



AUGUST 2021

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Imagining - Familiar Hope

REV. MATT WINTERS

If we can think back to before Covid struck, the church read through Mike Queen's text, Hopeful Imagination, which spurred lots of conversation, dreams, ideas and boldness. As I began serving as Senior Pastor, we were thrown into the mediation of Covid-19 protocols. We were robbed of an opportunity to enact many of the suggestions that popped up in conversations. I believe it's time to pick up those conversations and try to move some ideas forward. There will be a challenge ahead as we try to recall what we read, so I invite you to pick up the book again and begin remembering why you underlined those pages.

A great way to review our strategies and give voice to our thoughts would be to gather around the table to have conversation about the themes that emerged from our initial reading of Hopeful Imagination. Remember the days when we were able to have a meal on Wednesday nights and have some prayerful discussions? Let's bring that back. Let's imagine meeting for five Wednesday dinners and discussion about Hopeful Imagination and see where it leads us. We'll work out the times and specific details to come, but mark your calendar for Wednesday nights at dinner time September 22 through October 20 for this series of conversations. I hope you'll join us.

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Weekday Preschool Supply Drive

Did you know there is a weekday preschool at HBC? There is and has been since the late 1960's! Harrisonburg Baptist Preschool accepts up to 16 children 3, 4, or 5 years old who attend either 3 or 5 days a week. Sharon Wampler is the Preschool Director and Jeannie Petit is Associate Teacher. HBC provides classrooms, indoor and outdoor play areas, and utilities but provides no direct financial support.

The preschool had to close in mid-March 2020 due to COVID and plans to re-open with a week long "camp" in August and will begin the first semester in the fall. Please consider contributing some items from the list below to help the re-opening to go smoothly and to meet the current recommendations. Your donations can be put in the labeled bin in the church foyer through August 16. Thank you for your support!

- Paper towels
- Clorox wipes (can be generic)
- Pumper bottles of Antibacterial Hand Gel
- Large bottles of Antibacterial Hand Gel to refill pumpers
- Coffee filters (used as "plates" for some snacks)
- Small paper plates
- 6 ounce or 8 ounce paper cups
- Plastic spoons
- Tissues
- 2 temporal fever scanners

Morning Blend Resumes

The Morning Blend Sunday School Class will resume meeting on September 12 (to coincide with the beginning of in-person children's Sunday School classes). We are looking forward to a time of fellowship and study! We will explore Biblical passages and themes about who Jesus really is and how that applies to our lives in the 21st century/pandemic/post-pandemic. It will be a time of sharing, support, questions, and exploration of God's word and will for our lives.

Kids' Sunday School

Great news! Our Kids Alive Children's Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, September 12! The day will begin with a Promotion Sunday gathering of all Sunday School classes in the sanctuary from 9:15 to 9:30am. Afterwards everyone will be dismissed to their new classes.

Parents, if your child will be moving to a new class, please let the church office know so we can recognize them on Promotion Sunday.

Children's Church

Our Children's Church program will continue into the school year. At this time, children are invited to sit with their families in the sanctuary. The children will be invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for the Children's Message and afterwards dismissed to Children's Church.



Family Fun Night!

Our next Church Family Fun Night is scheduled for Sunday, August 1, 5:00 to 7:00pm. This is for all ages! We will also be taking this opportunity to celebrate our time with our Summer Intern, Justin Mofield, and send him back to Clemson in style! Come and enjoy hamburgers and desserts as well as an inflatable double water slide and other games throughout the evening! (Be sure to come dressed appropriately for water games!)

Please sign up on the Communication Card or call the church office if you plan to attend. We hope you'll join us for this special evening!

Help Needed!

A good number of kids have joined us for Children's Church since the spring and we hope to welcome even more in the fall as we bring back Kids Alive Sunday School.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN MINISTERING TO THESE KIDS AND YOUNG FAMILIES! If you would be willing to help out with our children's programs, please contact Julie Aittama (Children's Church) or Mary Smith (Kids Alive). Please prayerfully consider helping in this way so we can continue to be a church that loves and welcomes young families with kids!

Backpack Blessing

We will hold our Backpack Blessing in the worship service on Sunday, August 22. Parents, please encourage your children to bring their backpacks that Sunday and lay them around the communion table at the beginning of the service so we can offer a blessing for them and on the new school year!

