



FEBRUARY 2022

# HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

## Year End Reflections

REV. MATT WINTERS

As we close the books on 2021 and head into 2022, we bid a fond farewell to a great year. I'm so impressed with the church's ability to weather the challenges we faced. Covid continued to spike from time to time, but we were able to worship together throughout the year. We may have bypassed some meals and missed some fellowship time, but we came together in Sunday School classes, worship and small group times. We have found ways to build community and care for one another.

Perhaps the most exciting experiences of the year were the things we did for others. We began offering English Language Learning classes again with the help of Cindy & Mike Mandigo and Mary Smith. We continued the Cheese Ministry and added the new Beef Ministry. The church helped send food to Kentucky after the devastating tornadoes. We continued to feed neighbors with the Blessing Box and served meals at Open Doors. Christmas Day was special with the hosting of 60+ people for our Bag Lunch meal. We also resumed the Operation Inasmuch ministry, which once thrived.

HBC has offered real ministry opportunities and we have shown love to our city. We gave away grants to On the Road Collaborative and AVA Care programs. We have

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## Upcoming Events

### SCOUT SUNDAY

February 6

Join us as we celebrate our ongoing relationship with the Scout Troops by hosting Scout Sunday on February 6. We will not have a pancake breakfast this year but look forward to having them share in the leading of worship with us. Please help us extend a hearty welcome to the Scouts that day!

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

February 11, 6-8pm

Pizza, salad, and drinks will be provided. Contact Pastor Eli if you are willing to bring a dessert to share. You are also invited to bring your favorite board game or card game as well. This event is for all ages and the whole church family (and friends) are invited to attend! We hope you can join us!

### ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2, 6:30pm

Looking to the year ahead, Lent begins on March 2, and we are planning to have an Ash Wednesday service here at HBC at 6:30 pm. This service will be in-person and streamed live online.

invested in our college community and shared burdens with grieving families. We have said thank you to nurses and shown up at clinics to help with vaccinations. We have taken the pledge and vow of loving neighbor as self to heart. With that attitude, I think our future remains bright. And, in this year, we get to do all that and more. Thanks for your help!

## Yes, It's 2022 – Is God With Me Now?

BILL LEE, DEACON

Well, it seems like it's still 2020 in so many ways. Life is just "not back to normal." What does the future hold? When will it feel normal? Is the future going to be even worse? Illness, loss of jobs, politics - it all affects us daily. So, what does the future hold?

The most common command that there is in the Bible is "Fear Not." This tells us that God is aware that we often get afraid. The Psalmist often confessed his fears, but he put those fears in a much wider context. He acknowledged his fears but faced them with courage. Courage is the ability to face fear. Face it head-on.

Psalm 27:1 says "The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?"

Christians are promised a future that depends on something far better than economics or politics. The Lord over the universe, Jesus Christ, promises that He is always with us!

Even some of the disciples when they were getting their last view of Him doubted what life would be like after He left them. Matthew tells us that "some doubted" even when they saw his face. Jesus put their doubts about Him and the future to rest by assuring his followers that



through faith in Him, their future would be secure. He said, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." In other words, their worries and concerns would not necessarily go away, but his followers needed to base their trust in the promises of the Savior alone.

What should we do? Make friends with Jesus. Live your life in a way that will please Him. Pray. Help others. Do good. Don't worry about circumstances you can't control. God doesn't promise that your worries will go away. God promises that if you trust Him, He will always be here for you. And nothing can be better than that assurance.

Will there always be difficult times? Will Satan continue to tempt us? At times like this you may ask "Is the Lord with me?" Let us never think that trying times are reserved just for those that are rebelling against God or are outside his will. As both Abraham and Isaac found out, there are sometimes famines while you are right in the Promised Land. David also faced tremendous difficulties which were not of his making. Yet, in the midst of uncertainty, David could say "this I know, that God is for me!" (Psalm 56:9). It was the pivotal point as he wavered between fear and faith.

When trials come into your life, don't blame God, or question His love. Remember the story of the man who knew he had walked with the Lord. He saw two sets of footprints. But there were areas with only one set of footprints and those were times that this man was at his lowest and saddest. He asked the Lord why He had left him at those times, and the Lord replied that those were the times that He had carried him.

Corrie ten Boom used to say, "When the train goes through a tunnel and the world gets dark, do you jump out? Of course not. You sit still and trust the engineer to get you through." Yes, God is with you through the good times and the bad.

