MARCH 2022

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Always Improving at Neighboring

REV. MATT WINTERS

As a kid, I lived the opening lines from the Dickens' classic, *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Except my story involved my neighbors—I had the best of next door neighbors (on the left) and the worst...more like sour...of next door neighbors (on the right). Mr. and Mrs. Broyles were sweet, patient and supportive. Mr. and Mrs. Dillman were critical, opinionated and impertinent. It was clear who to avoid and who to linger near—just in case some fresh yeast rolls came out of the oven.

I'm sure many of us recall the neighbors who left strong impressions on our lives. The ones who encouraged us to have fun and live life to the fullest and the others who demanded that we get off their lawns! Have you thought about the church's neighborly presence?

Jesus calls us to be good neighbors and reminds the Jewish folks that the despised Samaritan (in their culture) was the true neighbor to a man in desperate measures. Being a good neighbor matters and leaves life-long impressions.

We want to introduce you to missionaries Joshua and Jessica Hearnes who live in Danville, VA and who are

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In recognition of Rosemary Lonberger



15 YEARS OF SERVICE

We offer our sincerest congratulations and words of thanksgiving to Rosemary Lonberger for 15 years of faithful service as the organist at HBC. Fifteen years of selfless devotion and humble service. We are so thankful for the many blessings you have shared with us-from your musical gifting to the emotional and prayerful support you provide. We are more full and complete because you are a part of us. We so appreciate both who you are and what you do.

taking their ability to love their neighbors to higher levels. They are doing amazing things in their city and want to share their thought processes and spiritual practices to help other communities and churches improve their ability to be good neighbors. I hope you'll come and hear their story.

They'll be at the church on Wednesday, March 16 (time TBD - watch for further announcements). Come and find the Spirit of God at work in their lives and our lives.

What to Give Up? MARK GRIFFIN, DEACON

Last summer while perusing a yard sale, I picked up a 2021 Daily Guidepost Devotional book. Since I got it halfway through last year I haven't made it all the way through the book yet but it has become a very important part of my morning routine.

I read one last week that is appropriate as we enter the season of Lent. The memory verse of the day was: "I will not offer to the Lord my God sacrifices that have cost me nothing" -2 Samuel 24:24. I stopped and read the verse over and over as it really made me think.

Each year as Ash Wednesday and Lent approaches on the calendar, Christians ponder what to "give up" for those 40 days, to represent the sacrifice that Christ made while he fasted and prayed in the desert for 40 days before dying on the cross. For some it may be coffee, others it may be sweets or fast foods. No matter what we try to give up, it usually takes a



sacrifice, especially if it's something that we "can't live without!"

Whatever it may be, this verse and season should remind us of the ultimate sacrifice that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ endured for us on the cross. He gave up his home in Heaven, came to Earth, was arrested and crucified. I can't even begin to imagine what that was like. He gave up his heavenly home because he loved us even more.

I challenge each of us as we decide what we want to give up this Lent and every season. It may hurt, but with God's help we can do it and know that what we give up is so much less than what we will receive in God's Kingdom.

John Upton Retirement Celebration

SUNDAY, MARCH 27 4PM RECEPTION 5PM SERVICE

For 21 years, John Upton has led the Baptist General Association of Virginia as Executive Director. He has helped equip Baptist churches like HBC to be more like Christ and encouraged them to live more fully in their kingdom witness. The Augusta Baptist Association is honoring John Upton's tenure with a retirement celebration at HBC on Sunday, March 27 at 5 pm, with a reception preceding the service at 4 pm. You are invited to come and celebrate with us.

In Appreciation

MARY SMITH, OUTGOING LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR

We want to give our deepest appreciation to Mary Smith for a great year of leadership as Deacon/Leadership Chair. You were so timely and efficient in your efforts to lead us in the ways of God. Further, you displayed such a sensitive and humble spirit in your interactions with others. We are so grateful for the year of leadership you gave the church and her people.

SUSAN KISER

Susan has been HBC's Financial Ministry Assistant for 4 years as of February 12. We are grateful for your expertise and wisdom, Susan!

REV. MATT WINTERS

Matt became HBC's Senior Pastor two years ago on March 15. We are grateful for your leadership through the challenges of the pandemic.

REV. ELI WITHERS

Eli has served as HBC's Associate Pastor for 6 years as of March 27. Eli, we are thankful for the many ways you bless HBC with your generous spirit and creative talents.





