



DECEMBER 2021

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Open House—Please Come!

REV. MATT WINTERS

Several Mondays ago, we had a conversation about Jesus not having a home in his traditional three year ministry. We know he grew up in a home, but the Scriptures suggest after the baptism Jesus lived as an itinerant teacher. As such, he was always in someone else's home and reliant on others' hospitality. Personally, I'm thankful this was his lifestyle and wasn't a lifestyle that took hold for most Christians. Although there are some followers of Christ who live closer to this model, most believers around the world follow Christ while living in permanent housing.

Hospitality, though, has always been a bedrock characteristic of the church. In fact, Christians influenced and introduced the Roman world to the acute care of others who were suffering. It was Christians who created hospitals that have continued as a resource for those in search of critical care ever since. Christian lifestyle and value helped change the way the Western world thought of its neighbors. Christians helped instill the need to care for the least of these among us. It's a value that still carries great weight in the secular world today, and it has its roots

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in the teachings of Jesus and the actions of his followers.

As a part of that tradition of hospitality, Jessica, Leigha, Samantha and I would like to invite you to an open house at our home on Sunday, December 12 from 2-4 pm. We hope you will come visit with us, enjoy our Christmas decorations and some refreshments. Please come to find rest and a sense of peace in the business of this season. You do not need to bring anything. We would just feel privileged to share our space and our lives with you.

~Pastor Matt

Advent Readings

Our 2021 Advent Booklet will be available on Sunday, November 28. There will be limited printed copies available, but the devotional thoughts will be published daily on our HBC facebook page (and accessible on our website) and accompanied with links to songs that will help enhance your advent journey. If you haven't yet "liked" our facebook page be sure to do so! And don't forget to share the link for the daily readings with your friends!

Thank you to each of you who have shared from your heart with us so that we may know what it means to journey toward the manger once again this year.

Christmas Bible School

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, NOON - 2PM

Christmas Bible School will be a drive-thru experience much like last year. Families with children are encouraged to drive through the Liberty Street portico any time between noon and 2 pm on Saturday, December 4. The Children's Committee will have a gift bag ready for each family with materials to help you have your own Christmas Bible School and celebrate Jesus' birthday at home together! If you have any questions, contact Pastor Eli.

Christmas Post Office

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 26

The youth group is sponsoring the Christmas Post Office again this year! Please consider sending Christmas cards to your church family through our post office. The Christmas Post Office will open on November 28 and will remain open through December 26. We ask for donations of \$0.25 per card with all proceeds benefitting our mission trip to Mexico next June. Check out United in Christ Ministry Worldwide at www.uicmw.org to see the numerous ways we'll be serving Texas and Mexico next summer!

Meals for Open Doors Shelter

DECEMBER 16-19

Would you like to help with meals for Open Doors Homeless Shelter on December 16-19? Let us know if you'd like to provide food or help serve (6-8pm). Contact Kathy Ritcher at 540-908-0699.



Mosaic Handbell Ensemble

DECEMBER 10, 7:00PM

Join us this holy season on a musical journey through “A Nativity Story.” This lovely program features 9 ringers using 3 octaves of bells (and more) and 5 octaves of chimes – presenting thoughtful, well-crafted music that spans from Prophecy to Epiphany. Celebrate the Angel Gabriel’s message, hold your breath in wonder at the manger-side, gaze in awe at the miraculous star in the heavens, plod on camels in search of the Savior..... and brace yourself for a surprising twist at the end that will lift your spirits!

MOSAIC
Handbell Ensemble

2021 Winter
Concert Series

A Musical Nativity Story

All concerts at 7:00 p.m.

Fri, 12/3 - VMRC *Private concert*
Sat, 12/4 - Luray UMC*
Fri, 12/10 - Harrisonburg Baptist Church*
Sat, 12/11 - Massanutta Springs

Reservations required

*Freewill Offering

Prophecy, Annunciation,
Birth, Epiphany

See Mosaic Handbell FB or MosaicBells.com for details



Winter Wonderfest

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

The Friendly City Merchants & Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance are hosting Winter Wonderfest on Saturday, December 11. You will be able to experience sleigh rides, pictures with Santa, gingerbread house competitions and many many more fun family activities. More specific info is available at www.winterwonderfesthburg.com.