*Dear Lord, help me not to worry about circumstances I cannot control. May I trust my future to you alone as the firm foundation of my life. Amen.*

## The Vinery

REV. ELI WITHERS

The time has finally come! Your HBC representatives—Heidi Ruiz, Shirley Cobb and myself—will soon be attending our first gathering of the inaugural Vinery cohort in Clemson, SC. There we will begin our deeper journey into not only learning to better minister to college students, but to the whole college campus. We will be partnered with another church going through this process so that we can encourage and challenge one another along the way. We have already had opportunity to meet folks online and we are excited to see where this journey will take us! In next month's newsletter, we will give you a full report of our experience in South Carolina as well as some of the exciting things we anticipate in our future! The folks at The Vinery have left us with this question to ponder— "How do you listen for the heart of God for your church, your campus, and your city?" Let's prayerfully consider this question as we continue to venture forward in new and exciting ways!



## Mission Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

Even though the Missions Committee did not have our January meeting due to inclement weather, our mission work continues:

**People Helping People** - Each month \$200 is sent to PHP through the HBC missions' budget. This is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization supported by our areas faith communities and individual community members. Organized in 1992 to meet the needs of the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County, PHP provides services for more than 2,000 area families each year. PHP focuses their effort on providing financial assistance to avoid disconnection of basic utilities such as electric, water and heating oil. The Missions Committee is grateful that HBC can be a part of the work accomplished by People Helping People.

**Blessing Box** - Do you realize our Blessing Box has been serving the community for over two years now? It was installed at the north end of our parking lot in September 2019. Our congregation helps to keep the box filled with non-perishable food items, hygiene items, Bibles, and devotional books. Even small blankets and clothing, such as hat, scarves, gloves and socks, have been placed in the small pantry by our members. We have a team of eleven individuals and families who are assigned to monitor the Blessing Box a week at a time. They come to stock the box daily. This was another way we felt HBC could help our neighbors in need.

**Mission Madness** - April 29 –May 1st, HBC will be hosting Mission Madness for approximately 150 church youth and their leaders. On Saturday, April 30th, the students will go out into our community to do mission projects. We are currently planning about 15-20 projects that these young people can take part in. Soon, you will be invited to volunteer your time and talents to help make this a meaningful experience. Watch for more information to share ways you can serve.

## Children's Ministry Updates

REV. ELI WITHERS

Winter is upon us! We hope you are finding ways to stay warm and maybe even go sleigh riding from time to time!

The Children's Committee would like to invite you once again to a **Church Family Fun Night on Friday, February 11 from 6 to 8pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We will provide pizza, salad, and drinks and would like to have a few folks volunteer to bring a dessert to share. You are also invited to bring your favorite board game or card game as well. This event is for all ages and the whole church family (and friends) are invited to attend! We hope you can join us!

Looking ahead, we are planning an **Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 10**. More details will be coming but mark your calendars for that. Also, **Vacation Bible School will be Monday, June 27 through Thursday, June 30 from 6 to 8pm** each





evening. Of course, we need many, many volunteers to make this happen! If you would like to be apart of this fantastic time, please talk to Sarah Northen or Eli.

We are always looking for volunteers to help in the Children's Ministry of HBC! We have more and more kids coming to church, and that means we need more and more folks to volunteer.

We are in a process of updating our background checks for those currently volunteering in our Children's Ministry. In the near future we will send out emails to folks with directions on how to make this happen. If you have any questions at all, feel free to reach out to Eli.

We are hoping to take a group of kids to Passport Kids at Eagle Eyrie this summer. If your child (who has completed third through sixth grade) is interested in going please speak to Eli as soon as possible so we can find out who might be interested in attending.

We are excited to see what this year holds for our children! The last couple years have been a challenge, but God continues to help us move forward. It is an honor and a privilege to work with the children of HBC and our community and we hope you will join us on that journey.

## January Family Fun Night

JANUARY 14, 2022





## February Youth Events

FEB 6

9:15am Sunday School

6:00-7:30pm Bible Study & Games

FEB 9

5:45-8pm Clothes Closet

FEB 13

9:15am Sunday School

FEB 20

9:15am Sunday School

6:00-7:30pm Bible Study & Games

FEB 27

9:15am Sunday School

6:00-7:30pm Bible Study & Games



## Passion Conference 2022

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

Picture this: walking into a massive stadium quickly filling up with 55,000 fellow Christians, all there to worship God and to hear His Word over our lives. Most of our group had attended the Passion Conference in 2020, so we knew what to expect. But it was still an awe-inspiring moment. A group of 11 of us traveled to Atlanta, GA to attend the Passion Conference on January 2nd and 3rd in the Mercedes-Benz stadium. The Passion Conference aims to gather thousands of 18 to 25-year-olds for worship, instruction, and inspiration to grow God's Kingdom. Over the course of six sessions, we heard life-changing messages from Christian leaders like Tim Tebow, Christine Caine, David Platt, Jackie Hill Perry, Levi Lusko, and of course, Louie and Shelly Giglio. We were led in passionate worship by Passion Music, Crowder, Kari Jobe, KB, and Maverick City Music.

