



MAY 2021

HBC ALIVE!

Official Newsletter of Harrisonburg Baptist Church

An Imaginative Journey

REV. MATT WINTERS

We've long heard the proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention." We may be familiar with the idea that when we experience enough discomfort that's when we're prompted to change. Humanity as a whole tends to settle into ruts and operate in predictable patterns. At certain times, we may adapt and pivot, but rarely do we make wholesale changes overnight. Incremental progress and evolution appears to be the way we grow. So, it may come as little surprise to learn how jolted I was several weeks ago when we decided it was time to pay off the Liberty Street Properties. We had about \$10,500 left to pay and had intended to celebrate the elimination of that debt in December 2021. Vickie Westlake called the church and asked if we could just pay it off that day. I said there's no reason why we couldn't, so she rallied the church body to respond—and by the evening had enough commitments to pay the debt in full.

Gone was the notion that we had to nibble away at obstacles. With enough motivation and movement, we could get things done immediately. We could harness some horsepower and get things done. What a beautiful testimony about working for the kingdom of God. Do you realize the Holy Spirit can work just as effectively as our motivation to pay off the mortgage

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debt in a day? What would happen if we said to God, "We're ready for you to accomplish your work in our lives. Go ahead and do it." God wouldn't need to work incrementally in and through us. God may just go ahead and do some miracles amongst us. I liken the walk of faith to that dramatic invitation to God—"God I'm ready for you to use me to reach your people." "God help me get out of my own way and stop me from having my expectations. Instead, help me to trust your paths and may your will be done!"

Soon, we'll begin embarking on an imaginative journey of what these houses can be and how God can use them for His kingdom's purposes. We've paid them off, now let's do something with them for His glory. Pray for every step we take, and we may see God do some miracles beside us.

HBC's Heart for the Valley Grant

On Sunday, April 11, we distributed the community grant awards of \$3,000.00 to both AVA Care and On the Road Collaborative. Thank you for your generous support of the kingdom of God. As you give to the church, we're also able to give back to the community in unique ways. Thank you for that blessing! AVA Care used their funds to purchase a new lab chair, which enables their practitioners to more easily draw blood for lab work. On the Road Collaborative is using their funds to help launch a post-high school program to support graduating seniors as they enter into the trade schools and other educational environments. For anyone interested in sharing their trade or profession, On the Road is always open to new presenters.

We have also been able to help other organizations in tangible ways. The missions committee donated a vacuum cleaner to New Bridges Immigration Center, and the HBC Preschool donated cubbies to New Creation VA, an organization focused on bringing awareness and support to sexual assault survivors. We continue to explore and remain open to blessing other organizations in new ways.

IN RECOGNITION OF Ebony Cleveland

Let's take a moment to say THANK YOU to Ebony Cleveland for a job well done! May 16 is her 5th Anniversary as our Praise Band Leader. Over the course of these years, we have seen her grow as an individual. Her strength and leadership have allowed us to experiment with a variety of worship styles and her ideas help push us to deeper levels of worship. We appreciate Ebony's hard work and praise God for her dedication, love and worship leadership. She has such a beautiful voice and is helping our praise band grow into an amazing team! Well done, Ebony, and we praise God for you!





Leadership Team News - With Thanks!

DEB DOUGLAS

We give thanks to God for His continuous presence and work within the church as we are blessed to serve not only one another but the community as well. There are many things happening and we have seen the church come together recently to celebrate the 99th Birthday of our beloved Neil Showalter as well as OIAM as we worked on the church property and went into the community. We anticipate the Police Appreciation Luncheon and Dinner on May 4th and pray that God will use us to bless those who serve and protect our community day to day.

At our LT meetings we discuss and plan for all that is going on in the church and community, but in reality, it is when we leave those meetings that the real work of the Lord is done. It is by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and direct us into ministries and by spending time, individually and corporately, in His Word and prayer, seeking His purpose and will for us that His work is done in the church and community.

It is with a grateful heart that we thank Jeff Obenschain, Laura Fly and Karen Folsom for their time of service on the Leadership Team as a Deacon. You have made a difference and have completed faithfully the service and work God called you to do.

