



JULY 2021

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Watching Them Grow

REV. MATT WINTERS

My hat's off to Katelyn for the exceptional job she is doing with the youth group. As our lives took a sideways turn last year, Katelyn didn't let the chaotic upheaval of life steer her youth group off the rails. She floated on the waves of others' decisions and stayed a true course for these students. Whether they met on Zoom or in person, she continued to stay connected. She displayed the gospel message with her life and attitude and she continued to care for her flock. When opportunities arose for the teens to get involved, she showed up. Last year, when they weren't able to go to Passport summer camp, she pivoted and employed the students in local work projects. A year ago, the students found themselves close to the church and working within the walls due to foul weather systems that hounded us daily. Some of the best plans for work were ruined because of events beyond our control...of course, that was the story of 2020.

The story of 2021 continues to unfold in our response to adversity. Katelyn's group has stuck together and come out stronger. This year's Grow and Serve projects asked more of the youth members—both physically, emotionally and spiritually. The students responded superbly. They rose to the challenge. They worked on a

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In Recognition of Dr. Gary Ritcher



A grand Thank You and Well Done to Gary Ritcher! In July we celebrate Gary's five years of employment as our Director of Music and Worship. Gary is a humble servant who goes so far beyond what we ask him to do. He's gracious with his time and work ethic, and we wouldn't be close to who we are without him. Gary is willing to do the hard tasks that go unnoticed and often unappreciated. Gary's heart for this church is immense and he works tirelessly to lead our music program in step with God's praises. His connection to JMU's music allows us to benefit on so many levels as we experience such a rich, diverse selection of musical talent. For those who don't get a chance to experience it, Gary is also blessed with such a dry wit that he brings light and levity to my day. We're all so thankful to Gary for being a wise voice on the staff and bringing a rich perspective of life to the work we share. Thank you, Gary, for allowing God to use you in this meaningful way!

~Pastor Matt

"WATCHING..." CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

farm, met neighbors, recycled garbage, filled bags for Bag Lunch, and handed out beef and cheese. They brought hope to our community. They brought smiles to faces. They sparked interest not only of cows but of neighbors who wondered what these students are doing. They inspired others to live more fully for God. What else can we say but well done, Katelyn, Chris, Justin and all students who helped. We are so proud of you and thankful for you!

Hey Y'all!

JUSTIN MOFIELD, SUMMER INTERN

As a lot of you know by now, my name is Justin Mofield. I currently hail from just down I-81 in Roanoke, Virginia, but grew up in various areas of North Carolina. I just finished my junior year at Clemson University, where I am studying electrical engineering. I have been able to get to know a lot of different people over these first few weeks, but here is a little bit more about me.

First, my biggest hobby is sports. I love sports. Growing up, I played lots of tennis and basketball. I regularly check ESPN multiple times a day. If my TV is on, there is a 95% chance that I am watching some sporting event. From football, to basketball, to tennis, golf, or soccer, you name it, I'll watch it, and I might even play it. It was a lot of fun for me getting to join on in pulling for JMU



in the softball college world series. I also regularly play disc golf, which if you have not heard of it, it is exactly what it sounds like. I will gladly talk disc golf with anyone if you are ever interested.

A couple other things about me, starting with my love for music! I play the French horn in the Clemson University Symphony Orchestra and do a little singing occasionally as well. As the summer goes on, I am sure you will see me share some of that through the choir or praise bands. I also enjoy getting to explore the outdoors, whether that be hiking or just walking around. Lastly, as a lot of people do, I love to eat! But I also want to try new foods and restaurants as well! If you have any tasty food recommendations, please tell me about them! I want to try as many as I can before the summer is over.

My biggest goal for these two months is to explore and listen to what I feel is a call into the ministry. I have been thinking and praying on these thoughts for a little while now and I felt like it was time to act on them. I have not been here long, but this congregation has been so welcoming to me, and I am ready to continue to build and strengthen relationships within this congregation.

I am beyond excited to be here in Harrisonburg for this summer. I have already seen in these first few weeks how God is working in this church to make a difference, and I am looking forward to continuing to help further the

ministry of HBC. If you see me around in town or on Sunday mornings, don't be shy and come say hello! Us Clemson people do not bite, I promise.

God Bless!

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet each Monday from 6:30-7:30am at Mr. J's Bagels on East Market Street. Join us for a good time of food and fellowship. All are welcome!

River Baptisms & Church Picnic

AUGUST 22, 2021

On Sunday, August 22, we will gather for a river baptism followed by our annual church picnic at the river house of Dr. Kent and Karen Folsom. (The address is 283 Mill Run Road, Shenandoah, VA 22849. Contact the church office if you need written directions.)