To say the least, the two days we spent in the stadium were a whirlwind and our group experienced countless God moments. There are two God moments that I witnessed that I'd like to share with you. The first God moment was during Jenny Allen's talk. Her powerful sermon was about the weight of sin and shame and how they seek to destroy us if we never name them and ask for forgiveness and repentance. Jenny then challenged each person in the stadium to form small groups of the same gender and to confess our sins to one another, and then pray for one another. Our group followed her instructions, and it was a profoundly freeing moment as well as an authentic bonding experience.





The second God moment happened during Louie Giglio's talk. He shared a story about two girls who were coming to the conference. As they were travelling to the stadium, a negligent driver ran over them in a crosswalk. Praise God, they survived, and we spent time during that night praying for them. As Louie was sharing this news with us, he said something that was very profound to me. He said, "Let's not assume we have decades left. Let's decide the fates of our lives tonight." That really spoke to me because I think it's easy to assume we have all this time left and we don't live our lives the way we should due to that assumption. I believe that quote will stick with me for a long time.

To say the least, we had so many incredible experiences at this conference. We're so grateful to the church that we could have this experience and offer it to the young people of our congregation. Thank you, HBC!





## Leadership Team Report

MARY SMITH, CHAIR

The final quarter of 2021 rounded out a very busy year for HBC. During Remembrance Sunday on November 7, we recognized six members who passed away in 2021. At the Fall Business Meeting on November 14, the congregation approved the 2022 HBC Budget. Also approved were three new deacons, Shirley Cobb, Phil Douglas, and Lyn Weaver, who started their duties in January 2022. Several changes were approved to policies regarding committees and teams. The changes 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.

Pastor Matt and Pastor Eli gave reports at each Leadership Team meeting, providing information on the following activities and events that took place during the Advent and Christmas season at HBC. We enjoyed our Advent Booklet that included writings collected from the congregation. On December 4 we had our second Christmas Bible School Drive-Thru where families picked up gift bags with Christmas books and activities for the whole family. On December 11, we took part in the Harrisonburg Winter Wonderfest. HBC served hot chocolate and homemade cookies. We had many families visit us in the gazebo to enjoy our refreshments and make Christmas crafts. Heidi Ruiz and college students delivered a dozen Christmas Food Bags to our Grattan Street neighbors. On December 19, the Children's Nativity Narration Video was a part

of the service. The youth and members of our church provided thank-you cards of appreciation to the intensive care unit nurses at Sentara/RMH acknowledging their outstanding service during the COVID-19 pandemic. HBC had two services on Christmas Eve this year: HBC partnered with Compass Counseling Services to offer a Special Needs Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 3:00 pm for families impacted by autism and our regular 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service included a drama, "Bethlehem Speaks."

During this quarter, we received updates from several committees. The Liberty Street Housing Steering Committee reported that planning is underway to do improvements at 303 Liberty Street during summer 2022. The Finance Committee gave updates to the budget and shared that it appeared we would once again have a surplus at the end of the year. The Missions Committee provided a list of mission outreach activities: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, Salvation Army and Spotswood Angel Tree gifts, Bibles for inmates at the Augusta Correctional Center, meals at Open Doors, and Christmas Day meal for the homeless.

The passing of Daniel Sanger on December 15, 2021 and of Robby Burke on December 30, 2021 were acknowledged, with condolences extended to their respective families.

We welcomed Judy Stewart (October 24, 2021) and Susan Yazdani (December 26, 2021) as new members of HBC.

Minutes of the LT meetings are provided on request.





## Thank You's

We want to express our appreciation to our friends at Harrisonburg Baptist Church for all the kindness and love shown us in the recent death of our son, Daniel Sanger. Thank all of you for the many visits to our home, the cards, food, telephone calls, prayers, and more. A special thanks to Pastor Matt for his visits and help with moving some articles in Daniel's room in our home, and especially for the fine memorial service in the church sanctuary.

May God bless all of you.  
Bill and Joan Sanger

I want to thank everyone who prayed for Robby while he was at UVa, and for those continuing to pray for our family since Robby's passing. Both Robby and I appreciated so much the visits from Pastors Matt, Eli and Katelyn. Eli visited earlier in his UVa hospitalization as well as the morning of his catheterization at RMH Dec. 10. Katelyn came over to UVa per his request in his final days and anointed him. Pastor Matt came on the 29th, which turned out to be Robby's last full day on this earth.

I also want to thank everyone who donated Bibles for Robby's ministry at Augusta Correctional Center (ACC). Robby was so thankful for each and every donation, as giving Bibles to the men at ACC was a major joy for him! He was able to get some inside before his hospitalization. There are still

some donated Bibles to get into the prison. I promised him in the hospital that I would make sure that all the Bibles are delivered so they can go into "the men's hands" as Robby promised. I will be working on that project.

Despite a broken heart and missing Robby SO much, I know God is with me and I can feel his loving arms embracing me each time I receive calls, cards, food and other generous expressions of love and support.