As a new season of leadership and service begins on May 1st, we give thanks for the willing hearts of Karen Burke, Jeannie Petit, Dennis Simmons and Don Aittama as they said yes to God's calling on their lives. The Leadership Team will be led by our newly elected officers in the coming year. Mary Smith has prayerfully accepted the calling to be Leadership Team Chair, Nico Nguimbi has humbly accepted Vice Chair responsibilities and Faye Ritchie has volunteered to be secretary for the team in the event Janet Smith, Clerk, is not able to attend the meetings. We ask that you cover this entire team and the staff of the church in prayer daily as we move forward in God's plan and purpose.

I want to give all glory, thanks and praise to God for allowing me to serve on the Leadership Team as a Deacon the past three years. It has not only been a privilege but it has also been a learning and growing experience for me. I thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility and allowing me to serve. May we continue, as a church, to build on what those who have come before us have done. May we never limit God but reach daily for the new heights he is calling us to.

Now to him who is able
to do immeasurably
more than all we ask or
imagine, according to
his power that is at
work within us, to him
be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus
throughout all
generations, for ever
and ever! Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Youth Events

MAY 2, 5:30-7:30PM
Dinner & Bible Study

MAY 9
No Youth

MAY 16, 4:30PM
Youth Committee Mtg

MAY 16, 5:30-7:30PM
Dinner & Bible Study

MAY 19, 6PM
High School Girls Group

MAY 23, 5:00-7:00PM
Family Fun Night

MAY 26, 6PM
High School Girls Group

MAY 30, 4:30-8:30PM
Pizza Pool Party at the
Belchers



Vacation Bible School

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

Our plans for Vacation Bible School 2021 continue to evolve! This year, VBS will be kicked off in Children's Church on Sunday, June 27. We will

use that time to begin sharing with our children about God's love for this Great Big Beautiful World in telling the story of creation.

Monday, June 28 through Thursday, July 1, we will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 each evening (instead of the morning as we had originally suggested). This week will be filled with Bible Stories, arts and crafts, games, and science experiments. Maybe even Dr. Matt and Professor Heidi will make a visit!

WE REALLY NEED FOLKS TO PRE-REGISTER THEIR KIDS THIS YEAR SO THAT WE WILL KNOW HOW WE NEED TO PREPARE! Registration forms as well as online registration will be available mid-May. VBS is for kids from 3 years old (out of diapers) through the fifth grade.

If you are available to help in any way, please speak to Sarah Northen or Pastor Eli and we will get you set up where you'd like to serve. This promises to be a fantastic week of ministry with our HBC kids and the kids of our communities! Please be praying for this week even now!

Family Fun Night!

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 5:00-7:00PM

Join us for a Church Family Fun Night on the church lawn Sunday, May 23 from 5 to 7 pm. Dinner will be provided in addition to much fun and games—yes, even a board game or two for you, David Hayes!!!

Please plan on gathering with us for this time of fellowship and frivolity! Please know that even though this event is sponsored by the Children's Committee, this event is for all ages!





As you know, our church has been partnering with Nasaruni Academy in Kenya for years! Now, we have the opportunity to see up close and personally--via zoom--the results of all of our labors and God's incredible faithfulness over the years.

You'll see Peyiai who was featured on the very first video which was shown years ago, now graduated and coming back to inspire the younger girls to achieve the heights she has! And now, Peyiai will have a HIGH SCHOOL to attend. So she and many others from the community will attend Nasaruni High School beginning (due to Covid) this July!

Please join us and the community of many sponsors who all have joined together to embrace the school and begin building the High School. So many are flourishing in the environment of Nasaruni Academy where they grow in their faith in a vibrant and beautiful way! Be assured that their spiritual growth is of the utmost priority to Bishop Moses and his wife Alice who run the school. Due to the wide-ranging audience of this virtual event, you may hear less focus on the religious aspect, but I am writing to tell you that is indeed at the foundation of the girls' experience at Nasaruni Academy and soon the high school too!

We are so grateful to the HBC Sunday School classes who donated the beautiful baskets! Thank you for this and all your generous support over the years!

Here are the details... save the date! A link directly to the event will be sent just prior to the event, in the Saturday, May 1st email with all the Sunday links.

CELEBRATE NASARUNI HIGH SCHOOL VIRTUAL APPRECIATION AND FUNDRAISER!

When? Sunday, May 2nd, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Where? The comfort of your own living room... no special dressing up, no long drives, no parking lot issues. just enjoy staying home... and virtually visiting Kenya!

