

SEPTEMBER 2022

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter



Offering What We Have

REV. MATT WINTERS

It's always a true joy to see the blooming of passion in folks' lives. Around our house, Jessica has been experimenting with flowers and has even shared some of her bouquets for church services. This summer the girls have dabbled in swimming and putting insects in resin for safe keeping. They love to explore and see what they can uncover. God has created each of us with unique interests and we're at our best when we celebrate the expressions of others.

I'm really grateful for David Downey and his passion for storytelling. Perhaps you remember his retelling of the night of Jesus's last supper with the disciples from March or you've seen David tell biblical stories on other occasions. David's joy in retelling the Bible bubbles over and wafts through the room. David's intention in sharing his interest benefits the church worship experience as he brings in other biblical storytellers on occasion. These storytellers capture the power of the narrative and bring the scripture to life. Whenever they share their gifts, I hear familiar stories as if for the first time. Their presentation highlights emotions or details often overlooked.

I really appreciate David's willingness to live out this one aspect of his calling and gifting. It's not my gift but it does

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complement mine. It adds depth to the church life and stresses the importance of each one serving God in his/her own way. I have a deeper connection with the biblical narrative because of David's willingness to follow his heart.

I'm thankful not just for David but for the whole of us that make this expression of church as deep and robust as possible. So, please let me say thank you to the many ways you serve—from cooking meals, ushering, singing, teaching, playing music, greeting, decorating, cleaning, loving, being generous, mowing the grass, visiting the sick, sending cards and the list is endless, really. Thank you!!

Story Circles

REV. ELI WITHERS

Do you have any interest in joining a Story Circle this fall? Several folks have noted how little we really know about some of the folks we share a pew with on Sunday mornings. We want to change that!

In the book *Between the Listening and the Telling*, author Mike Yaconelli writes,

In another time, in another setting, sitting together around a table and sharing stories was as necessary to human life as bread and water. Storytelling was our source of

identity, connecting us to our passions, our daily work, the people we encountered, the land we inhabited. Sharing stories was a kind of communion, a shared meal, inviting others to be nourished by what we had lived, suffered, and overcome. Telling stories kept our core values accessible, drew to the surface our most generous and courageous qualities. Sitting with friends, long into the evening, trading stories back and forth—this was how we cultivated the wonder of living and the pleasure of human companionship. Sharing our experiences face-to-face gave our lives—no matter how mundane—a sense of value and worth... Sharing stories is how we make a home within ourselves and one another.

If you have any interest in sharing your stories and get to know others better—maybe those in other age groups or from different parts of the country or people with interests very different from you—please talk to Pastor Eli and we will find a story group for you to join. We are hoping this opportunity to get to know one another (or maybe even get to know some new things about folks we think we already know) will help us grow as individuals as well as a church family. Much laughter promises to be a part of these circles!



Halloween Party

OCTOBER 28, 5:30-7:30PM

On Friday, October 28 we will gather in the HBC Fellowship Hall for a fun, not-so-frighty-night costume soiree! Come in your best costume (prizes will be given away) and come hungry and ready for some of our silliest games. The festivities will run from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm and all are encouraged to come in costume and bring a friend with you! You might even get some candy to take home with you!

Children's Ministry Intern

We welcome Zoe Moser as our fall Children's Ministry Intern. Zoe is no stranger to HBC -- she is a member of our Praise Team, she has shared some super cool children's messages with us, tried to explain salads with fries on top and told us what it's like to be a racecar driver! We are so excited for this opportunity to have Zoe working with our kiddos. If you don't know Zoe, please take a minute to meet her this Sunday and welcome her back to Harrisonburg after another summer at home in Pittsburgh! Thanks for continuing to be a part of the ministry of HBC, Zoe!