River Baptisms & Church Picnic

On Sunday, August 22 at 4pm, 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 recreation committee will provide the meat, paper products and drinks. We ask members to bring a favorite dish to share - it could be fruit, vegetable or dessert. Remember to bring a serving utensil for your dish.

We are looking forward to welcoming new members into our church family. Our picnic is likened to a family reunion. It is so good to be back together in church. Come out and enjoy the fellowship, good food and God's amazing creation!



Something to Celebrate...

Community Bag Lunch was first served at HBC on Saturday, September 10, 1994.

Our longstanding friendship with neighbors in our community is something to celebrate! A special celebration is planned to mark the anniversary of Saturday Bag Lunch and all food-sharing ministries of HBC.

Everyone involved in food-sharing ministries through HBC are invited to come enjoy burgers (compliments of Keith & Char Turner and the Beef Ministry) and other refreshments on the church lawn Saturday, September 11, 10am-12noon. Please contact the church office if you plan to join us.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

GARY RITCHER, TEAM CAPTAIN

Harrisonburg Baptist Church is participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's, taking place in Harrisonburg on Saturday, October 16. This is our second year of participating in the Walk. Join our team or offer financial support at <http://act.alz.org/goto/hbcalive>. Many people in our church and community have been affected by Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. Nationwide, more than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's, and that number is expected to grow to as many as 14 million by 2050. Please help us to end Alzheimer's and to support all those who are currently affected.

Music & Arts Ministry

GARY RITCHER

We are looking forward to reopening of the full music & arts ministry at HBC, and there is a place for you!

Choir, Praise Team, Jubellation (handbells) and the Instrumental Ensemble are just some of the music opportunities. The first Choir rehearsal of the new year will be August 18. A Christmas cantata is in the works. Handbells get underway September 7. See Anne Wright if you are interested.

Praise Team continues to lead each week. Thanks to all who have volunteered to keep things going this summer. There will be opportunities for children to sing throughout the fall. We always welcome special music selections if you have something you would like to share.

If you are interested in art or creative writing, Pastor Eli is the person to talk to. Be on the lookout for upcoming opportunities. We look forward to more of Randy's amazing sculptures from time to time. We are looking at another First Friday art show. If drama is your thing, watch for announcements from Ron Smith.

If you are a college student, music and art opportunities are great ways to become involved in the life of the church. Something new we are looking at is contemporary style a cappella group. If this is something you enjoy or would like to try, please contact Gary Ritcher.



Thank you, Justin!

We want to offer a very special thank you to our summer college intern Justin Mofield. We are beyond grateful for your time with us this summer and all that you have come to mean to our church family in such a short amount of time.

Justin has helped us in so many ways! He assisted Katelyn and the HBC youth group throughout the summer—especially with Grow and Serve and their Sunday evening gatherings. He taught the Bible Story to our Preschool kids each evening at Bible School and shared the love of Jesus with the kids in our community—especially through the Backyard Bible Club at the Grattan Street Apartment Complex. Justin planned out the Bible lesson for our weekly gatherings and helped us come up with crafts, games and more fun for each week with the kids. Justin also shared his musical talents with us in several ways, including singing in the choir and playing the horn. He led the Praise Team when Gary was away on vacation and assisted with the music in VBS as well.

We will really miss Justin when he's gone! We have

come to rely on him a great deal and will really feel his absence! Please make sure to thank him for all he has done this summer.

And thank you for welcoming him into your homes, the golf course, disc golf course or around the pool table and helped him to make Harrisonburg his home this summer!

Justin, we continue to pray for God's guidance in your life as you continue to discern your call to ministry. We have seen God working in your life and look forward to seeing what God wants to do with you in the future! You always have a home here at HBC so come back and visit us anytime!





August Youth Events

AUGUST 1, 5-7PM

Family Fun Night

AUGUST 8

No Youth Activities

AUGUST 15, 4:30-8:30PM

Last Summer Bible Study

AUGUST 22, 4PM

River Baptisms &
Church Picnic

AUGUST 29, 5-7PM

Bible Study at HBC

Youth Summer Bible Study

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

One of the highlights of our year is Summer Bible Study. We gather by the pool, play water games, chat about life, enjoy dinner together and spend time studying God's Word. We often enjoy s'mores toward the end of our time together too! Summertime is a great time to enjoy the sunshine and catch up with each other before the craziness of school begins.

