

JUNE 2022

# HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter



## Singing in the Reign

REV. MATT WINTERS

On the heels of hosting Mission Madness in late April, Father's Day weekend allows HBC to host another youth mission engagement. For three days, June 17-19, a youth choir from Wake Forest Baptist Church outside Raleigh, NC, will come to Harrisonburg for a series of events. They'll provide a mini-concert on Friday, June 17 at three local centers: the Summit House, Our Community Place and Brookdale Nursing Home. Then, on Saturday, they'll work at the Still Meadows Enrichment Center by helping prepare the camp to receive special needs campers the following week. They'll conclude their weekend in Harrisonburg with a mini-performance during our worship service on Father's Day Sunday, June 19. We look forward to hosting the choir and seeing how they'll bless our community.

The youth choir from Wake Forest Baptist will consist of about a dozen teenage singers who have been preparing a program for each summer. They routinely tour different communities each summer in order to express the love of God in new and meaningful ways. We thank the Missions Committee for helping support this trip and look forward to their support of the HBC ministry.

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## Deacon Nominating

You'll notice that deacon nominating forms are appearing in your Sunday bulletins a few weeks earlier than in years past. This is because as of the November 2021 business meeting, the deacon's terms have been adjusted to begin January 1 instead of May 1. This change means we need to begin finding new deacons a bit sooner.

We invite you to prayerfully consider nominating a church member to be a deacon, keeping in mind the qualifications established in Acts 6:2-3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. HBC policy requires that deacon candidates be a member of the church for a minimum of one year and noted for their Christian maturity, passion for Christ and a commitment to the church's mission and vision. We also ask that you ascertain the person's willingness to serve as a deacon before you nominate him/her.

Nominations are due to the church office by June 19.

## What Is Faith? What Do We Believe?

DON AITTAMA, DEACON

As Christians we frequently find ourselves with questions about our faith. Hebrews 11:1-7 is an excellent passage to study whenever you have questions about your faith. It not only defines what faith is, but also defines our basic beliefs – the cornerstones of our faith.

Hebrews 11:1-2 define what faith is: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for." Faith involves something we are certain of, but cannot see.

An interesting story involving faith occurs in Matthew 8:5-13 where Jesus meets a Roman Centurion. This is an interesting story because the Roman Centurion was not Jewish yet he demonstrated complete faith in Jesus to heal his servant – to the extent that he did not need for Jesus to travel to his house to see his servant. He believed without seeing and Jesus was amazed at that.

A contrasting story occurs in John 20:24-29. Thomas sees Jesus after the resurrection and demands to see the nail marks in his hands before he will believe. Jesus shows him his hands and his side and Thomas finally believes. But Jesus ends this story with an interesting comment: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed." We all fall into the category of believing in Jesus without seeing him.

The Roman Centurion did not need to see Jesus heal his servant, he accepted it on faith. Thomas needed to

*Cont'd on pg. 11*



# *Congratulations!*

## **Class of 2022**



### **AUSTIN HARPER**

Austin graduated from Broadway High School with advanced diploma and Massanutten Technical Center with a certificate in architecture. He plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College and later transfer to JMU.

Austin is the son of Kati and Dustin Honeycutt and Jeremy Harper (deceased) and grandson of Don and Julie Aittama and Delmas and Denise Harper.



### **JULIA OBENSCHAIN**

Julia graduated from Harrisonburg High School and plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College to begin her study of life science.

Julia is the daughter of Jeff and Faye Obenschain and the granddaughter of Faye Bland and David and Joyce Obenschain.



### **ESTHER SARCO**

Esther graduated from Turner Ashby High School and plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College, then transfer to James Madison University. She is interested in pursuing a real estate license while in school.

Esther is the daughter of Danny and Kelly Sarco and Scott and Elisabeth Glover, and granddaughter of Dan Sarco and Nancy Sarco, and Merlin and Jackie Deputy.