Beginner's Handbell Ring

An introduction for first-time ringers

Have you always wanted to play handbells, but don't have any prior experience? This special workshop is the perfect, lowpressure and fun-filled environment to the basics of ringing, reading music, and playing with others as a member of an ensemble. Even if you have never played a note in your life, you'll walk away from our time together with new skills and a greater appreciation of handbells. There are two sessions. You can attend either one.

Wednesday March 9th at 11:15-12:15 in the Balcony Sunday March 13th at 12:30-1:30 in the Balcony

Please register by contacting Mike Mandigo at 703-597-9081 or mike.j.mandigo@gmail.com.

Special Choir for Holy Week

The choir will be doing special music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. If you sang in the cantata or thought that looked like something you would enjoy, please consider being a part of choir for one or all these Sundays. We will begin work on this music Wednesday, March 16. We will also be practicing music for a special service in honor of John Upton, who is retiring as Executive Director of BGAV, which is being held at HBC Sunday afternoon, March 27 and would love for you to be a part of this.

Questions? Contact Gary Ritcher.

Mission Madness

The weekend of April 30, HBC will host a mission event weekend. We're expecting about 150 students and adults from other youth groups in the state. Joining them will be our church, and together we plan to make a positive impact in the community. We have a variety of projects with which we'll need your help. Please let Pastors Matt, Eli or Katelyn know if you'd be able to serve with us. Among our mission projects are ramp building, painting, landscaping, feeding, and other ways of loving the city as good neighbors. We'll also need help in the church on the feeding line/clean-up crew. Pray that Mission Madness will be a blessing to our city.



Lent Services

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE MARCH 2 AT 6:30PM



We plan to have a worship service for all ages at 6:30pm on Ash Wednesday. Please plan on joining us for a creative and reflective time of preparing ourselves for this sacred season as we journey together toward that Easter Sunday morning celebration.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER TIMES 1-3PM EACH WEDNESDAY DURING LENT

You are invited to an open time of prayer in the sanctuary every Wednesday afternoon during the Lent from 1 to 3 pm. Come for a time of introspective prayer on your own in the afternoon quiet of our worship space. Bring your Bible for a time of reading or a devotional book to enhance your study. Or simply come and sit in the awareness of the presence of God and listen to what God has to say to you.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 10

We begin Holy Week with a celebratory service of worship on Palm Sunday on April 10 followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and lunch for the kids. We are asking folks to help us make this happen by donating plastic eggs filled with candy for the hunt!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 6:30PM, APRIL 14

Join us as we commemorate the Last Supper.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 12-6PM, GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15

The sanctuary will be open for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 15 from 12 to 6 pm.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 7AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 17

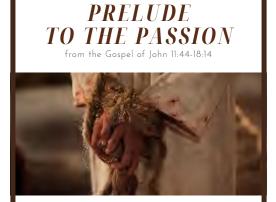
The resurrection celebration will begin with a Sunrise Service at 7:00am followed by our regular worship service at 10:30. Let's begin even now preparing our hearts to worship God anew in this Lent and Easter Season.



First Friday Event

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 6PM

Join HBC as we host a Downtown Harrisonburg First Friday event with David Downey and Penelope Ferguson as they recall the story of Jesus's last night before the crucifixion. Their storytelling recounts John 11-18 as Jesus gathers with his disciples in the upper room, washes their feet, shares communion, and ultimately moves to the Garden of Gethsemane. The evening concludes with the arrest of Jesus, which prepares us for the celebration of Easter on April 17.



Friday, April 1 at 6pm

Presented by DAVID DOWNEY & PENELOPE FERGUSON Shenandoah Valley Biblical Storytellers

College Ministry Update

HEIDI RUIZ, INTERN

One of the things that we focused on at our retreat for The Vinery was the importance of listening. Listening to each other, to the needs of those around us, and to God's direction for our lives and ministries. Now, this applies to all areas of life and ministry but, as I've walked alongside college students this year, I've found it to be especially true.

I've learned that one of the things students really look for and value is someone who will sit with them and just listen as they talk through the struggles they face, the joys they've experienced and how God is present through it all. Life in college is unique and ever-changing, and I've been truly blessed and equally challenged by some of the conversations I've had with students this year. In the midst of the chaos and the noise, as God calls us to listen, He also hears us. In the classroom, on the bus, in the dorm, God is there and He hears us. We could all use that reminder sometimes.

Lately, the feelings of grief and loss surrounding our neighboring college campuses have been almost palpable. But it has been encouraging to see so many people come together and show their support for their community. The support that the church has shown our college students, especially, has been immensely appreciated.

