



OCTOBER 2021

# HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

## Sharing Tables, Sharing Space

REV. MATT WINTERS

I've sat around a lot of tables in the last month. Each has been a unique experience allowing me to experience precious ways God is at work. Here is a brief snapshot of my table-top experiences of God:

College Lunch—what an amazing array of college students who gather for Sunday lunches after worship. Greeting them and hearing their stories of the semester brings back awesome memories of college life. Thanks to Heidi's hard work, our college student ministry is blossoming and bearing fruit. God is at work in mighty ways in their lives.

Saturday Bag Lunch Celebration—what gets better than a picnic on the lawn! What a special day for burgers, friends and music. Thanks to everyone's hard work, it was our own Valley Fest right downtown. To sit and share stories, make predictions of our football teams and share God's blessings made the day special. It was a wonderful turnout and an amazing experience to be with all our friends.

ELL Class—sitting in English Language Learning Class and listen to our neighbors speak English to us has been a joy. For a year, we've only spoken broken Spanish with some and had to gesticulate with others. To be able to share common language allows us to continue to share the

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## HBC 101 Classes

FIRST SUNDAYS  
BEGINNING OCTOBER 3  
11:30-12:15PM, RM 111

Want to know more about Harrisonburg Baptist Church? Here's an opportunity for non-members and members alike to learn about the church and have their specific questions answered. We hope these classes will help non-members want to unite with HBC in our mission to make passionate disciples for Jesus Christ. Also, these classes are for members (old and new) who would like to learn more about the church and how to get more involved.

We plan to meet on the first Sundays of the month, from 11:30am to 12:15pm, in Room 111 just off the sanctuary. We hope you will join us!

"Sharing Tables..." cont'd from page 1

gospel of Jesus Christ. Thanks so much to Cindy and Mike Mandigo for taking the lead in getting our ELL class off the ground.

HBC Preschool—what a precious sound emanates from the fellowship hall as we hear the childish screams of excitement now that the Preschool is back in session. The children are so fun to observe and thanks go out to Sharon and Jeannie for making it happen.

These are just a few highlights of what it feels like to be doing church together again . . . and I didn't even mention our communion table that brings us all together for the worship of God. We are moving under the power of God and thanks to everyone for your part you play.

## Hopeful Imagination Dinners

EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING THROUGH OCT 13

DINNERS: 5:45 - 6:15PM

\$5/person (\$15/family)

Registration is required!

Sign up at [www.hbcalive.org/dinner](http://www.hbcalive.org/dinner)

DISCUSSIONS: 6:15-7:15PM

Facilitated by Pastors Matt & Eli

Children's activities will be provided during this time

We invite you to come for dinner and stay for conversation around the book *Hopeful Imagination*. We have various topics and themes to consider as we grow together as a church family. We hope you'll join us! Register today at the above link.



## World Communion Sunday

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

In recognition of World Communion Sunday, the Kachin Baptist Church and their leader Roi Ji Marip will join us and assist in our worship service on October 3rd. Pastor Magdiel, a native of Cuba who is active in ministry to Hispanics in the area, will also participate. There will be music and prayers in Burmese, English and Spanish and a special children's message. Plan to come and invite an international friend!



## TREK-OR-TREAT!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD**

5:00-7:00PM: TREKKING

7:00-8:00PM: GAMES & FOOD  
AT THE CHURCH

Families with children are invited to Trek to the various Treat pickup spots set up by church members (we'll send you a list of participating locations shortly before the event). At 7pm, come back to the church and enjoy hot dogs, chips, s'mores, hot chocolate and games on the lawn. We will be giving away prizes for the best-decorated homes as well as the costumes we know you're already working on!

### Volunteers Are Needed! You can:

- Host a Treat Pickup Spot - a Halloween-themed area in your front yard, driveway or porch, with treats (or tricks!)
- Help to set up or clean up at the church



To volunteer, contact  
Pastor Eli at  
[eli@hbcalive.org](mailto:eli@hbcalive.org).