Downtown churches have been invited to participate in the event. HBC will host a time of Christmas crafts, cookies and hot chocolate and more between 2 and 4 pm on this day.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you would be willing to provide some homemade Christmas cookies or hot chocolate, please let us know. If you would be able to give some time on this December afternoon, please talk to Pastor Eli. This is a great opportunity to reach out to our community and it promises to be a fun afternoon for all of us!

Christmas Cantata

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

During our Sunday morning worship service on December 12, the choir will present "One Silent Night" by Pepper Choplin with orchestra and soloists. There will be familiar carols, some of which the congregation will help sing, as well as beautiful new music. A melody runs through the cantata, by which

the Christmas story is told, with larger numbers in between. We have several members who have joined just to help with the cantata. Thanks to them and everyone who has worked so hard to prepare this special Christmas gift.

Christmas Caroling

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 5:00PM

We will be caroling to homebound members of our congregation on Wednesday, December 15. We will organize small groups that will begin around 5:00pm, but carolers are welcome to join us anytime between 5 and 7pm as we visit folks in different locations. We'll have hot chocolate and treats afterwards at the church. Children and families are welcome! Please contact Kathy Ritcher at gkcdrit@aol.com if you would like to be involved.

Staff Christmas Fund

Express your appreciation to the staff at Christmas for their work throughout the year. Specially marked envelopes for your donations are located in the back of the pews for your convenience, or you can donate online at www.hbcalive.org/give (under Funds, select "Other" and enter "Staff Christmas Fund" in the comments section). Donations will be collected through December 15.



Special Needs Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24, 3PM

As we continue to look outward from the church, we have become aware of a need from a next door neighbor. Compass Counseling Services, whose office is beside our parking lot (on the South Liberty Street side), works with families and individuals navigating life with autism. One of the expressed needs for these family units is spiritual community. Families struggling with such spectrum challenges struggle to find churches able to meet their families' unique needs.

So, HBC is partnering with Compass Counseling Services to offer a Special Needs Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 3:00 pm on Friday, December 24. We hope this may be the first of many expressions of church for these families. The aim of this service is to enable any families with special needs to have a safe space to worship God. We will provide a quiet room for those who have sensory sensitivities and a play room for those who struggle to sit through a service.

Please join us and invite any of your family and friends who would benefit from the additional support for individuals with special needs.

We need volunteers who are willing to be the hands and feet of Christ for these families. We would ask volunteers to serve in sensory

and play rooms to provide an alternative to worship if any of the children needed to take a break from the worship time. We would love to provide the families a chance to worship without having their attention redirected to their children. We will rely on the expertise of the Compass Counseling Services staff to equip us to serve well.

Will you pray for this service so that families will experience the birth of Christ in a new way? If you are willing to volunteer, will you let Pastor Matt know? Contact him at matt@hbcalive.org.

May God be glorified!

Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24, 5PM

Join us for our Christmas Eve candlelight communion service with the reading of scripture, singing of carols and interpretive readings to help tell the story of Christmas night. We believe everyone will enjoy this retelling of the night of Jesus' birth.

Last year, we offered two services due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and not knowing quite what to expect. The 5:00pm time slot seemed to be very popular, so this year we have decided to hold one service at 5:00pm.



December Youth Events

- DEC 5
9:15am Sunday School
No Youth Meeting tonight
- DEC 8
5:45-8pm Clothes Closet
- DEC 12
9:15am Sunday School
4:30-7:30pm Christmas Party (at HBC)
- DEC 19
9:15am Sunday School
5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study
- DEC 26
9:15am Sunday School
No Youth Meeting tonight

Youth Update: Halloween Party

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group had a spook-tacular Halloween Party on October 31! We enjoyed food, fellowship, and games. We kicked off the party by painting pumpkins and then we played some games involving donuts on strings. After dinner, each student had a turn with the pinata, and they all went home with too much candy. As the evening ended, we enjoyed the fire pit and capture the flag. We were so grateful for all the students who participated and congratulations to Connor for winning the costume contest!





Missions Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

Thank you once again for your generosity! We are making a difference in the lives of many because you have a heart for others and a willingness to help those in need. Many of the packages for the Angel Tree gifts have already been delivered to church. Thank you!

Here is an update on several HBC mission projects:

All Angel Tree gifts are due by Sunday, December 5.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes: This year, we delivered 17 Operation Christmas Child boxes to the Church of the Nazarene. Some members chose to fill boxes on line. As a church, we will have prepared over 20 OCC boxes this year.