The church will provide a meat as the main dish and folks are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share following the worship service.

We look forward to celebrating the baptism of some of our youngest members and being able to be together as a church family. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special day!



Grow & Serve 2021

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth of HBC had an incredible three days of local mission's projects on June 16 through June 18. And unlike 2020, the weather was absolutely beautiful all three days!

On June 16, we piled into a church van and went to Walmart to purchase enough food items to stuff 80 bags for the Bag Lunch ministry. We worked as an assembly line to quietly (there was a Ruritan meeting going on nearby!) and efficiently fill all 80 bags. After the bags were stuffed, we walked across the street to the Grattan Street apartments and knocked on doors and handed out beef, cheese, and Vacation Bible School flyers. It was so neat to observe the kids and teens step out of their comfort zones and make connections with our neighbors from across the street.

The next day, we partnered with HBC's Creation Care Team and drove around Harrisonburg to pick up church members' recycling. We picked up various items including magazines, plastics, junk mail, cardboard, and batteries. We even helped a neighbor move into their new apartment in between picking up recycling. After lunch, we divided and conquered our to-do list for the afternoon: the ladies went shopping for supplies for Friday's project while the gentlemen took all of the recycling to Harrisonburg's Recycling Center.

And then on June 18, we spent three hours working at a dairy farm in Mt. Solon. We were given a tour of the farm and we even saw some newborn calves! We spent the day beautifying the landscaping around the dairy parlor and mending a fence. We also did



some mowing and lots of weed eating. Working at the dairy farm really helped the youth understand and appreciate all of the work it takes to receive milk and dairy products. After spending several hours in the sun, we celebrated the end of the week with a pizza pool party!

In the middle of each of those three days, we were treated with the best lunches ever and Pastor Eli, Pastor Matt, and Justin took turns offering a devotion during the end of our lunch break. It was an excellent opportunity to pause and think about Jesus and his life of helping others. We were challenged each day to think about why were serving, who we were serving, and what the impact was that act of service created. Thank you so much to Deb and Sue, the most wonderful lunch chefs around! And thank you so much to Pastor Matt, Pastor Eli, Intern Justin, and Chris for chaperoning, serving, and growing with the youth of our church. We were all so very blessed that you could join us for Grow and Serve!



July Youth Events

JULY 4

No youth activities

JULY 11, 4:30-8:30PM

Summer Bible Study at the Belcher's

JULY 18


No youth activities

JULY 19-24

Passport Missions Camp Greenville, SC

JULY 25, 4:30-8:30PM

Summer Bible Study at the Belcher's



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Being in The Word

MARY SMITH, LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR

Can you believe that we are half way through reading the Bible again? This year, by reading the Chronological Bible, we experience the scriptures in the order the events happened. Sometimes it seemed strange to be reading in Samuel or Kings and in the paragraph below read the same story again in Chronicles. Last year, I remember thinking “We’ve read this before.” Now we know why. They were written about the same events and time in history.

No matter what version of the Bible we read, the scriptures still speak to us. I am grateful for God’s leading Debbie Douglas to guide us in being in the “Word” in 2020 and 2021. I do feel the Word of God has dwelled in us richly and therefore kept God close in our hearts. I love that scriptures come into our minds, teaching and admonishing us when we most need it. We can’t gain wisdom from God without being in the “Word,” reading and knowing the scriptures. So let’s move forward into this second half of 2021, with grateful hearts for all that God has done for us during these past eighteen months and the knowledge that He will be there, guiding us into the future.

Creation Care Team Updates

KATHY RITCHER

A BIG THANKS to the HBC Youth for taking a trailer-load of recyclables from our church and homes to the recycling center as part of Grow & Serve, June 16-18! What a great way to help us care for the earth!

NEXT CREATION CARE TEAM MEETING

Sunday, July 11th at 5:00pm, in the Gazebo
We welcome you to join us if you'd like to see what's going on with creation care at HBC!

HOW CAN WE HELP REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC WASTE ON OUR HOME PLANET?

Choose to refuse single-use plastic drink bottles. Instead, carry your own reusable alternative with you. Choose an environmentally-friendly alternative, such as a reusable bottle made from stainless steel, glass, or safe aluminum.

CHALLENGE

How can we reduce the number of single-use plastic water bottles used at HBC? Share your thoughts with us! Send your emails to office@hbcalive.org.



