



JULY 2022

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Spreading Love Around the City

REV. MATT WINTERS

As one of the projects during Mission Madness weekend in April, Mike Mandigo worked with the students to construct ten bat houses. These wooden boxes provide shelter for bats who are key pollinators and insect consumers. Sam Huffman also constructed ten bat houses, so in total we have supplied the city of Harrisonburg with twenty unique bat houses. As soon as they're installed, the city Parks and Recreation department will geocode them. (Geocodes are geographic coordinates that allow anyone to find the item's location.) We will be able to see the direct fruits of our labor and track the impact of these bat houses for years to come!

This bat house installation project gives us another point of connection with the city. When the youth choir visited in late June, they heard from clients and staff at places they sang about the impact of HBC on the community. The kingdom of God is taking root in our city with a little bit of help from each of us. I'm grateful for the presence that we have as well as the light we shine. Little by little, lives are being changed and smiles are forming on the faces of those who experience desperation and isolation. May the bats who live in our houses not make as big an impact on this city as we can. Keep striving to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Harrisonburg!

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Real Freedom

KAREN BURKE, DEACON

As the Fourth of July approaches this year, our country celebrates 246 years of Independence. Many people will have picnics and other gatherings with family and friends to celebrate. Fireworks have always been a part of many celebrations.

When we think of freedom, we think of the men and women who have sacrificed to keep our country free. We think of our freedoms of religion, speech, and so many others. And we're thankful of these freedoms we have.

Today I'm thinking about another kind of freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV) says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

Christ offers at least three freedoms: 1. Freedom from something, 2. Freedom in something, and 3. Freedom to something.

First, we have **freedom from something**. Romans 6:22-23 tells us, "But now that you have been **set free from sin** and become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Without Jesus, we are slaves to sin. We're in bondage and we're locked in sin. It's like being on the outside of your car, and the keys are locked inside the car, where you can't get to them. The more you try to open

the door, short of breaking the window of course, the more you realize you can't get in. With sin, the more you live in sin without Jesus, the deeper and deeper you go into sin. You don't have the right key to freedom.

Other Scriptures mention other things beside sin and death that we have freedom from with Jesus. We also have freedom from anguish, accusation, tears, mourning, crying, pain, and bondage to decay.

Secondly, with Christ we have **freedom in something**. In John 15, Jesus says, "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.*" If we **remain in Christ**, we will be truly free, will bear fruit for him, and be set free. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We need the Holy Spirit's power.

The **third freedom is freedom to something**. Galatians 5:1, 13-14 says, "*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery...You, my brothers, and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather **serve one another humbly in love**. The entire law is summed up in a single command: *Love your neighbor as yourself.*" We are called to be kind to one another, to serve one another in love, to witness and preach the good news of Christ to others, to comfort those who mourn, to let the light of Christ shine in and through us, to worship God, and to live as servants of God. Paul emphasizes this in this verse from Galatians when he*



says we are to serve one another in love and are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Of course, Jesus told us this repeatedly, didn't he? He also answered the question of who our neighbor is, with the story of the Good Samaritan. Kindness is important to Paul. It's important to Jesus. It should be important to us.

I like fireworks. But the problem with fireworks is that their beauty doesn't last long. We enjoy them for a few minutes, and then must wait until the next year to enjoy them again. The good news about Jesus is that he is always with us. He doesn't just last a few minutes. He'll never leave us. God has promised that his Holy Spirit is always in us if we let him in, believe him and follow him.

So, on this 4th of July, let's think about our freedoms. We can be thankful for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, but let's also be thankful for the freedoms we all need, the freedoms that are only found in Jesus. Jesus has given us what we need to enjoy his freedoms. Let's not waste what God has given us; the freedom from sin and death, the freedom in Christ, and the freedom to serve one another in love.

Creation Care News

THANK YOU to Betty Ecklund, David Emswiler, Tony Graham, Alice Graves, Charles Graves, Hunter Hayes, Cindy

Mandigo, Pastor Matt, and Gary Ritcher for helping with HBC pollinator beds – weeding, moving soil and wood chips, providing tools and preparing a new bed.

Check out the Mission Madness Pollinator Bed by the parking lot/Liberty Street corner. Bee balm (red), tickseed and yarrow (yellow), and alyssum (white and purple) are ready to welcome bees and butterflies who might be traveling the Harrisonburg downtown pollinator corridor! When will the Joe Pye Weed bloom?? Wait and see! Also be watching for seeds to emerge in the new pollinator bed by the Main Street choir room door.