## Youth Events

OCTOBER 2

6:30pm Talent/Variety Show

OCTOBER 3

9:15am Sunday School

4pm Mandatory Mission Trip Mtg

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

OCTOBER 10

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

OCTOBER 13

6-8pm Clothes Closet

OCTOBER 15-16

7:30pm - 7:30am Lock-In

OCTOBER 17

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

OCTOBER 24

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

OCTOBER 31

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Halloween Party  
at the Belcher's

## Youth WV Trip

The youth enjoyed a short getaway to Mathias, WV on September 12. We enjoyed dinner together, capture the flag, a little hike to a scenic overlook, and sitting by the campfire and roasting s'mores. Thank you so much to the Simmons' family for hosting us!







## College Ministry Update

HEIDI RUIZ, COLLEGE MINISTRY INTERN

The start of this school year has definitely been an exciting one for the College Ministry at HBC! We have enjoyed getting to meet new students as well as reconnecting with some familiar faces. It has been such a blessing to build relationships, grow, and serve with these young adults.

On September 11, five students participated in setting up and running games for the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Back to School Bash. This provided them an opportunity to get connected to and serve in the larger community outside of college. The launching of our English Language Learning class has also been a great place for our students to get plugged in and help their neighbors!

New to our college ministry, we explored the idea of an Adopt-A-Student program, and we now have 9 students that have been "adopted" by members of the church! We hope that this program will help connect students to the larger church body and find a "home away from home."

We would like to thank everyone that has participated in College Lunch on Sunday







mornings, whether it's providing a meal or taking the time to sit and chat with the students, it all makes an impact, and we are so grateful. As you walk out of church on Sunday mornings, feel free to stop by the gazebo and say hi!

In addition to Sunday morning activities, we will be adding two small groups to our weekly rhythm. This will be another way for students to dig deep into God's Word and grow together!

It is such a joy and privilege to get to work with college students and we hope that we can serve as a place to equip them to make a difference on their campuses and share God's love wherever they go. It truly has been amazing to see what God is doing in this ministry and we can't wait to see what else he has in store!







## Missions Committee Updates

CINDY SKELLEY & JULIE AITTAMA

It is almost Christmas, and you all know we at HBC love to give presents. It is our way of sharing the gifts we have been given and remembering the reason for the season.

We will have Salvation Army Angel Tree tags available soon for both children and seniors. Also we will have gift giving opportunities for our partner school Spotswood Elementary. We started last year giving to United In Christ ministries. We expect to continue that.

The Missions Committee will meet in October to solidify our Christmas gift plans so please stay tuned for more announcements on these various giving events. We are excited we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ through our gifts.

## Advent Booklet

PASTOR ELI

Send us your submissions for this year's Advent Booklet! Our focus this year will be on God's fulfillment of his promises. Every year at this time we look to the writings of the Old Testament to help us anticipate the promise of the Messiah coming to meet us

where we are. We would love for every single entry to be something a church member has written or some other kind of writing or picture, etc. that is especially meaningful to you. Think about a special childhood or family memory you'd like to share or something God has taught you about promises. Let's take this opportunity to share with one another how God continues to work in our lives. This is always a very special way we can connect with one another during the holiday season.

Your submissions need to be turned in by the end of October so we can ready them for publication.

## 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, Saturday, October 16. This is our second year of participating in the Walk. We invite you to join our team or offer financial support using the link below. The following day, Sunday, October 17, the worship will include special music and other expressions of love and support for those who suffer from dementia and their caregivers.

<http://act.alz.org/goto/hbcalive>



## See Where God is at Work

MARY SMITH, LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR

Waiting on the Lord to answer a prayer or bring about some change can be frustrating and wearisome. We try to be patient, but the doubts come along with the questions: “Just how long will it take?”, “What is keeping God from answering these prayers?”, and “How can we move this along more quickly?” As Christians, we have heard that God’s timing is not our timing. His ways are not our ways. We must wait, watch, and see where God is at work.