## June Youth Events

### JUNE 5 - YOUTH SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Graduate Recognition

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study  
at the Belcher's

### JUNE 8

5:45-8:15pm Clothes Closet

### JUNE 12

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

### JUNE 18

9-11:30am Community Bag Lunch

### JUNE 19

9:15am Sunday School

### JUNE 26

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

## Flamingo Fundraiser

It is time for the "flocking season" of bright pink plastic flamingos during the month of June! Why not give your neighbors and friends a gift they are sure to never forget? All proceeds benefit Passport Youth Camp. Here are two ways you can donate:

- **\$25 donation**- removal and/or relocation of flock
- **\$30 donation**- insurance to prevent any and all future flockings

Please contact Katelyn Belcher at 540-820-5283 (call or text) to schedule a flocking or to purchase insurance to prevent any flockings at your home.

## Youth Update: Mission Madness

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

It's not everyday that over 100 teenagers from all over the region join a church for mission projects, and our youth group had a phenomenal experience connecting with their peers for Mission Madness on April 29-May 1. We are so appreciative of the kitchen crew for feeding us and feeding us well as we sought to work hard in Christ's name on Saturday. We really enjoyed the worship time in the mornings and evenings too. It was a holy encounter to worship authentically with so many young people sitting with us in the pews.

Perhaps the most meaningful time of all was spent on our various mission sites on Saturday. Our group was split up and that allowed us to get to know other students and chaperones from different churches. Collectively, we worked on painting picnic tables for local community parks, sorting items and cleaning up for a local refugee center, preparing and serving Bag Lunch, making homemade cookies and thank you cards and delivering them to Harrisonburg Police Department, Harrisonburg Recue Squad, and all four Harrisonburg Fire Departments, and we also ran a free clothes closet for the community. And that was just a few of the mission sites from that day!

We truly will never forget the weekend of serving with community that is Mission Madness and we are grateful to our church for hosting it!





# Mission Madness 2022

## Was a Huge Success!!

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work to make Mission Madness 2022 such a wonderful blessing to our community! We had about 150 participants on work sites as well as 30 folks or so in the kitchen. (See pages 5 and 6 for pictures from various work sites!)

Thank you to all the humble servants who operated from the background so these students could bless our community. We've received many thank you notes from the community. I'm so proud of this church family! ~Pastor Matt









## WV Mission Trip

REV. ELI WITHERS

I was blessed to be able to take an outstanding group of HBCer's home with me to Huntington, West Virginia for a weekend. We set off on this wild and wonderful adventure to visit with my home church, Seventh Avenue Baptist Church, and offer them some encouragement as their church and their community continue to struggle in various ways. Over the years, church attendance has dropped drastically, the building has come to see a great deal of disrepair, and the entire city of Huntington still faces an ongoing struggle with the opioid pandemic. According to the 2017 Netflix documentary *Heroin(e)*, Huntington has been called "the overdose capital of America." The pandemic has only increased the rate of opioid overdoses in the area.

It was a bit shocking to go back to my hometown with a group of cautious, curious, and objective eyes. But while there are a lot of challenges that Huntington is currently facing, there is also hope. Pockets of hope are scattered all over the city when you take time to look. And this group of people from HBC was going to Huntington to share some of their hope.

We worked to remind the members of Seventh Avenue Baptist Church that even when our church buildings crumble around us, the body of Christ doesn't stop there.

Writer Marjorie Thompson has said that if the church is the body of Christ, as Scripture says it is, then the body of Christ isn't going anywhere. However, the expressions of that body may look different in the future.

We did not go to Seventh Avenue pretending to have all the answers to the challenges the modern church faces. We did go to share with them all of the amazing and sometimes brand-new ways God is calling us to be the church. We shared that God is God and encouraged them to seek what God has in store for them in the future. We challenged them to consider how that might look differently than the ways we've done church in the past.

I am grateful beyond words to the team of folks who went home with me. And I am also grateful to all of Harrisonburg Baptist Church as we continue to walk together as the body of Christ in this place—ready, open, and willing to follow where God leads us!

The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel... Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Thanks be to God.





## Vacation Bible School

JUNE 27-30, 6-8PM EACH EVENING

Registration for Vacation Bible School begins on Wednesday, June 1! You can register online at [www.hbcalive.org/vbs](http://www.hbcalive.org/vbs) or pick up a form at the Info Desk. Please register your child(ren) as soon as possible so we will know that we have enough helpers, etc. And remember that friends are always welcome but they need to register as well!

