become normal (meaning "conforming to a standard, regular, usual, typical, or in some cases mandatory"). These are all normal things that are done in winter and normal things we do in summer. Now is the time that we transition from winter to the summer.

The question is—What are we going to do this year? Things are different. For the past year and a half, "normal" church activities have not been "normal" because of Covid-19 restrictions. Overall HBC has done very well maintaining our activities and missions despite the restrictions. We still have community outreach programs, worship services, Sunday School, youth activities, choir, and special music, and our committees function very well. However, most of these things have been revised one way or another to meet Covid-19 demands such as wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and meeting in small groups. We do things that are

normally done but we have not been doing them in normal ways. I like to think of it as a "NEW NORMAL."

Since these "new normal" activities have been successful maybe we should bring some of these "new normal" adjustments forward to summer activities and see how they work. Many things could be adapted to summer programs very easily. Things like "Zoom" classes, outside worship, virtual presentations, etc. To make these things happen requires communication, specifically members communicating with each other and with church leadership (leadership team, church staff, committee members, and teachers).

Let me suggest some ways to start that communication process from my point of view as a leadership team member. Each family at HBC is assigned a deacon to minister to their specific needs. Your deacon will be in touch with you at least monthly. Don't hesitate to talk to them about whatever is on your mind. Feel free to contact your deacon with your concerns, and don't hesitate to call them at any time. Let them know ideas you have and how you might be willing to help. Attend a leadership team meeting and see how things happen. (We typically meet on the second Monday of each month.) If you have a proposal for the leadership team to consider, contact the leadership team chairperson and ask to be a part of the meeting agenda. Committee reports are given at each leadership team meeting. Don't hesitate to contact a committee chair to pass on information related to their committee that you are interested in. The pastor and associate pastor are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



"NEW NORMAL" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

members of the leadership team team. Don't hesitate to contact them about any church concerns.

Let's make this summer phase of our church calendar a time to put into place some valuable "New Normal" ways of doing things and "New Normal" things to do.

Don't forget, the Holy Spirit already knows what these things will be. Don't leave him out, pray about it. He knows already how to make HBC a special church. Don't miss out on being a part of that. Your gifts need to be used.

"THANK YOU" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

10 cases of cheese home with Judy's sister, which she delivered to a Baptist church food pantry in her home area - some of which was shared with our manager's aunt.

When sharing this story with us, he asked me to express his deep appreciation to Don and Harrisonburg Baptist Church from members from his family and the people in need living in Wise and Scott counties. It was a special moment.

The Board of Directors approved a \$75,000.00 donation to purchase cheese for the Cheese Ministry. We will review the needs of the situation in October and consider additional funding if needed.

I appreciate the enthusiasm and passion for the Cheese Ministry and helping people by the leadership and members of Harrisonburg Baptist Church.

Thank you to all who helped to make the Police Appreciation meals a success!



MAY 4, 2021



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

- Jane Bowers
- David Downey
- Dennis Greene
- Wayne & Sally Hannah
- Judy Miller
- Bill & Barbara Pond
- Karen & Kerry Potter
- Jimmy & Nancy Russell
- Daniel Sanger
- Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

- Elias (Katherine Archibold's child)
- LaVonne Hayes (David Hayes' mother)
- Joan Garrison
(Susan Huffman's mother)
- Nancy Stewart
(Chris Belcher's grandmother)
- Peggy Miller
(Dustyn Miller's mother)
- Wayne Shifflett
(Joyce Deavers' brother)
- Ann Fowler
(former HBC SS class member)
- Becky Morris
(Ellen Shomo's friend)
- Dorothy Shenk
(Randy Shenk's mother)
- Margaret Straw
(Courtney Shiffer's mother)
- Karen Farrier
(Jessica Winters' mother)

SYMPATHY

- Jeannie Petit upon the death of her stepmother, Kay Shirkey.
- Betty Ecklund upon the death of her mother, Janet Einstein.
- Nico Nguimbi upon the death of his grandmother, Debbie Capita.

April Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date	\$ 177,565.00
Budget receipts to date	\$ 187,029.60

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Lottie Moon Offering	\$200.00
• Annie Armstrong Easter Off.	\$260.00
• Youth Mexico Trip	\$70.00
• Operation Inasmuch Fund	\$225.00
• Saturday Bag Lunch	\$187.00
• Nasaruni Academy	\$1,500.00
• Chris Harker Marker Fund	\$190.00

Liberty Street Properties

Now that the properties are paid off, we can begin thinking about the next steps for the Liberty Street Properties. First, though, we need to take a moment to assess where we stand, what the needs are, and where we could go. That's the job of the initial steering committee appointed by the Leadership Team. We'll take a snapshot of what we have and what we could do. There will come a time when we ask you to dream with us. Until that moment, pray for us!

Thank you!

Thank you all so much for your cards, prayers, and kind words after Kevin's dad and Jeannie's stepmother passed on. Having a loving church family is invaluable, always there in times of joy and sorrow. We are so thankful.
- Kevin and Jeannie Petit

Address Change

WAYNE & SALLY HANNAH
1900 Hillsmere Ln., Apt. 206
Staunton, VA 24401

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 12pm Liberty St. Properties Steering Committee	4	5
6 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study	7 6:30 Missions Committee Mtg (FH)	8 6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	9	10	11	12
13 Youth Sunday 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study	14 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	15	16 11am-1pm Ruritan Club Luncheon (FH) 6pm Policy Review Committee Mtg (FH)	17 Grow & Serve 10am-2pm	18	19
20 Happy Fathers' Day! 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (gazebo)	21 July Newsletter Articles Due	22	23	24	25	26
27 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study	28 Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:00pm	29	30			

WEEKLY REOCCURRING EVENTS

SUNDAY

10:30 Community Worship
2:00 Kachin Baptist Church (1st & 3rd weeks)

MONDAY

1:30 Staff Meeting (3:30 on last Monday)
6:30 Scouts

TUESDAY

11:00 Tuesdays Together (FH)

WEDNESDAY

10:00 Ladies Prayer Group (B4)
6:00 Choir Practice

SATURDAY

10:00 Community Lunch

COMMUNITY LUNCH

June 5 — Skelley
June 12 — Ruiz
June 19 — Petit
June 26 — Youth

DEACON OF THE WEEK

June 6 — Nancy Shomo
June 13 — Don Aittama
June 20 — Karen Burke
June 27 — Jeannie Petit

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Dale Wright
3 Irv Byrd
5 Sallie Darling
5 Donna Downey
5 Larry Ecklund
5 Sara Kate Moore
10 Emily Hartman
14 Hunter Hayes
17 Susan Huffman
21 Sue Jones
21 Michael Renfroe
23 Faye Bland
23 Terrie Childress
27 Steve Smith

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

HBC ALIVE

A publication of

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street

Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 433-2456 www.hbcalive.org

STAFF

Dr. Matt Winters, Senior Pastor

Rev. Eli Withers, Associate Pastor

Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Minister of Youth

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist


Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JUNE 21, 2021

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

A photograph of a man in a light blue shirt and dark pants lifting a young child into the air. They are standing in a field of tall grass at sunset, with the sun low on the horizon creating a warm, golden glow. The man is looking up at the child with a joyful expression.

As a father shows
compassion to his
children, so the Lord
shows compassion to
those who fear him.

PSALM 103:13