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Our College Ministry leaders have continued to foster a sense of community and fellowship by hosting lunch for students after worship on Sundays as well as offering various small groups, one-onone meetings and opportunities to serve. On February 23rd, the college students led two worship services at Brookdale Senior Living and all were blessed by it. This month, in partnership with the BCM, a handful of students will be going on a Spring Break Mission Trip to work with an organization called Urban Promise in Wilmington, DE!

It is a joy to see God working in such amazing ways. My prayer is that we, as a church, can be a community that listens in order to continue working toward the things that God has called us to.

Missions Committee Update

MARY SMITH

Looking back at the past two years, the Missions Committee can see how God has blessed Harrisonburg Baptist Church and allowed HBC to bless others through our tithes and offerings. During a global pandemic, we have felt God's leading to provide food for those in need, here in our neighborhood, in our city, across our state and country, and even in other nations across the world. Counselor Angela Adamek from Spotswood Elementary School sent us this note of thanks that shares the difference you have made in the lives of others:

Dear HBC,

I wanted to let you know how much our families appreciated your generosity during the holidays. Many of our families live with food and housing insecurities making extra gifts at Christmas impossible. Because of you, many children experienced a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Thank you so much for all that you do for Spotswood, its students and their families. We greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Warm Regards, Angie Adamek, SES Counselor

As we move into 2022, the Missions Committee is prayerfully asking for God's guidance and listening for His leading. We ask our church family to join us in these prayers.

On March 16, we plan to host CBF missionaries Jessica and Joshua Hearne who will share with us their housing model based on their experiences in Danville, Virginia. We will be extending invitations to local nonprofit organizations and others who are interested finding ways to help with the housing shortage for low-income families in our area.



March Youth Events

MARCH 6 9:15am Sunday School 5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study MARCH 9 5:45-8pm Clothes Closet MARCH 13 9:15am Sunday School 5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study MARCH 20 9:15am Sunday School 4pm Youth Committee Mtg 5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study MARCH 27 9:15am Sunday School 4-7:30pm Meal Planning & Preparation life skills, Dinner,

Youth Update: Super Bowl Party

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

HBC Youth hosted a Super Bowl Party in the fellowship hall on February 13. We had a great time tasting various foods everyone had contributed, watching (or not watching) the game, and enjoying one another's company. There were a few minor injuries suffered by those attempting to play real football in the back of the hall, but they were just fine the next day. We love being able to get together and host events at our church again!

















Upcoming Children's Activities

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Our Children's Committee will be presenting our kids and their families with special Lenten Kits to encourage a season of reflection and recommitment to Christ together during this season. If you have kids in your life that don't attend our church regularly, please let us know and we will get a kit together for you to share with them!

EASTER EGG HUNT SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Please plan to attend our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 10 following our worship service. We will gather for a picnic lunch outside immediately following the hunt. We will be asking for sign ups a bit closer to the event. We hope to see you there!

PASSPORTkids! JUNE 15-18

If your child will have finished the third through the sixth grade by the end of this school year, he or she is invited to join HBC's kiddos at PASSPORTkids! this summer June 15-18 at Eagle Eyrie just outside of Lynchburg. This is a camp that teaches kids about Jesus and how to serve others and tell them about Jesus' love for them! A deposit of \$65 per child is due ASAP and the balance will be due by the end of April. Please know that there is money available to help offset the total cost of camp and we will work on fundraising to make this more doable for families. The important thing is to let Pastor Eli know as soon as possible if your child is interested in attending!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 27-30, 6-8PM EACH EVENING

Vacation Bible School will take place this summer from Monday, June 27 through Thursday, June 30 from 6 to 8 each evening. Please give some consideration as to how you can help us share Jesus with our kids as well as the kids in our community! 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!



Leadership Team Report

MARY SMITH, LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR

Congratulations to the 2022 Leadership Team officers. During Monday's Leadership Team meeting, the following slate of officers was approved: Jeannie Petit, Leadership Chair; Dennis Simmons, Vice Chair; and Shirley Cobb, Secretary. Please give them words of encouragement and your support throughout the year. We are grateful for their love of HBC and their willingness to serve.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

March is the anniversary month for our Senior Pastor, Matt Winters, and our Associate Pastor, Eli Withers. During their time at HBC, we have been blessed by their Godly spirits and devotion to the HBC family.