Our theme this year is Passport to Peace, and it will give all of us a chance to find out how we can learn from people who are different from us, care for people who are sick or suffering, creatively work to keep everyone safe, and refuse to respond to conflict with any kind of violence. These are lessons we all need! We will look at stories from the Old and New Testament to learn how God calls us to live and we look forward to doing this together!

This year VBS will kick off in Children's Church on Sunday, June 26. We will use that time to begin sharing with our children about God's Passport for Peace where we will learn how we can get along peacefully with others—even if they're different from us! From Monday, June 27 through Thursday, June 30 we will be meeting from 6:00 to 8 pm each evening.

As always, VBS is for kids from 3 years old (out of diapers) through the fifth grade. We will have Bible Stories with the children, arts and crafts, games, and science experiments.

Also, if you are available to help with VBS in any way, please speak to Sarah Northen or Pastor Eli. We are especially in need of a team who can help set up tents in the yard each

evening and take them down afterward. Let us know if you can help with that!

This promises to be a fantastic week of ministry with our HBC kids and the kids of our community! Please be praying for this week even now!

## Heidi's Summer Internship

This summer, we are once again partnering with the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for the student.church program. Last year we welcomed Justin Mofield as our summer intern; this summer we welcome Heidi Ruiz as our student.church intern. Now Heidi is no stranger to us, but this internship is a bit different than what Heidi has done here previously. The student.church program is designed to help students consider and explore a call to ministry.

We are excited for Heidi to have this opportunity. She will have her initial training in Atlanta and evaluate her summer experiences with other student.church interns in August. She will continue to be our College Ministry Intern, but Heidi will have more responsibilities than she does currently. Throughout the summer she will have opportunities to look at a broader spectrum of ministry than normal throughout the various church ministries of HBC.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the program, please talk to Pastor Eli. And let's all pray for a tremendous and impactful summer for Heidi.





## Picnic with Compass

SATURDAY, JUNE 11  
11AM - 1PM IN THE GAZEBO

HBC will be hosting the Compass Counseling Family in an inclusive-summer kick-off for their clients. This event will be a great way to continue to develop a relationship with families struggling with the effects of autism. We'll host them for a picnic at HBC and play yard games and paint sea shells. If you'd like to join us and help us love our neighbors, sign up by contacting the church office by June 6.

## New Members

### HAROLD & SHERRILL SCHAFFER

Harold and Sherrill are proud grandparents to nine grandchildren. They enjoy traveling and have visited Europe and South Africa and taken a two week boat trip on the Amazon River.

Sherrill's father was a Baptist minister in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. She enjoys reading and knitting.

Harold is a retired industrial engineer and enjoys landscaping and stamp collecting.

## Thank You!

HBC Volunteer team,

Thank you all so much for taking time out of your Saturdays to volunteer! The alley looks great, and I know the downtown business, local residents and visitors will enjoy and appreciate the work you all put into enhancing downtown!

Many Thanks,  
Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance Team

A welcome visit from Pastor Winters turned into a later Mission Madness Saturday. Mary and Ron Smith sized up the situation and arranged a work crew. Jim Wampler, Kevin and Jake Petit came out in the morning and split logs and cut dead trees. As an extra bonus, Jeannie Petit brought us lunch!! In the afternoon Jim, Ron Smith and an efficient crew of hard working youth spread wood chips on our yard. Our OLD BONES thank you so much. God Bless You.

Bill and Joan Sanger

Pastor Matt,

I want to thank you and Heidi and the youth group for choosing the HTCC [Harriet Tubman Cultural Center] as one of your projects in the city. I am so very grateful for the work they did. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Can you please thank them for me? I ask that you please keep the HTCC in your prayers that the needs of the center can be met as we continue to do the work we feel God called us to do.

Thank you so much,  
Diana

Harrisonburg Baptist Church,

The brothers of Pi Beta Chi would like to thank you for your continued support this spring semester. We have left two full boxes of canned and box meals at the donation box to show our gratitude. We look forward to collaborating on future projects and wish the church and its congregation a safe and happy summer.

- Brothers of the Pi Beta Chi Fraternity



## Mission Committee Updates

**Aid for Ukraine:** In the May newsletter, we reported that we would be sending \$1,000 to BGAV for aid to Ukraine. We are happy to report that your generous donations have increased that amount to \$4,300.