This summer, we spent time learning about the Bible and discovering where it came from and how we should read it. We spent time each week focusing on these topics:

1. History of the Bible
2. Genres of the Bible
3. Storylines of the Bible
4. How to Interpret the Bible

While the lessons covered an overview of each topic, our study time allowed for deeper questions and deeper understanding of the Bible. The goal for our "back to basics" approach during the summer allowed us to keep building on the foundations of the Bible as we continue growing and maturing in Christ.





College Ministry Updates

HEIDI RUIZ

It's almost time for college students to come back to town and as these students begin to flood in, we are all presented with an opportunity to reach out to the next generation and share the love of Christ with them.

The college ministry here at HBC is gearing up to welcome students back, but we are also thrilled to be able to partner with the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) and it's new campus ministers, Scott and Chelsea Anderson! Scott and Chelsea have been active in campus ministry for 8 years and have served on four college campuses across Virginia. Their passion for walking with college students and supporting their journeys in faith is evident and sure to be a blessing. Their vision for the future of BCM at JMU is bright and we are blessed with the opportunity to serve alongside them. Work Day Wednesdays, an all-day work day in July, and countless other hours have left the BCM building looking better than ever and ready for the new school year!

We are confident that Scott and Chelsea will do a great job in ministering to college students and we look forward to seeing what God will do in the coming year!

Get Involved!

COLLEGE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

This coming academic year, HBC will provide lunches for college students after the Sunday morning worship service. We need your help to help make this a success! If you are willing to provide a lunch for approximately 10-15 students, please contact Cindy Skelley (scvaconn@aol.com).

Looking for a chance to develop a more meaningful relationship with one of college students? Consider "adopting" a student for the next academic year. An "adoption" can mean many things. You may meet your student for coffee a couple times a month, have them over to your house, go on a hike, seek an adventure of the arts or outdoor recreation - or create your own experience! Contact Jackie Leonard (leonarjd@jmu.edu) or Shirley Cobb (cobbsa@jmu.edu).

Thank you for prayerfully and compassionately thinking of ways to warmly welcome and include these students in our faith community.

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!



Leadership Team Report

MARY SMITH, LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR

During the second quarter of 2021, the Leadership Team has received updates from our pastors, reports from committees, approved changes to policy, welcomed our college intern, Justin Mofield, and approved new ministries for HBC.

Each month, our pastors provide updates on activities around the church and present new opportunities for HBC to become involved in God's work. The LT approved Mission Madness for April 2022. It will be a large OIAM day with 175 youth and leaders coming to HBC to work on community projects. VBS and Backyard Bible School have taken place during the month of July. Children had a great time learning about "God's Great Big Beautiful Earth." Pastor Matt, Eli, Justin, and Heidi passed out cheese and ground beef to our Grattan Street neighbors. The LT approved the Beef Ministry as a new ministry for HBC.

Committee reports were provided by Finance, Trustee, Missions, Personnel, Interior and Exterior Premises, Recreation and Decorating Committees. These reports help the LT stay informed of the committees' activities and goals. Take a look around the church and see the flurry

of activity: new rugs in the foyer, playground weeded and mulched, bushes and trees pruned. Food Services and Hospitality Committees provided two great fellowship events. The Police Appreciation Luncheon and Dinner gave us the opportunity to thank the officers and staff for their service. With the Pastor Appreciation luncheon, we finally officially welcomed Pastor Matt, Jessica, Leigha and Sammie. How great it was to fellowship over meals again.

Faye Ritchie, chair of the Personnel Committee, presented several policies and policy changes that the LT approved. These included a Harrisonburg Baptist Employment Contract, Background Check Policy, and the Custodian Job Description. The LT has the responsibility of selecting the members of the Ministry Connections Team and the Deacon Nominating Committee. I am happy to report that willing servants stepped up to the task, and we have both committees complete. As a congregation, we will vote on the newest members of the Deacon Nominating Committee, Karen Burke and Debbie Douglas, at our business meeting on Sunday, August 1st. We move into the last half of 2021 with excitement and anticipation of where God will lead us next.