What? This is a celebratory event to THANK the many donors who have helped us make significant progress in building the high school!

What else? This is also a chance to do a simple auction and win a basket for your family or for Mother's Day or a myriad of other themes. Some include: "spa day kit," "gourmet cooking basket," "car care," local dining certificates, etc. See pictures and full descriptions of the baskets online at our site: <http://www.nasaruniacademy.org>

Who? We'll hear from students at Nasaruni, teachers, and Moses, as well as others in our local community who are involved & see videos and pictures of the progress. You'll be amazed at our growth!

Why? We are raising money to build the teachers' housing. Currently our teachers live in 8x10 corrugated steel rooms. I'm sure you'll agree they deserve better accommodations.

How? We will send you another email with a link to the zoom for our evening together.

The link will also be posted on the front page of our website: <http://www.nasaruniacademy.org>

Action point: Forward this invitation to all your friends, far and wide. Anyone can join our virtual event this year!! We have special items specifically for our out-so-state guests. We need to raise at least \$12,000 to start building teacher housing!

Questions? Contact Don Cude at church, or Michelle Cude at cudemd@jmu.edu

Asante Sana! I am grateful. The girls in Nasaruni are reaping the rewards of your faithfulness. Blessings, Michelle



Police Appreciation Lunch & Dinner

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 11:30-1:30, 6:30-8PM

As a gigantic Thank You to the Harrisonburg Police Department, the Leadership Team is hosting a police appreciation lunch and dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, May 4.

You are invited to be a Hospitality Ambassador to greet members of the police department, express your appreciation for their work, and enjoy a home-cooked meal with them.

Sign up to be a Hospitality Ambassador at lunch (11:30am-1:30pm) or dinner (6:30-8:00pm) or both! Contact the church office or sign up online at <https://forms.gle/21z64FjxBWWf245F7>.

Dementia Presentation

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 3:00-4:00PM

Earlier this year a small group of us met to discuss the book "Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia Though a Spiritual Lens". We were so impressed with this thoughtful and inspiring book we are planning a presentation for all who are interested in how we can better minister to those with dementia and their caregivers - both in our congregation and in the wider community. Please join us as we try to better understand this condition which continues to touch so many lives and consider next steps we might take as a church.

- Deb Douglas, Gary Ritcher, Mary Smith, Eli Withers & Matt Winters

May Business Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 11:30AM

In years past, we have been accustomed to our May business meeting, which has allowed us to confirm Ministry Connection appointments beginning in July. This year, however, we have asked current committee and team members to continue with their appointments through December, which will allow us to maintain a status quo until we emerge from the Covid-restrictions completely (we hope).

As such, our May business meeting will be scaled back and consist of committee reports. We will introduce a steering committee to analyze and propose opportunities for the Liberty Street Properties now that the mortgages are paid in full. We are planning for the May Business Meeting to take place right after worship, on Sunday, May 16.

Summer Small Groups

If you would be interested in a summer small group that focuses on learning to be a more committed disciple of Christ, please let Pastor Eli know. We are thinking of having a study on the book "The Good and Beautiful God" by James Bryan Smith where the main focus of the book is on the character of God and how we move into a life of intimacy with God. Please consider this summer study that will undoubtedly help each of us to step into our faith a little more deeply. When we have a group of folks interested in this study, we will decide on a time to meet that works for everyone. Have questions? Contact Pastor Eli.

Missions Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

Thanks to all who helped over the past few weeks with OIAM projects in our community, for our neighbors, and around HBC. We had over 70 members and friends who took part in OIAM 2021! Boy Scout Troop 42 and Troop 242 with their leaders helped to clean up trash and weed the playground. We are grateful to each person who used their time and gifts to serve.

If you didn't get a chance to help on April 17th, there are a few projects left to finish. Contact Mary Smith (540-222-5873) for more information.

- 1) Finish power washing the white fence and playground. The playground fence also needs repaired in a few places.
- 2) Finish the weeding on the Liberty Street side of HBC and spread the rest of the mulch.
- 3) Stain the deck at the BCM building. It was power washed last week, and we have three weeks to get the stain on the deck. They may also have one or two more projects they wish us to complete.
- 4) Help distribute the cheese delivered on April 20th.