Sometimes God is waiting for us to be ready. Due to the pandemic, it has taken us two years to engage in final discussions about the book, *Hopeful Imagination*, and start to “dream” new goals. During those two years, we were not idle. God was not idle. Many of our ideas and prayers fostered in 2019 were answered. Pastor Matt, Jessica, Leigha, and Sammie are now a part of our HBC family. The Liberty St. houses are paid off. We’ve walked across the street and met our neighbors. We know their faces, and they have become a part of who we are.

Sometimes God is waiting for the right people to be in place. Once we met our

neighbors at Grattan Street, we discovered the need for English Language Learning classes. Each time we delivered cheese and groceries, it was obvious more and more people wanted to learn how to speak English. We prayed for God’s guidance, for a vision of what these classes would look like. Who would teach them? Several weeks ago, Cindy and Mike Mandigo started coming to church. They brought with them 15 years of experience teaching ELL classes. Last Tuesday, we held our first ELL class with Mike and Cindy leading five of our Grattan Street neighbors in their first English class.

Sometimes God is stirring our hearts and the hearts of others to join us in His work. Look around on Sunday. Do you see new faces? Our college students have returned. Many of them here at HBC for the first time. They passed by church or saw us on Facebook and decided to check us out. Our children have increased in numbers, bringing friends to church with them. There is a renewed excitement on Sunday mornings. New people in new places.

Continue to be in prayer and “dream” new goals. Wait, watch, and see where God is at work, because God is always at work around us.

*For it is God who is at work in you,  
both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*  
Philippians 2:13





## Meet Our New Staff!

### Chris Belcher, Facilities Manager

On September 14, Chris Belcher began as the Facilities Manager at HBC. This is a relatively new position (just prior to Covid) that handles both the custodial work as well as overseeing the church maintenance and improvement projects. Chris brings a wealth of experience as both church member and project manager/team lead in the restaurant industry. Chris will be cleaning the church and helping us address deficiencies in the building. We're so thankful for Chris being a part of our ministry team and welcome him with open arms!

### Leah Tripp, Praise Team Leader

Please welcome our new Praise Team Worship Leader, Leah Tripp! Leah is a masters student and graduate assistant in Communication and Advocacy at JMU. She is a native of North Carolina and a 2020 graduate of Campbell University, where she was a resident chaplain and worship leader. She has been a Youth Band Mentor, and, for two summers, was a worship leader and camp counselor for Deep Impact Missions, which brought contemporary worship experiences to teens and others around the state of North Carolina. She is also involved with Big Brothers and Sisters and is a Summer Intern with the Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education Program. Let's make Leah feel welcome and give her all the support she needs in this important ministry!

## Welcome Our New Members!



**Mike & Cindy Mandigo**

Mike and Cindy moved to Dayton last September. They are from northern Virginia. Mike is a retired instructional technology coach and Cindy is a retired school social worker. They have two children and two granddaughters 5 and 1 years old. They enjoy teaching ELL and Mike plays handbells.

### In Appreciation...

We extend our grateful appreciation to **Rev. Katelyn Belcher**, Minister of Youth, who has served HBC for 11 years as of September 27th. Thank you, Katelyn, for caring for our youth so well over the past 11 years!



## To Be A Servant

KAREN BURKE, DEACON

**“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. (Romans 16:1-2 NIV)**

In this Scripture, Paul is writing greetings to the Church at Rome. In these first two verses, he introduces Phoebe to the Christians at Rome. We don't know a lot about Phoebe, but she has always fascinated me. Some believe she may have been the person who delivered Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul does give us a few clues to what Phoebe was like in these two verses.