Minutes of the LT meetings are provided on request.



Missions Committee Updates

CINDY SKELLEY & JULIE AITTAMA

The Missions committee has again been so blessed at blessing others. We collected food pantry items in July. Additionally, this past month we delivered a basket of household items to Mercy House for a family who recently moved into the apartment. We also delivered some donated cheddar cheese to Our Community Place, and picked up more donated beef to use for both Saturday Bag Lunch and monthly Salvation Army meals.

Acts of kindness have spread in a good way throughout the state. More food was donated in late July to "food desert" locations in our state. Pastor Matt was involved in securing ways to distribute this food.

We are excited to let everyone know that the Leadership Team and Finance committee approved HBC's involvement in the Beef Ministry which is very much an extension of the existing cheese ministry. The Beef Ministry is made possible in a similar manner as the cheese ministry. Financial donations allow for beef purchases that are used for benevolent purposes.

Eric and Rachel Simmons of Simmons Heritage Farms in Mount Solon with Keith and Char Turner founded the Beef Ministry that supports the community's needs. For now, HBC will be mainly involved with beef distribution to our

neighbors and mission partners. Stay tuned for more on this ministry as we seek to continue providing nourishing food to our community.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

Serving Opportunities

Hi everyone! It's Judy Simmons, Chairman of the Ministry Connections Team. My how time flies! We need to be thinking about the 'serving opportunities' within our church. As they say 'many hands make light work'. One of the songs from our Christmas letter is a Rascal Flatts one, "How They Remember You". It's about your legacy and how you want to be remembered. So, will you prayerfully consider using your talents and say "Yes!" when someone from the Ministry Connections Team asks you to serve on a committee? Thank you in advance for your consideration.



Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

God's Servants

FAYE LOHR RITCHIE, DEACON

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16

As a member of God’s family, we are called upon to serve others. Just as we serve those in our immediate family, we are responsible for looking out for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Life gets so busy, and we can easily get stuck in the daily responsibilities of our family, children, work and multiple other tasks that need our attention. Sometimes it feels like we are being pulled in so many different directions. I know it is that way for me. At each stage of my life, I find myself thinking—soon things will slow down, and I will have the time to do more volunteer work, more time to serve others. I have been saying this for many years now and somehow life has not slowed down yet. Being a servant of God takes intentionality; it means that we are actively looking for ways to help others, to help our church, to help our community.

It helps if we know what our spiritual gifts are and then find ways to use those

gifts. For some of us, simply praying for our church or for specific people is how we serve. For others, it may be hospitality—taking someone a meal, visiting with someone, or sending a thoughtful card or email. To be a thriving church body, we all have a part to play. If you are unsure what your spiritual gifts are, take a spiritual gifts inventory, or pray about it, listening to that small, still voice of God leading you to a project, a committee, a mission that needs you.

Several committees at HBC have open positions that need to be filled. Spend some time considering where God wants you to serve and be open to the opportunity to help the church grow.

Say YES if you are asked to join a committee. Serving on a committee is a great way to get to know your fellow church members better. Even if you are not familiar with a particular committee and its function, I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and give something new a try. I know you will be pleased that you did! Our church family becomes stronger when we use our talents and spiritual gifts to serve. As Paul tells us in Philippians 2:4—“Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”



Liberty Street Property Update

LIBERTY ST. PROPERTY STEERING COMMITTEE

Throughout the summer, we have been praying about and evaluating the Liberty Street Properties (301, 303 & 305 South Liberty Street). Our committee members have visited each of the properties and created a master list for improvements needed at the houses.

During our assessment, we found sizeable investment areas that the houses need for upgrades and upkeep. As a result, these properties need to be rented in order to help cover the costs of projects. Since the church has generously paid off the mortgages, income from the houses is building quickly.