Want to find out more about HBC Creation Care Team? Contact Kathy Ritcher at 540-908-0699.

Because... *the earth is the Lord's!*

Estate Planning Workshop

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 9AM-NOON

LED BY CINDY ELMORE

Join us for this conference provided by the Augusta Baptist Association. Topics include the need for will and estate planning and steps to protect your investments for your family as well as your church. There will be opportunity for individuals to sign up for an appointment with Virginia Baptist Foundation following the conference.



July Youth Events

JULY 3

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JULY 10

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JULY 11-16

Passport Camp

JULY 17

9:15am Sunday School

No Evening Youth Activities

JULY 24

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JULY 31

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

TBD

Clothes Closet



Youth Summer Bible Study

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group has enjoyed Summer Bible Study resuming for the next few months. We always have a wonderful time of fellowship and food around the pool. Amid all of the fun, we make sure to save time for Bible Study. This summer we are going through a series titled Summer Survival Guide, which is an 8-week youth series that teaches students how to grow in their relationship with God this summer no matter what they face. For eight weeks, we'll be unpacking an acronym about six THINGS teens can do to make more space in their daily lives for adequate time with Jesus.

- T- Time with God daily
- H- Honest friendships
- I- Intentionally connect with the church
- N- Notice and serve others
- G- Give to God
- S- Share God stories

We are so excited to see how much our faith in God will grow this summer!





PassportKids!

The kids who went to PassportKids! last month had a blast! For several of them it was their first time being away from home for more than one night or first time being away from parents, and they were great! The week was filled with fun and laughter, singing and studying the Bible, games and worship and so much more! The theme this year was how BIG God is and how BIG the world is that God has created. We experienced God's power in nature in many ways in addition to all that the camp had planned for us. There was hiking in the woods, swimming in the beautiful Eagle Eyrie pool, and as we sat under the stars for our group devotional time on the last night we were nearly speechless with the beauty of the night time sky. For all of these things we are truly grateful.

Thank you, Sarah Northen and Chris Belcher, for being our chaperones - we couldn't have done it without you! Thank you, Harrisonburg Baptist Church, for making it the kids camp possible! We are already counting down to next year's camp.





Mission Committee Update

MARY SMITH

Last month, we shared with you the list of ministries Harrisonburg Baptist Church supports. You could see that we have increased the number of non-profit and mission ministries we work with and fund. Over the past few years, HBC has increased their involvement in many of our non-profit partners as well. Here are just a few examples:

Bridge of Hope: We are now working with our fourth family to provide support and encouragement as they work toward becoming self-sufficient. We have been able to engage together in picnics, a Christmas party at Ruby's Arcade, a house blessing, and Zoom cooking lessons. We've provided furniture and gifts as our family moved into a new home. We continue each week to give encouragement through phone calls, texts, emails, and cards.

Mercy House: We provide a basket of household items and cleaning supplies every time a new family is placed in our apartment. We now help to replenish the food staples in their food pantry the third week of each month. We deliver the beef and cheese from the Farm Ministry. This month that included 15 sirloin tip roasts.

Salvation Army: At Christmas, we provide Angel Tree gifts for families. This year, we added seniors to our list of those who received gifts. On the last Wednesday of each month, we provide a meal for the residents. They also receive cheese from the Farm Ministry.

Spotswood Elementary: Along with the Creation Care Team, we have helped them create their garden. We have helped in their clothes closet. We work in the Knight's Buck Store at Christmas. Most recently, Pastor Matt and a fraternity helped to build a Gaga Pit. When school is in session, we provide snacks and treats for the staff the last Friday of each month.

A SPECIAL

Thank You!

to

Kathy Ritcher

Among many other things, Kathy is leader of the Saturday Bag Lunch, the Creation Care Team and the Tuesdays Together Bible study group that meets every Tuesday morning during the school year.

Kathy, we just want you to know that we appreciate all that you do to make HBC a place where all are welcome and anyone who walks through our doors can experience the love of Jesus. Your commitment and care for others is a great blessing to many.



Staff Recognition

GARY RITCHER

Gary has served as HBC's Director of Music and Worship for six years as of July 10. Gary, we are so blessed by your humble leadership, thoughtful planning and meaningful music selections. Thank you for sharing your talents with us.

Kingsway can't thank you enough for your recent donation. Your donation helps us meet the needs of others.