Missions Committee Updates

CINDY SKELLEY & JULIE AITTAMA

There are so many overwhelming and exciting opportunities coming to HBC, and many are food-related! Food is one way we connect with people. We have had great abundance come our way, and we have shared not only cheese but also beef and Vidalia onions with our existing mission partners Salvation Army, Mercy House and Bridge of Hope. We know this food has blessed their clients. It was a pure blessing to deliver this food and see the excitement and appreciation.

We ask you to consider donations of canned goods and other items that store well that can be added to the food pantry. As you may recall, during the pandemic we had food drives and as a result of your generosity were able to feed many families in the area. We were successful in obtaining the Alma Hunt BGAV grant that allowed us to fund building a set of cabinets at the back of the stage area in the Fellowship Hall. We need to keep this pantry stocked so we can respond quickly when contacted to purchase and deliver food such as the requests Heidi Ruiz gets from Sentara RMH.

Every Sunday in July, there will be a table in the foyer where you can drop off your food donations. The food collected will be blessed during the July 25th worship services.

Monetary donations are also always

appreciated, as they allow us to purchase perishable items.

CANNED GOODS THAT ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED:

- Canned green beans
- Canned peas
- Canned corn
- Canned peaches
- Canned pears
- Canned fruit cocktail
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned roast beef
- Hamburger Helper
- Rice
- Spaghetti (pasta)
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly or Jam

**Then Jesus said to his host,
“When you give a luncheon or
dinner, do not invite your friends,
your brothers or sisters, your
relatives, or your rich neighbors;
if you do, they may invite you
back and so you will be repaid.
But when you give a banquet,
invite the poor, the crippled, the
lame, the blind, and you will be
blessed. Although they cannot
repay you, you will be repaid at
the resurrection of the
righteous.”**

LUKE 14:12-14



Are You Contagious?

NANCY SHOMO, HBC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Happy July!!! As I write this in June, all Covid restrictions have been lifted in the state and things are certainly looking brighter. We no longer have to wear a mask and I hear hugs are running rampant so watch out!!

Throughout this ordeal I've heard a particular word used over and over....HOPE. We constantly speak in a "hope" language.... "I hope we get back to normal," "I hope I don't get sick," "I hope I can see my family soon," "I hope God really does answer my prayer."

So what is the meaning of this word....HOPE? Is it a lukewarm kind of unsure optimism? The Merriam-Webster's definition is "a desire for things to change for the better, and to want that better situation very much."

In Scripture, according to the Hebrew and Greek words translated into the word "hope" and according to the biblical usage, hope is an indication of certainty. "Hope" in Scripture means "a strong and confident expectation" and is akin to trust.

Romans 15:4 "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

We believe in the testimony of God in the Word and hope for the results in our lives. Hope is the confident expectation, the

sure certainty that what God has promised in the Word is true, has occurred, or will occur in accordance with God's sure Word. It's an active, dynamic word. It's not sitting twiddling one's thumbs in denial of what's going on around us. Our hope in God's promises won't put us to sleep, it will put us in gear.

As noted in Romans 15:4, we learn through hard times that God is faithful. Our charge is to tell our narrative. Share how HE has worked in our lives. These accounts will ignite a fire of hope in others. We are, in a manner of speaking, spreading the contagion of Hope.

We know that through the Holy Spirit we have that peace beyond all understanding, which is the first cousin to hope. We know God has our backs.

Jeremiah 29:11 "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."

God is called "the God of Hope." This real hope will affect how we think, what we say, where we place our priorities and ultimately what we do with our lives. If we choose to share this hope, this internal peace talked about in Romans 15:13, we will receive joy, comfort and confidence as well. It will basically be a boomerang effect.

Hope can make the difference between life and death. Prisoners of war who stop hoping are much less likely to survive. The same is true of people who are battling life-threatening illnesses. So it is vital that



we nurture this precious gift and re-gift it to as many as we can by example and personal experience.

So I ask....are you contagious? Are you filled with the joy, love, hope and peace of knowing God is with us and for us in spite of what we see, hear or feel? Are you willing to spread the contagion of hope through acceptance, love, appreciation, comfort, encouragement, respect and support?

I leave you with this beautiful quote from an unknown author: "Where there is hope, there is faith. Where there is faith miracles happen."

Saturday Lunch Ministry Updates

KATHY RITCHER

The weather has been beautiful lately for setting up a couple of tables on the Liberty Street lawn for our Saturday meals. HBC'ers are welcome to stop by any Saturday morning, 10-11am, to share fellowship around the tables with our neighbors, and have a cup of coffee or a bite to eat!

Save the Date!

HBC's Church Social and Talent/Variety Show is being planned for Saturday, October 2. Plan to come, entertain and be entertained!