Pastor Matt's first Sunday was March 15th, 2020, when the country went into lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For the past two years, he has grown to know us and has found creative ways to shepherd his flock during these challenging times. As a congregation, we have been the recipients of his care and compassion demonstrated through his cards, calls, and visits. He has a heart for missions and all people. He has expanded the work of HBC in our local community by contacting organizations and non-profits that sit under the "shadow of our steeple" to ask the questions: "What do you need" and "How can we help?" As a church family, we have supported Matt to grow as a pastor over these past two years by giving him the encouragement and opportunity to attend conferences, become involved in local organizations such as ABA and BGAV, and take time for spiritual renewal.

Eli's first Sunday as Minister of Spiritual Formation was Easter Sunday, March 27th, 2016. From her first days at HBC, we have benefited from her caring, kind spirit and creative ideas. She has implemented Gathering services, Family Fun nights, Advent Booklets, Stations of the Cross and many more new events during the pandemic. She has led several trips, including mission trips, and taken part in youth events. In 2020, Eli was supported by the church leadership and members to take part in the Clinical Pastoral Care Program through Eastern Mennonite University. In 2021, Eli's position was changed to Associate Pastor, thus bringing additional responsibilities. Throughout the year she will have opportunities to provide the message and be encouraged to continue to grow in this Associate Pastor position.

Did You Know?

"The Tab Man" Bryan Acker's current tab total is **450 million.**



The Vinery

Our Vinery Lead Team attended our first retreat January 30-February 2 in Clemson, South Carolina. We gathered with seven other churches from Mississippi to New Jersey to consider together what "awakening faith and flourishing at the intersection of church and university through deep listening and purposeful design" might look like in each of our unique communities. The name The Vinery means that it is a place where vines are grown and specifically where new shoots of growth begin. The name also calls to mind that often, these new shoots must be transplanted to other places where stronger growth and health is most likely. At this retreat, we prayed, we sang, we worshiped, we shared stories as well as hopes, dreams, and prayers for the universities in our individual areas. We were challenged by the truth that across the board "the greatest age group participation gap in churches is among college aged young adults." Harrisonburg Baptist Church has always been a church that values our relationship with local college students. In fact, part of the reason for the church's big move from downtown to our current location was to make us better located to build relationships with college students. The Vinery challenges us to go a step further, though, and to reach out not only to college students but to the whole university. The commitment to participate in The Vinery cohort is a commitment of two full years of work. We

are on this journey together and it is not one meant to simply provide us with ideas and suggestions on how to attract young people to our church. Throughout the process of learning more about ministry to our university neighbors, we have already been challenged to three initial goals:

- 1. Listening- it is not enough to assume that we know what students, faculty, and staff of local universities need. We must build relationships with them and ask them to share with us how we can be most helpful as well as what their community needs most.
- 2. Reflecting- we need to consider who we are as well as what is our theology and how is that lived out in our community?
- 3. Reimagining- together, we will reimagine our congregation's story of thriving in ministry.

We begin by learning to tell our story—both as individuals as well as Harrisonburg Baptist Church. You may remember that we actually began this process in 2019 as a part of our 150th anniversary celebration as well as part of our work connected to the reading and study of Hopeful Imagination. We must ask ourselves specifically "Who is HBC? Who do we say we are? Who do our neighbors say we are? And who is God calling us to be in this place at this time?" We also learn to tell our story so that we are better able to listen to and really hear the story of others... college students, university faculty, and our community in general. Everyone has a story,



and we are invited to give folks a place where their story is valued and appreciated and we help one another learn how to share what God has done in our lives. And as we do this, we learn how we can better minister to one another.

Our partner church in this process is New Beginning Christian Church in Wilmington, NC. We will have time to visit them as we will also welcome them here so that we can more directly learn from each other. You will certainly have an opportunity to join us in celebrating their visit when the time comes. If this is a ministry you'd like to be a part of, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are excited to see what God will do with this amazing opportunity. Thank you for helping us take advantage this ministry!

Pastor Eli, Shirley Cobb, Heidi Ruiz, and Vickie Westlake

HBC 2021 Surplus

I am pleased to announce that for 2021 Harrisonburg Baptist Church realized a surplus of \$50,093 in the General Operating Fund. This comes about after a 9% increase in the church budget from 2020. At the Finance Committee meeting on February 8, 2022, the following allocation of this surplus was approved:

Major Building and EquipmentRepairs/Replacements\$25,000

Grants to local non-profit	
organizations	\$ 5,000
Operational Reserve Account	\$ 9,000
Addition of a college intern	\$ 6,000
Missions	\$ 5,000

The Premises Committee has developed a long list of projects to repair/replace building and equipment which will help improve the appearance and functionality of the church building and equipment. The use of these funds will also help eliminate any stress on church committees that are faced with needed repair costs in their respective area, but don't have the funds to pay for it out of their own operating budget.