In order to be wise stewards of the church's property, we have pivoted away from the proposed use of these properties for non-income producing usage (such as a shelter). However, despite the need for rental income, we feel strongly about utilizing and leveraging these rental properties to be outposts of ministry, most likely in the form of some college-age student housing. Among the ideas we have is one of developing an intentional Christian community within the houses, with a focus on hospitality, compassion and discipleship. In order to do this, we

anticipate recruiting specific students to rent the houses instead of having a leasing period open to the general public. Finding these students will be an answer to prayer, so we invite you to pray specifically about students who are willing to lean into something new and find God's creative work centered around the home. We also invite you to pray that God will continue to show us a way forward as we continue to be open to what God has in store.

Note of Thanks

Thank you so much to each of you for your tireless work and sincere appreciation you shared with our family at the Pastor Appreciation Luncheon. We are so blessed to have such a loving church family that pours out love as effortlessly as you do. We are so grateful to be in the midst of so many wonderful people. We were touched by your thoughtful words and acts of compassion. You are wonderful cooks and our cups are full to overflowing of being with you. It's such a gift to us to be able to work alongside you. Thank you for being yourselves!

- Pastor Matt, Jessica, Leigha & Samantha



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Julie Aittama
Becky Armentrout
David Downey
Anna Lee Fega
Diane Gray
Dennis Greene
Wayne & Sally Hannah
David Ingram
Judy Miller
Bill & Barbara Pond
Karen & Kerry Potter
Jimmy & Nancy Russell
Daniel Sanger
Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Skyler (Lyn Weaver's granddaughter)
Martha Jane Burke
(Robby Burke's mother)
Mira Ainslie
(Julie Aittama's cousin's daughter)
Wayne Shifflett (Joyce Deavers' brother)
Tom Kuster & family
(Jackie Leonard's friend)
Andy Redford
(Nancy Shomo's brother-in-law)
Robert Sutherland
(Tracie Ward's brother)
Elias (Katherine Archibold's child)
Becky Morris
(Ellen Shomo's friend)
Dorothy Shenk
(Randy Shenk's mother)
Karen Farrier
(Jessica Winters' mother)

SYMPATHY

Dustyn & Sherry Miller upon the death
of Dustyn's mother, Peggy Miller.
Karen & Don Musselman upon
the death of Karen's mother.
The family of Ann Fowler.

June Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date \$ 271,570.00
Budget receipts to date \$ 262,468.44

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Jane/Hank Bowers Memorials \$3,525.00
- Love Fund \$435.00
- Saturday Bag Lunch \$100.00

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

Budget Planning on the Horizon

Committee chairpersons should have received 2022 budget planning materials.

If you have not received materials, please contact Susan at the church office and she will get them to you.

Please call your committees together to pray and plan for the financial needs of your ministry for next year. Your budget requests are due on August 29th.

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12pm Business Meeting 5-7pm Family Fun Night	2 6:30 Missions Committee Mtg (FH)	3	4	5	6	7
Preschool Summer Camp						
8	9 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	10 6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4) 6:30 Children's Committee Mtg (parlor)	11	12	13	14
15 4:30pm Youth Bible Study (Belcher's) 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (gazebo)	16 6:00 Scouts (Sanctuary)	17	18	19	20 September Newsletter Articles Due	21
22 10:30am Blessing of the Backpacks 4pm River Baptisms & Church Picnic	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 2022 Budget Requests Due 5pm Youth Bible Study (HBC)	30	31	Staff Vacations Matt: July 25-August 1 Katelyn: August 8-13 Susan: August 19-23			

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

TUESDAY

11:00am Tuesdays Together

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

August 7 — Skelley

August 14 — Ruiz

August 21 — Rayes de Esperanza

August 28 — Petit

DEACON OF THE WEEK

August 1 — Mary Smith

August 8 — Nico Nguimbi

August 15 — Mark Griffin

August 22 — Bill Lee

August 29 — Nancy Shomo

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Pat Byrd

1 Nancy Shomo

3 William Pond

4 Dana Mozingo

8 Meg Helbert

8 Tracy McCray

13 Harold Bailey

15 Karen Burke

17 Bill Sanger

19 Anita Staats

24 Sharon Nguimbi

26 Nico Nguimbi

27 Ethan Hartman

27 Raleigh Hartman

27 Randy Smith

28 Matt Lohr

30 Kathy Beery

31 Ashlyn Beery

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

AUGUST 20, 2021

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org



*With His
love He will
calm all
your fears.*

Zephaniah 3:17