First, Paul calls Phoebe “our sister.” The name Phoebe means “bright” or “shining one” and we know she is from the church in Cenchrea, the small port city near Corinth. She was no doubt a Greek who probably grew up in a Gentile family. Despite this, Paul calls her “our sister.” Even though her religious background was undoubtedly different from Paul's, she was now a vital part of the church at Cenchrea and was a “sister in the faith.” The terms “sisters” and “brothers” in Christ reminded the Roman Church, and us, that as believers, we are all God's children.

Secondly, Paul calls her a “deacon.” Sometime in her life, she decided to follow

Christ and was a deacon in the church. Some translations call her a “deaconess” or “servant.” What would have been her role as a deacon in the first century church? A deacon usually refers to a Christian who is called to serve with the elders of the church in a variety of ways. They weren't “rulers” in the church. They were to be “servants.” They assisted the leaders in various ways. Paul wrote often about how Christians should be “servants” and to model Jesus' love and compassion for others.

In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul instructs the church to have the same attitude that Jesus has. Jesus **“did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)** He was humble, willing to serve others, and he was obedient to his Father.

The third thing we learn about Phoebe from Paul is that he asks the church to receive her “in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need.” Phoebe had often helped Paul and he wanted the Christians at Rome to welcome her and help her with any needs she might have. In this way, the church would be acting in a “way worthy of his people” (or some translations say “saints”). This is how God's people should treat others.

We don't know exactly what Phoebe did to





help the Church in Cenchrea or Paul, but it appears she used the spiritual gifts she had for God's glory. Paul writes about unity in the body of Christ, as well as various spiritual gifts. He says all believers have gifts that may differ from one another, but all are important.

**Romans 12:6 says, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."**

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7 says, "there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."**

What is the purpose of all these gifts that each believer in Christ possess? All of us as followers of Christ are called to be "servants", to use our gifts for the building up of the body. Deacons are called to be "set apart" to help. In Ephesians 4:12 Paul writes, **"...to equip God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith..."**

When I was ordained as a Deacon at HBC this past spring, I was given a "servant towel" as a visual remembrance of what being a deacon means. Some see the deacon as mostly a "ruler or co-ruler" in the church. Sometimes, the "servant" part of the deacon role gets lost in all the meetings and decisions made in the church.

We may be ordained as deacons in the church, or we may be on the path to be the most Christ-like follower we can be. We are

all called to serve one another. All Christians should be people who strive to model Christ. That means to be humble and gentle as Christ is, to be available to others and to be patient.

Whether we are ordained or not, let us all pray we will someday hear Jesus saying to us, **"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21 NIV).**

There are different kinds of gifts,  
*but the same Spirit.*

There are different kinds of service,  
*but the same Lord.*

There are different kinds of working,  
*but the same God works  
all of them in all men.*  
*Romans 12:6*

## Thank You!

Thanks again to those who have been involved with the praise ministry over the summer. You have been amazing during this transitional period in continuing to provide high quality, spirit filled praise music for our worship services.

-Gary Ritcher



# PRAYER CONCERNS

## MEMBERS

Becky Armentrout  
Barbara Betts  
Patti Good  
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

Amanda (Nancy Shomo's daughter)  
Tom Smith  
Dean Baker (friend of Deb Propst)  
Jackie Melton  
    (Julie Aittama's extended family)  
Jean (Nancy Shomo's neighbor)  
Kati Honeycutt  
    (Don & Julie Aittama's daughter)  
Allen Miller (John Holsten's nephew)  
Pat & Bart Trapp (Lyn Weaver's friends)  
Joe Versen (Greg Versen's brother)  
Martha Jane Burke (Robby Burke's mother)  
Tom Kuster & family  
    (Jackie Leonard's friend)  
Dorothy Shenk (Randy Shenk's mother)

## SYMPATHY

Karen Musselman & family upon the death of Don Musselman.

Rachel Hinz & family up on the death of her son, Reinhard Hinz.