VBS 2021

PASTOR ELI WITHERS

Well... after an unexpected hiatus last year, another VBS is yet again in the books! God's Great Big Beautiful World was such a great focus for our students, teachers and other leaders. We continue to learn what a precious gift this world is to each of us and why it is so important to take care of what we've been given!

We want to thank all of the families who participated in VBS this year as well as all of our adult leaders and teachers. WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU! It is always a challenge to try something new and we appreciate you working with us to make this week an exhilarating one for our kiddos! We are also grateful for this way to reach out to our community! Our theme verse for the week was Psalm 52:8: "I will trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever." Indeed! May it be so! We're already looking forward to next year! Thank you so much!

Note of Thanks

Thank you for your prayers and notes of sympathy in the recent and sudden passing of my mother. A special note of thanks to Eli, who traveled to Woodstock to attend the service. My mother appreciated how the church reached out to her.

--Betty Ecklund

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

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

EXTENDED FAMILY

Andy Redford
(Nancy Shomo's brother-in-law)
Robert Sutherland
(Tracie Ward's brother)
Patti Toohey (Katelyn Belcher's aunt)
Elias (Katherine Archibold's child)
Nancy Stewart
(Chris Belcher's grandmother)
Becky Morris
(Ellen Shomo's friend)
Dorothy Shenk
(Randy Shenk's mother)
Karen Farrier
(Jessica Winters' mother)

SYMPATHY

The family of Jane Bowers.
Clif Pritchett upon the death of
his son, Jeff.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Mark and Kelsey (Logan) Miner on the birth of their son, Bodie Thomas, on June 10, 2021. Proud grandparents are Laura Logan and Mike Logan.

May Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date \$ 229,790.00
Budget receipts to date \$ 220,498.56

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Operation Inasmuch Fund	\$125.00
• Cheese Ministry	\$500.00
• Nasaruni Academy	\$75.00
• Love Fund	\$85.00

*Each of you should use whatever
gift you have received to serve
others, as faithful stewards of God's
grace in its various forms.*

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Budget Planning on the Horizon

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

The Finance Committee expresses appreciation to the congregation for supporting the ministries of HBC during the first half of 2021. We praise God for your faithful and generous financial stewardship!!

As we enter the second half of the year, we are approaching the time to begin planning for next year's ministry budget.

Committee chairpersons will be receiving budget planning information the week of July 28th. Please call your committees together to pray and plan for the financial needs of your ministry for next year. Your budget requests will be due on August 29th.

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Vacations Susan: July 12-16 Gary: July 15-19 Matt: July 25-Aug 1	Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:00pm				7pm Michael Richardson Recital	
4 Independence Day	5 Office closed 6:30 Missions Committee Mtg (FH)	6 6:00 Children's Committee Mtg (B4)	7 6:30 Liberty Street Committee Mtg (FH)	8 6:30 Personnel Committee Mtg (ITI)	9 3:15 Praise Team Practice	10
11 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (gazebo) 4:30-8:30 Youth Bible Study at the Belcher's	12 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	13 11am Tuesdays Together (FH) 6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 August Newsletter Articles Due	21 11am-1pm Ruritan Club Luncheon (FH)	22	23	24 2-6pm Kachin Baptist Church
Youth Passport Week						
25 4:30-8:30 Youth Bible Study at the Belcher's	26	27 11am Tuesdays Together (FH)	28	29	30	31

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

SUNDAY

10:30am Community Worship

MONDAY

6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mr. J's Bagels, E. Market St.)

1:30pm Staff Meeting

6:30pm Scouts

WEDNESDAY

10:00am Ladies Prayer Group (B4)

1:00pm Discipleship Group (B4)

6:00pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY

6:00pm Discipleship Group (B4)

SATURDAY

10:00am Community Lunch

COMMUNITY LUNCH

July 3 — Ritchie

July 10 — Obenschain

July 17 — Miller

July 24 — St. Stephen's

July 31 — Ritcher

DEACON OF THE WEEK

July 4 — Dennis Simmons

July 11 — Joyce Deavers

July 18 — David Downey

July 25 — Faye Ritchie

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Don Aittama
- 2 Don Cude
- 7 Gary Stiteler
- 9 Mike Logan
- 10 Jean Holthaus
- 12 Faye Armentrout
- 17 Mary Petit
- 18 Avery McCray
- 19 Sam Huffman
- 22 Mary Smith
- 22 Skylar Wampler
- 28 Addison Ellis
- 29 Joe Laughland
- 29 Anne Wright
- 30 Mary Laughland
- 30 Doug Skelley
- 31 Lee Chapman
- 31 Karen Musselman
- 31 Karen Potter

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JULY 20, 2021

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