United in Christ Ministry: The missions committee, on behalf of HBC, sent a \$400 check to our UICM friends to use for Christmas boxes and their Soup Kitchen Ministry. Katelyn and the youth are currently planning their 2022 Trip to UICM where they will get a chance to assist in mission work in Texas and Mexico. We are excited to continue building a relationship with the UICM and our missionary friends, Marc and Chacho.

Computers for Bluefield: The missions committee, on behalf of HBC, sent a \$500 check toward computers for the Wade Center Childcare Center in Virginia. The members of the Bluefield partnership (WMUVA, CBFVA, and BGAV) challenged 25 churches to donate \$500 a piece to help get new computers for the Wade Center, giving students good, reliable computers to do Zoom meeting and online homework.

Christmas Food Bags: We will be delivering bags of food to our Grattan Street neighbors and others in the community in December. Each bag will include cheese and beef from the Cheese and Beef Ministry. There will also be other items such as fresh produce, rice, beans, canned vegetables, flour and corn meal. If you would like to help with the deliveries, contact Mary Smith (540-222-5873) or call the church office.



Leadership Team Report

MARY SMITH, LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR

Thanks to everyone who stayed to attend the November Business meeting after service on Sunday, November 14. You approved three new deacons - Shirley Cobb, Phil Douglas, and Lyn Weaver - who will start their duties in January 2022. All changes to the Operations Manual that were presented were approved. This included waiving for one year Article 8, Section D of the Bylaws to allow Deacons to serve on a January - December schedule, beginning January 1, 2022. It is our hope that these changes will make the work of the church much more efficient.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for those Deacons who have served with me over the past three years: Joyce Deavers, David Downey, and Faye Ritchie. Each one has taken their responsibilities as Deacon and member of the Leadership Team very seriously and worked diligently to make decisions that honor God's work at HBC. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

As we move into the season of Advent and celebrate together the birth of Jesus, let us pause to reflect on all that is good. May your receive God's blessings now and in the coming year.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14

Open Your Eyes

DENNIS SIMMONS, DEACON

Our Sunday School class has been studying the miracles of Jesus in the Bible. Recently we studied the miracle of Jesus healing the blind man in John Chapter 9, verses 1-41. This wasn't the only time Jesus healed a blind man, but this one held a special meaning for me, because of these words in verse 25. "I was blind and now I can see."

We've all heard this saying many times. What does it really mean? Not only does it mean that the man had received his sight physically. It also means that the blind man and all of us need to open our eyes and see Jesus and hopefully understand his teachings.

Even the disciples had trouble trying to understand and they were there and saw all these miracles. How can we hope to understand 2,000 years later? Thankfully, we have our study of the Bible to guide us in our understanding.

The common belief at that time was that the man was blind because of his or his parents' sins. Jesus corrected that fallacy. He was just blind and now his healing can be an example of God's power. The Pharisees were always trying to catch Jesus doing something wrong according to their interpretation of Jewish Law. They considered Jesus to be a sinner. How could this sinner make a blind man see?

Maybe the Pharisees were the ones who were blind. They needed to open their eyes and see Jesus for who he really was. We need the love of



Jesus today more than ever. We need to open our eyes to what Jesus has done for us. We need to believe and have faith that things will turn out okay. We certainly don't understand why bad things happen. Only God knows. But as Christians, we know that in the end, if we believe, everything will be all right.

Thank You!

Katelyn, Matt, and I cannot thank you enough for your thoughtfulness and many ways of honoring us for Pastor Appreciation in October. We are grateful for each card and kind word spoken, for the many gift cards and baked goods, and other gifts, and just to be in a place where we feel appreciated means more than you can ever know. We are grateful for Harrisonburg Baptist Church and to be serving in a place that so greatly desires to follow where God wants to take us. We appreciate your compassion towards others, your dedication to one another, and your desire to grow more into the people God has called us to be daily. May we continue to move forward into the new year listening for the call of God in our lives as individuals and our life as the body of believers of HBC. God is indeed doing beautiful things here and for that, we are also thankful. God bless each one of you.

Peace to you,
eli

HBC Directory

Did you know that there is a quick and easy way to obtain HBC members' most up-to-date contact information, and it's available 24/7? HBC maintains an online directory through Instant Church Directory, which is easily accessible via the internet or an app on your mobile device. For links and instructions, visit www.hbcalive.org/directory.