# August Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date                      \$ 365,575.00  
Budget receipts to date                      \$ 346,478.51

## Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Hank & Jane Bowers Mem                      \$250.00
- Love Fund                      \$5.00
- Saturday Bag Lunch                      \$470.00
- Cheese Ministry                      \$10,062.00
- World Hunger                      \$20.00
- Open Doors                      \$500.00
- VA State Missions (Alma Hunt)                      \$20.00
- Interior Lighting (Sanctuary)                      \$3,000.00

Honor the Lord with your  
wealth and with the first fruits  
of all your crops.

PROVERBS 3:9

# Budget Planning is Underway!

Thanks to the committees who have completed and turned in their budget requests for next year. Your promptness is very much appreciated!

The 2022 proposed budget will be presented to the church for discussion on Sunday, October 24th at 5pm. Copies will be available by email and at the information desk the week prior.

# Contribution Envelopes

Please let the Financial Ministry Assistant know if you would like to receive contribution envelopes for the year 2022. Options are for weekly or monthly envelopes. Please designate your preference. Contact Susan at [susan@hbcalive.org](mailto:susan@hbcalive.org) or 540-433-2456.



# October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Staff Vacations</b> Susan: Oct 7-11, 25-29 Matt: Oct 16-17 Gary: Oct 18-24				1	2  6:30 Talent/Variety Show!
3 <b>World Communion Sunday</b> 11:30 Class 101 (Rm 111) 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study	4 6:30 Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor)	5 6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	6 5:45 Hopeful Imagination Dinner	7	8	9
10 12:00 Joint FC/LT/PC Budget Mtg (FH) 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study	11 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (B4)	12	13 5:45 Hopeful Imagination Dinner 6:00 Youth - Clothes Closet	14	15 7:30pm	16 9:00 Walk to End Alzheimer's 7:30am Youth Lock-in
17 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (gazebo)	18	19	20 November Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	23 5-8pm Trek or Treat
24 5:00 Budget Presentation 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 5:30 Youth Dinner & Bible Study						

## WEEKLY REOCCURRING EVENTS

### SUNDAY

10:30am Community Worship

### MONDAY

6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201)

1:00pm Staff Meeting

6:30pm Scouts

8:00pm College Small Group (Rm 214)

### TUESDAY

10:00am ELL Class (Rm 201)

11:00am Tuesdays Together (FH)

6:00pm Jubellation Practice

### WEDNESDAY

10:00am Ladies Prayer Group (B4)

10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201)

7:15pm Choir Practice

### THURSDAY

12:15pm College Small Group (Rm 214)

### SATURDAY

10:00am Community Lunch

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

Oct 3 — Joyce Deavers

Oct 10 — David Downey

Oct 17 — Faye Ritchie

Oct 24 — Mary Smith

Oct 31 — Nico Nguimbi

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

Oct 2 — Ritchie

Oct 9 — Ritcher

Oct 16 — St. Stephen's

Oct 23 — Skelley

Oct 30 — Ruiz

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debbie Douglas
- 6 Julie Aittama
- 6 Robby Burke, Jr.
- 9 David Ingram
- 9 Matt Winters
- 10 Sherry Miller
- 10 Roi Ji Phaga
- 10 Leigha Winters
- 16 John Helbert
- 16 Barbara Pond
- 18 Neese Spitzer, Jr.
- 19 Evelyn Hoover
- 21 Daniel Sanger
- 24 Vickie Westlake
- 26 Dustyn Miller
- 27 Becky Armentrout
- 27 Lyn Weaver
- 28 Anna Lee Fega
- 29 Tom Reynolds, Jr.

## 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](http://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

Leah Tripp, Praise Team Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Chris Belcher, Facilities Manager

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

OCTOBER 20, 2021

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at [kim@hbcalive.org](mailto:kim@hbcalive.org)



YOU ARE THE  
*light of the world.*

A CITY BUILT UPON A HILL

CANNOT BE HIDDEN.

MATTHEW 5:14

>>> [tabletreblog.com](http://tabletreblog.com) <<<