**The Pringle House:** Through your donations, HBC will be sending \$1,000 to First Baptist Church for the Pringle House fund. JP Pringle lost his home in a fire in 2021.

**The Farm Ministry:** Keith Turner reports that The Farm Ministry recently became an official non-profit tax-exempt organization. The ministry is volunteer-operated and all donated funds are used to purchase meat and cheese for people in need. The Farm Ministry was formed from four ministries: Cheese Ministry, Beef Ministry, Pork for the Pantry, and Farm Ministry. The Farm Ministry has impacted agricultural producers throughout Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, and Kentucky. They continue to send cheese and beef to the 3 poorest Appalachian counties in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. The recent cheese delivery will help us surpass providing meat and cheese for over 500,000 meals. We give all the honor and glory to the Lord for providing the resources to make this major achievement possible.

**Saturday Bag Lunch Ministry:** A few weeks ago, we resumed serving the meals inside. Kathy Ritcher, leader of the Saturday Bag Lunch Ministry, shared the following: "Each week, we pray that each and every one will experience the love of Jesus through our ministry. This past week, a gentleman told me that since he came to HBC for Saturday

meals, he feels cared for and feels the love of Jesus. Wow, this tells me God is at work through Saturday Bag Lunch Ministry!"

**Used Bibles and Bible Study Materials:** Noelle and Danny Carroll are asking for Bibles and Bible study materials to support Tabernacle Baptist Church in Danville, VA. The church will be taking the materials to Butler, Illinois.

**HBC Mission Ministries:** Over the past two years, Harrisonburg Baptist Church has doubled our ministry outreach. Here is a list of our current mission ministries (those in bold have been added in the past two years):

Saturday Bag Lunch  
Baptist College Ministry  
Blessing Box  
Bridge of Hope  
**Cheese & Beef Ministry (The Farm Ministry)**  
**Creation Care Ministry**  
**Compass Behavioral Solutions**  
**English Language Learning Classes**  
**HBC Food Pantry**  
**Grattan Street Neighbors**  
**Habitat for Humanity**  
HBC College Ministry  
**Pringle House**  
Mercy House  
**Mission Madness**  
Mission Trip-Seventh Street Baptist Church  
Nasaruni Academy  
**Open Doors**  
Operation Christmas Child  
Operation In As Much  
Owsley Kentucky  
**Our Community Place**  
People Helping People  
Salvation Army  
Spotswood Elementary  
**United in Christ Ministries**



*Cont'd from pg. 2*

see the holes in Jesus' hands and the wound in Jesus' side before he would believe.

Following in Hebrews 11:3-7, the writer continues by covering the four cornerstones of our faith.

### **1. God created the universe.**

We know that God created everything in the universe and we know that nothing existed before He created the universe.

### **2. Sacrifice is involved in approaching God.**

Why does God require sacrifice? We were created to have a relationship with Him. Offerings are our acknowledgement of His supremacy. But, sin has separated Him from us so an atonement is necessary to satisfy God's offense at our sin.

I was always confused with this passage when growing up. I couldn't understand why God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's. Both of them appeared to have given legitimate offerings. But then I learned that God was able to see into Abel's heart and into Cain's heart. God could see the good and the love in Abel's heart and could see the evil in Cain's heart. This isn't about what we sacrifice, it is about how we make our sacrifices - what is in our heart when we make the sacrifice.

So in order to gain access to God we must have faith in Him and make sacrifices. Jesus has become our sacrifice. The sacrifice we

need to make is giving up our old sinful self and being reborn into the person that Jesus wants us to be.

### **3. Life after death.**

Enoch was a man of deep faith in God. He was part of the lineage between Adam and Noah. And he was rewarded by being given eternal life. We too can receive eternal life through our faith in Jesus.

### **4. The certainty of God's judgement to come.**

Noah was chosen by God to survive a major flood to destroy the evil that had come into the world. Noah was chosen because of his faith. When Noah built the ark, he in effect put into effect God's judgement on the world.

By faith we too can know that there will be a judgement. No one will escape this judgement. However, those with faith in Jesus will be saved and will not experience God's retribution.

In conclusion, as we think about our own faith, think about what is given in these passages in Hebrews. Is our faith like the unwavering faith of the Roman Centurion, or is there a little doubting Thomas in us? Or do we have questions about what we believe? If anyone has questions about our faith or what we believe in, Pastor Matt, Eli or Katelyn or your family deacon would be happy to talk with you further.