Once you've logged in, please take a moment to verify that the information we have for you is correct—and then upload a recent picture of you or your family! Click on the "Edit My Family" button to change your information or upload a new picture.

For those who prefer a printed directory, there will be non-pictorial directories available in the foyer beginning December 19. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

New Member

Judy Stewart joined HBC on October 24, 2021. Judy was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and moved to Harrisonburg in 1985. She retired from Shomo & Lineweaver/BBT Insurance Services after 30 years of service.

Judy helped to raise several children, including her niece, Kelly. In her younger years she enjoyed white water canoeing, camping, bungee jumping and skiing. Her hobbies now include gardening and birding (she has a passion for shorebirds), and she enjoys vacationing on Chincoteague Island.



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Becky Armentrout
Barbara Betts
Diane Gray
Dennis Greene
Wayne & Sally Hannah
Judy Miller
Bill & Barbara Pond
Karen & Kerry Potter
Jimmy & Nancy Russell
Daniel Sanger
Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Kati Honeycutt
(Don & Julie Aittama's daughter)
Martha Jane Burke
(Robby Burke's mother)
Tom Kuster & family
(Jackie Leonard's friend)
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)
Dorothy Shenk
(Randy Shenk's mother)

October Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date	\$ 459,580.00
Budget receipts to date	\$ 425,376.11

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Playground Renovations	\$302.16
(Don Musselman Memorials)	\$5.00
• Love Fund	\$250.00
• Saturday Bag Lunch	\$50.00
• VA State Missions (Alma Hunt)	\$225.00
• World Hunger	

Upcoming Financial Dates to Remember

December 19 – 2022 envelope sets will be available in the church foyer. Offering envelopes for those unable to pick them up will be mailed or delivered by our Visitation Team.

December 31 – 2021 Year-end stock and other donations to the church must be in the church office by December 31st or postmarked by December 31st.

January 10 – All 2021 invoices or requests for reimbursement must be dated by December 31st and delivered to the church office by January 10, 2022. Any 2021 items received after January 10 will be posted to the 2022 budget.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Staff Out of Office Eli - Dec 13-18, 26-28		1	2	3	4 12-2pm Drive-Thru Christmas Bible School
5 Angel Tree Gifts Due	6 4pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor)	7 10am ELL class (201) 6pm Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	8 5:45-8pm Youth Clothes Closet	9	10 7pm Mosaic Handbell Ensemble	11 9am-12pm Cantata Practice 2-4pm Winter Wonderfest
12 Christmas Cantata 2-4pm Open House at Pastor Matt's 4:30pm Youth Christmas Party (HBC)	13 6:30pm Scouts Pack 42 (FH)	14	15 5pm Christmas Caroling	16 Open Doors Shelter Meals	17 6-9pm Sanctuary Reserved	18
19 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (gazebo) 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	20 January Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	23	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve 3pm Special Needs Christmas Eve Service 5pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas 2-6pm Kachin Church
26	27 Office Closed	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Steve Alvis
 1 Diane Gray
 1 Susie Versen
 6 Ralph Darling
 6 Diego Paul
 6 Joan Sanger
 12 Sherri Chapman
 12 Brandon Hawley
 13 Chris Ellis
 13 Christian May
 13 Erin Northen
 14 Don Embrey
 15 Wayne Robertson
 18 Erin Waddell
 22 Genevieve Jean Leger
 22 Ted Rose
 22 Greg Versen
 22 Eli Withers
 23 Claudia Obenschain
 26 Parker Webb
 27 Eddie Mozingo
 27 Sarah Webb
 29 Marie Graham
 29 Nancy Russell
 30 Sarah Beery

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 (Parlor)

6:30pm Scouts

8:00pm College Small Group (Rm 214)

TUESDAY

11:00am Tuesdays Together (FH)

6:00pm Jubellation Practice

WEDNESDAY

10:00am Ladies Prayer Group (B4)

10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201)

6:30pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY

12:15pm College Small Group (Rm 214)

SATURDAY

10:00am Community Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Dec 5 — Karen Burke

Dec 12 — Jeannie Petit

Dec 19 — Dennis Simmons

Dec 26 — Joyce Deavers

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Dec 4 — Ritcher

Dec 11 — Miller

Dec 18 — St. Stephen's

Dec 25 — Ritchie

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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A publication of

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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STAFF

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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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

DECEMBER 20, 2021

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