Last year we started a program of giving grants to local non-profit organizations as a way of "giving back" to our local community. Because of the success of this program it was the desire of the Finance Committee to continue it.

The \$9,000 added to the operational reserve account will give the church an emergency fund equal to one month of budgeted expenses.

I commend the devotion of our faithful church members in bringing about this result with their faithful giving. This could not have happened without your devotion to God and your devotion to our church.

Yours in Christ, Don Aittama Finance Committee Chairman



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Becky Armentrout Barbara Betts Irv Byrd Joyce Deavers Diane Gray Dennis Greene Wayne & Sally Hannah Ellen Lohr Mac & Lola McBride Bill & Barbara Pond Karen & Kerry Potter

Jimmy & Nancy Russell Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Jimmy Hilldrup (Sara Kate Moore's uncle) Roger Baker (friend of Deb Propst) Nettie Lee (Bill Lee's mother) Charles & Jillene Cavallo (Noelle Carroll's friends) Bella (Angela Hayes' niece) Virginia Ruth Davis & Beth Howard (Sara Kate Moore's friends) Tom Kuster & family (Jackie Leonard's friend) Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend) Dorothy Shenk (Randy Shenk's mother)

SYMPATHY

Nancy and Jimmy Russell upon the death of Nancy's mother, Jeanne Noe.

January Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date	\$ 55,135.00
Budget receipts to date	\$ 40,421.26

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Robby Burke Gen Fund Memorial \$75.00
- Daniel Sanger Gen Fund Mem \$1,971.81
- Cheese & Beef Ministry \$2,300.00
- Sanctuary Lighting Project \$500.00
- Nasaruni Academy \$100.00
 Bldg/Major Maintenance \$10,000.00
 Trustees \$10,000.00
 Youth Mexico Trip \$764.00
- Love Fund \$2,600.00

HBC Cooperative Missions Giving through Baptist General Association of VA (includes SBC) and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in 2021 totaled \$37,168.

Thank You!

We are so thankful for the generous folks who donated toward Passport Camp Scholarships. Because of you, we raised \$1,275.00 in a very short time and we are now fully funded for those in need of scholarships to attend Passport Camp. Thank you so much!

HBC Youth

New Member

Susan Yazdani joined HBC on December 26. Susan is a retired social worker and has 3 grown daughters - two in the Harrisonburg area and another whose family is involved in overseas mission work.

MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Staff Out of Office Katelyn - March 13-17 Chris - March 14-19 Kim - March 18-22	I	2 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	3	4	5
6 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	7 4pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor)	6pm Finance Committee Mtg	9 11:15am Beginner's Handbell Ring 5:45-8:00pm Youth - Clothes Closet	10	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Time Begins 1230pm Beginner's Handbell Ring 530pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	(Parlor)	(B4) 5 15	16 Missionary Visit with Jessica & Joshua Hearne - TBD	17	18	19
20 4:30pm Youth Committee Mtg 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (Parlor) 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	21 April Newsletter Articles Due	22	23 2-3pm Brookdale	24	25	26
27 4pm John Upton Retirement Celebration 4pm Youth Activities	28	29	30	31		

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

SUNDAY 9:15am Sunday School 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 Class (Rm 201) 11:00am Tuesdays Together (B4) 6:00pm Jubellation Practice WEDNESDAY 10:00am Ladies Prayer Group (B4) 10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm College Small Group (Rm 214) SATURDAY 10:00am Community Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Mar 6 — Jeannie Petit Mar 13 — Dennis Simmons Mar 20 — Joyce Deavers Mar 27 — David Downey

COMMUNITY LUNCH

- Mar 5 Skelley Mar 12 — B'water Methodist Mar 19 — Ruiz
- Mar 26 Clark

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Louise Johnson
- 4 Trina Ellis
- 5 Jake Petit
- 6 Elise Ritchie
- 8 Pattie Alvis
- 8 Janet Smith
- 9 Carl Crocker
- 10 Dennis Simmons
- 14 Cathy Baugh
- 14 Katie Mozingo
- 16 Gary Lohr
- 17 Austin Harper
- 19 David Hayes
- 20 Betsy Fly
- 23 Betty Ecklund
- 27 Cindy Skelley
- 28 Chris Belcher28 Leah Tripp
- 20 Lean mpp
- 31 Angela Hayes

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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STAFF

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APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MARCH 21, 2022 Please submit articles to Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