## PRAYER CONCERNS

### MEMBERS

Bryan Acker  
Becky Armentrout  
Barbara Betts  
Faye Bland  
Dennis Greene  
Wayne & Sally Hannah  
Sue Jones  
Mac & Lola McBride  
Sharon Miller  
Bill & Barbara Pond  
Karen & Kerry Potter  
Faye Lohr Ritchie  
Jimmy & Nancy Russell  
Constance Via

### EXTENDED FAMILY

David Pierce  
(Julie Aittama's brother-in-law)  
Buck Cook (Dustin Honeycutt's uncle)  
Tom Kuster's family & friends  
Kathy East (Julie Aittama's cousin)  
Rebecca Hanes  
(Phil & Deb Douglas's nephew's wife)  
Jimmy Hilldrup  
(Sara Kate Moore's uncle)  
Bella (Angela Hayes' niece)  
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)  
Dorothy Shenk  
(Randy Shenk's mother)

### SYMPATHY

Bill and Lynda Lee upon the death of  
Bill's mother, Nettie Sullivan Lee.

John and Meg Helbert upon the  
death of his father, John Helbert II.

Jackie Leonard upon the death of her  
friend, Tom Kuster.

## April Stewardship Snapshot

Budget as of 4/30/22 \$ 187,459.00  
Budget receipts as of 4/30/22 \$ 194,302.47

### Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Annie Armstrong	\$150.00
• Habitat for Humanity	\$25.00
• Pringle House	\$25.00
• Saturday Bag Lunch	\$115.00
• Love Fund	\$130.00
• OIAM	\$35.00
• Ukraine Aid	\$4,200.00
• Bowers Gen Fun Memorial	\$5,000.00

## Morris Family Prayer Requests

Here is a list of prayer requests from the Morris family, serving overseas as missionaries:

1. Praise that our visas were granted in a timely manner and with generous time allotment.
2. Praise that we arrived to BD with no significant obstructions!
3. Praise for continued health!
4. Pray that we would integrate well with our team in BD and that God would establish deep godly relationships with expats and nationals.
5. Pray for wisdom in some important ministry decisions for the parents.
6. Pray for funds for ongoing ministry needs which will allow us to develop leaders, demonstrate Christian love, and support church planting efforts across the country.

# JUNE 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Staff Out of Office</b> Eli - June 3-9, 15-18		1	2	3	4
5 Youth Sunday  5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study 6pm Baptism Class (Pastor Matt's)	6  3pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor)	7  6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	8  5:45-8 pm Youth - Clothes Closet	9	10	11  11am-1pm Picnic with Compass Counseling
12  5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study 6pm Baptism Class (Pastor Matt's)	13  6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	14	15	16	17	18
			Passport Kids			
					Wake Forest Baptist Choir mission wkend	
19 Father's Day  5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (gazebo) 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	20  July Newsletter Articles Due	21	22  2pm Brookdale	23	24	25
26  5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	27	28	29	30		
	VBS 6-8pm each evening					

## 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

- 11:00am Tuesdays Together (FH)
- 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

### SATURDAY

- 10:00am Community Lunch

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

- Jun 5 — Dennis Simmons
- Jun 12 — Shirley Cobb
- Jun 19 — Phil Douglas
- Jun 26 — Lyn Weaver

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

- Jun 4 — Ruiz
- Jun 11 — Petit
- Jun 18 — HBC Youth
- Jun 25 — Obenschain

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dale Wright
- 3 Irv Byrd
- 5 Sallie Darling
- 5 Donna Downey
- 5 Larry Ecklund
- 5 Sara Kate Moore
- 10 Emily Hartman
- 14 Hunter Hayes
- 17 Susan Huffman
- 21 Sue Jones
- 21 Michael Renfroe
- 22 Michael Kopcinski
- 23 Faye Bland
- 23 Terrie Childress
- 27 Steve Smith

## 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

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

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JUNE 20, 2022

Please submit articles to

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

*Oh*  
GIVE THANKS  
TO THE LORD;  
*for he is good;*  
FOR HIS STEADFAST  
*love endures*  
*forever.*

1 CHRONICLES 16:34