Creation Care Team Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 5:00-7:00PM

Do you have a love for nature or a desire to learn how we can be better stewards of God's gift of the earth? You're invited to join us in the gazebo on Sunday, May 16 at 5pm to talk about plans for the HBC Creation Care Team. For more information, contact Kathy Ritcher at (540) 908-0699.



"HOW CAN I HELP
THE EARTH?"...

Kick the Plastic Habit!

We eat, swallow or breathe 2,000 particles of plastic a week, about the weight of a credit card. Try products that are made with non-plastic or biodegradable materials or with containers that can be refilled or reused. Remember: Plastic does not biodegrade. Instead, it breaks down into smaller pieces, and ultimately ends up everywhere, including in the food chain.

Because... "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it!"

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Jane Bowers
David Downey
Dennis Greene
Wayne & Sally Hannah
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)
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)
Margaret Straw
(Courtney Shiffer's mother)
Karen Farrier
(Jessica Winters' mother)

SYMPATHY

Don Embrey upon the death of
his sister, Jean Lee.
Jim & Holly Pederson upon the
death of Jim's mother, Tela.
Glen & Laurie Loucks upon the
death of Glen's mother, Valerie.

MARCH STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Budget needs to date \$ 135,785.00
Budget Receipts to date \$ 127,401.60

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Hank Bowers Memorials	\$875.00
• Betty Acker Memorials	\$400.00
• Roger Jones Memorials	\$110.00
• Annie Armstrong Easter Off.	\$210.00
• Cheese Ministry	\$500.00
• Love Fund	\$50.00
• Saturday Bag Lunch	\$140.00
• Youth Mexico Trip	\$850.00
• Chris Harker Marker Fund	\$739.00

THANK YOU!!

A big THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the HBC Saturday Bag Lunch Fund during the Covid crisis. Your generosity helps us share the love of Jesus with our neighbors every Saturday morning. You're invited to join us any Saturday morning for a cup of coffee and visit with our friends as we distribute food at the Liberty Street door.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OPEN DOORS

MAY 3-6 (MON-THURS), 6:00-8:00PM

HBC plans to provide meals at the Open Doors shelter May 3 through 6, and we need your help to serve the meals! (Food will be purchased from local restaurants, so our main need will be servers.) Please contact Kathy Ritcher at (540) 908-0699 if you are able to help with this endeavor.

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 3:00 Andrew Parker recital
2 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study	3 6:30 Missions Committee Mtg (FH)	4 11:30-1:30 & 6:30-8:00 Police Appreciation Dinner (FH)	5	6 3:00 Dementia Presentation (FH)	7	8
9 Happy Mothers' Day!	10 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	11	12	13 6:30 VBS Planning Committee Mtg (FH)	14	15
16 11:30 Business Mtg 4:30 Youth Team Mtg 5:00 Creation Care Mtg 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study	17	18	19 6:00 HS Girls Group	20 6:30 PSC Mtg (Parlor) June Newsletter Articles Due	21	22
23 5:00 Family Fun Night 4:30 Youth Pizza Pool Party 30	24 31	25	26 6:00 HS Girls Group	27	28	29

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

- May 1 — S. Miller
- May 8 — Ritchie/Stanley New Hope
- May 15 — Rayos De Esperanza
- May 22 — St. Stephen's
- May 29 — Ritcher

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- May 2 — Faye Ritchie
- May 9 — Mary Smith
- May 16 — Nico Nguimbi
- May 23 — Mark Griffin
- May 30 — Bill Lee

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Austin Folsom
- 1 Jeannie Petit
- 1 Cameron Ritcher
- 6 Kendall Waters
- 8 T. W. Johnson, Jr.
- 8 Phoebe Renfroe
- 9 Holly Pederson
- 10 Bill Lee
- 11 Olivia Hartman
- 12 Ruth Bryant
- 16 Sandy Cude
- 19 Keith Turner
- 20 Wally Holthaus
- 21 Joyce Deavers
- 21 Kerry Potter
- 21 Faye Ritchie
- 24 Wayne Hannah, Sr.
- 24 Annabelle Lehembre
- 25 Greg Ritchie
- 29 Susan Kiser
- 31 Grant Folsom

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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HBC ALIVE

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Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Minister of Youth

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship

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Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

MAY 20, 2021

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

As a
mother
comforts her child,
so I'll comfort
you.



ISAIAH SIXTY SIX THIRTEEN