Thank you again for all of your love! Each of you is a living example of "Jesus' hands and feet" in this place, and I'm glad to be a part of HBC!

In Christ's love,  
Karen Burke

Thank you for all the cards and phone calls, which have helped me to continue to feel connected to the church while I am in Florida.

- Evelyn Hoover

An overdue thank you to Tony and Marie Graham for creating our window shelves for the sanctuary! We are so grateful for your effort and beautiful work making it possible for us to display the nativity scenes throughout the Advent and Christmas season. We appreciate you and look forward to using these shelves many more times in the future!

- Pastor Eli



# PRAYER CONCERNS

## MEMBERS

Becky Armentrout  
Barbara Betts  
Joyce Deavers  
Diane Gray  
Dennis Greene  
Wayne & Sally Hannah  
Sherry Miller  
Bill & Barbara Pond  
Karen & Kerry Potter  
Jimmy & Nancy Russell  
Constance Via  
Lyn Weaver & family

## EXTENDED FAMILY

Chrissy Aittama  
(Don & Julie Aittama's daughter)  
Elizebeth Cellonme  
(Esmyle Paul Elan's grandmother)  
Lauren Knitter (JMU student)  
Lynn Redford  
(Nancy Shomo's sister-in-law)  
Crystal Christie  
(Don Embrey's niece)  
Mark Conley  
(Jake Petit's girlfriends' father)  
Lucy Siglin & family  
(Noelle & Danny Carroll's friends)  
Jeanne Noe (Nancy Russell's mother)  
Virginia Ruth Davis & Beth Howard  
(Sara Kate Moore's friends)  
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)

## SYMPATHY

Karen Burke upon the death of her husband, Robby.  
Steve & Pattie Alvis upon the death of Steve's sister, Elizabeth H. Alvis.

# December Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date \$ 543,143.00  
Budget receipts to date \$ 533,321.77

## Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Love Fund \$5.00
- Staff Christmas Fund \$1,625.00
- Lottie Moon Missions \$977.00
- Saturday Bag Lunch \$450.00
- Cheese Ministry \$1,200.00
- Beef Ministry (KY Tornado Relief) \$17,150.00
- Habitat for Humanity \$1,400.00
- Youth Mexico Trip \$399.22
- Nasaruni Academy \$300.00
- Playground Renovation Fund \$45.00
- Interior Lighting Fund \$2,000.00
- Trustees Fund \$88,669.95

# Finance Committee Update

At the January Finance Committee meeting, Don Aittama was elected the new Finance Committee Chair. HBC gifts and offerings closed the year on a very strong note, and we thank each of you for your continued support. When the financial reports of 2021 are finalized, we will have more information to share. Unfortunately, they were not completed prior to the publication date of this newsletter. Look for a year end review in the next newsletter.

# FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Staff Out of Office</b> Eli - Jan 30-Feb 2 Matt - Jan 31-Feb 1 Kim - Feb 4 Gary - Feb 14-18	1	2	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 SCOUT SUNDAY 11:30am HBC Class 101 (Rm 111) 6-7:30pm Youth Bible Study & Games	7 4pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor)	8 6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	9 5:45-8 pm Youth - Clothes Closet	10	11 6-8pm Family Fun Night (FH)	12
13	14 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	15	16	17	18	19
20 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (gazebo/parlor) 6-7:30pm Youth Bible Study & Games	21 6:30 Scouts Pack 42 (FH) March Newsletter Articles Due	22	23	24	25	26
27 6-7:30pm Youth Bible Study & Games	28					

## 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

### TUESDAY

10:00am ELL (Rm 201)

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

### SATURDAY

10:00am Community Lunch

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

Feb 6 — Bill Lee

Feb 13 — Nancy Shomo

Feb 20 — Don Aittama

Feb 27 — Karen Burke

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

Feb 5 — Sharon Miller

Feb 12 — Becky & Kirt Ritchie

Feb 19 — St. Stephen's

Feb 26 — Kathy & Gary Ritcher

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 Patti Good  
8 Judy Simmons  
8 Jim Wampler  
12 Dawn Krall  
15 Ellen Shomo  
16 Jonathan Phaga  
17 Avery Ellis  
17 Laura Fly  
17 Jimmy Russell  
18 Victoria Moutinho  
21 Trace Belcher  
21 Julia Obenschain  
22 Nomene Paul  
24 Caroline Lohr  
24 Sharon Lovell  
26 Tom Ward  
26 Jay Webb  
27 Laura Logan  
28 Joshua Fly



## HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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#### STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew 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

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 21, 2022

Please submit articles to

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

LOVE THE LORD  
WITH ALL YOUR  
heart  
WITH ALL YOUR  
soul AND  
WITH ALL YOUR  
strength  
Deuteronomy  
10:5