Thank you and God Bless from all the volunteers at Kingsway Outreach

Thank you!

We have heard several encouraging and positive comments about the newest life-like silk flower arrangements in our church sanctuary. We thought you'd like to know that Sandy Cude is sharing her gift of flower arranging and is using flowers donated from Patti Good's photography studio.

Thank you, ladies!

HBC Impressions Team

Thanks to all of you who helped with Vacation Bible School this year! We are grateful and know that we could not do it without you. This is such a special way that we can reach out to the kids of HBC as well as our community and share the love of Jesus with them. Thank you to each of you who played your part!

Dear Rev. Matt and Congregation,

On behalf of the Pringle House Committee, First Baptist Church wishes to acknowledge your generous and timely donation of \$1,000.00 to the Pringle House project, received on May 28, 2022. Your contribution will be used to help build a modest home for Jacob Pringle who was left homeless following a fire.

With your donation we are able to predict a successful completion for this community of care driven initiative. As you might suspect, faith has been a huge element of the Pringle House completion and it is an indication of what can be accomplished when we combine faith, hard work and integrity. Your generosity and care is what makes this a community of which we are proud to be a part. We pray for God's continued blessings on you and your ministries.

Sincerely,
James D. Rankin, Jr. for
Pringle House Steering Committee



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Becky Armentrout
Barbara Betts
Liz Garber
Dennis Greene
Wayne & Sally Hannah
Sue Jones
Mac & Lola McBride
Sharon Miller
Bill & Barbara Pond
Karen & Kerry Potter
Jimmy & Nancy Russell
Neil Showalter
Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Jimmy Hildrup
(Sara Kate Moore's uncle)
Janet Moore
(Sara Kate Moore's mother)
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)
Dorothy Shenk
(Randy Shenk's mother)

SYMPATHY

We grieve with Kimberly Bruce
and family upon the death of
David Bruce.

May Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date \$ 242,594.00
Budget receipts to date \$ 246,338.57

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| • OIAM | \$100.00 |
| • Saturday Bag Lunch | \$50.00 |
| • Annie Armstrong Easter Offering | \$50.00 |
| • Love Fund | \$585.00 |

Budget Planning on the Horizon

The Finance Committee expresses appreciation to the congregation for supporting the ministries of HBC during the first half of 2022. We praise God for your faithful and generous financial stewardship!!

As we enter the second half of the year, we are approaching the time to begin planning for next year's ministry budget. Committee chairpersons will be receiving budget planning information the week of July 18. Please call your committees together to pray and plan for the financial needs of your ministry for next year. Your budget requests will be due on August 28.

Save the Date!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

River Baptisms and Church Picnic
Stay tuned for details!

JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Staff Out of Office Eli: July 5-9 Susan: July 11-13 Gary: July 11-19 Matt: July 24-28			1 8:30am-3pm FH RESERVED	2 7pm American Legion Statute Rededication ceremony
3 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study	4 Office Closed	5 6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	6	7	8	9
10 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study	11 3pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor) 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	12	13	14	15 7pm Gazebo/FH RESERVED	16 9am - 12pm Estate Planning Workshop
Youth Passport Camp						
17 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (gazebo)	18	19	20 August Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	23
24 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study	25	26	27 2pm Brookdale	28	29	30
31 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study						

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Community Worship

MONDAY

6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast
1:00pm Staff Meeting (Parlor)
6:30pm Scouts

TUESDAY

10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201)
6:00pm Jubellation Practice
6:30pm Young Adult Small Group
(held at Heidi Ruiz's)

WEDNESDAY

10:00am Ladies Prayer Group (B4)
6:00pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY

10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201)

SATURDAY

10:30am Community Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

July 3 — Nico Nguimbi
July 10 — Mark Griffin
July 17 — Bill Lee
July 24 — Nancy Shomo
July 31 — Don Aittama

COMMUNITY LUNCH

July 2 — Miller
July 9 — Obenschain
July 16 — St. Stephen's
July 23 — Ritcher
July 30 — Skelley

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Don Aittama
2 Don Cude
10 Jean Holthaus
17 Mary Petit
18 Avery McCray
19 Sam Huffman
22 Liz Garber
22 Mary Smith
22 Skylar Wampler
28 Addison Ellis
28 Harold Schafer
29 Joe Laughland
29 Anne Wright
30 Mary Laughland
30 Doug Skelley
31 Lee Chapman
31 Karen Potter

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JULY 20, 2022

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