Family Retreat

NOVEMBER 4-6, 2022

Join us for a Church Family Retreat at Camp Crossroads in Lowesville, Virginia on Friday, November 4 through Sunday, November 6. (Cost for families is listed below.) We will gather at Crossroads on Friday evening and spend the weekend with others from our church family playing games, hiking, sitting around a campfire, and learning about what it means to be apart of God's great big family! All are welcome, not just families with young children, but families with teens and almost-grown kids. We also encourage college students to attend! We have a special guest speaker joining us for the weekend and we'll tell you more about her next month. We will conclude the retreat Sunday after worship and lunch together. Make plans now to join us! A deposit of \$150 per family is due by Sunday, September 25. The cost per family is offset with some of the church's budgeted money but if you know of a family who would like to attend but needs further assistance, please talk to Pastor Eli as soon as possible. And if you are not able to attend this weekend but would like to donate something in order to make it possible for another family to attend, please see Pastor Eli.

PRICES

Cost covers two nights lodging and five meals while at camp.

\$100 per adult

\$75 per child ages 8-18

\$50 per child under 8



September Youth Events

SEPTEMBER 3

9:30am-12:30pm Bag Lunch

SEPTEMBER 4

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Pool Party @ the Belcher's

SEPTEMBER 11

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

SEPTEMBER 14

5:45pm - 8:15pm Clothes Closet

SEPTEMBER 18

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

SEPTEMBER 25

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

Youth Update: Meals Needed!

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

Dinner and Bible Study on Sunday evenings will resume on September 12 -- and we need your help! One of the most important elements of our weekly meetings is sharing a meal together with the youth group. We have updated our meal schedule through December. We have around 15-20 youth and leaders that meet each week. The youth group loves pizza, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, mac n cheese, tacos, breakfast for dinner, and pasta dishes. All paper products are provided.

If you are interested in providing a meal on a Sunday night, please sign up at www.takethemameal.com (last name is "Youth" and the password is 5775). You may also sign up by contacting Katelyn Belcher at katelyn@hbcalive.org.





New SS Class Study

The Bible Sunday School Class that meets in B1 will be starting a new study on September 25. We will be looking at the early church in the first half of the book of Acts, Chapters 1-12, using the book "Be Dynamic" (Experience the Power of God's People) by Warren Wiersbe. We will discover how to ignite our own church and community with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We invite any and all to come and join us in this study. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Phil and Deb Douglas at (540) 432-1949 or dad5775@gmail.com.

Ladies Night Out!

SEPTEMBER 8, 6PM @ VITO'S

All women of the church are invited to a Ladies Night Out on Thursday, September 8. We plan to meet at Vito's Italian Kitchen on Port Republic Road at 6:00 pm. Please let Pastor Eli or the church office know if you plan to attend and if you need a ride. Join us for an evening out with the gals for a time of fun, fellowship, and tasty food!

Book Study: When Helping Hurts

KATHY RITCHER

Huh?!?! How can "helping hurt?" That's what I thought when I first heard the title of this book. But as I started to read it, I began to realize that there's more to helping the poor than just giving them things.

The Bible clearly tells us that God's people are to help the poor. But how we go about doing so matters. And it begins with our own hearts and mindset. The central message of this book is that "we need the person of Jesus Christ to transform not just the poor but also ourselves." Each chapter is saturated with scripture and also filled with real-life stories and practical ideas. The authors (Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert) set out to explain the local church's unique role in alleviating poverty and focus on appropriate ways to do so at home and abroad.

Would you like to be part of a group that reads and discusses this book together? If so, please contact the church office or Kathy Ritcher (540-908-0699). We plan to begin group sessions the week of September 5 and will set our meeting time based on needs of participants. Our discussions will be based on weekly readings and thought-stirring questions found at the beginning and end of each chapter.

I hope you'll join us as we journey together towards more effectively helping the poor in our community and world.



Because of Handbells...

MIKE MANDIGO

My journey with handbells began 30 years when I saw handbells being played for the first time. I couldn't read music or play a note but they found a place for me. Who knew that a whim would become a life long passion.

The love for handbells has not dimmed over the years. Because of handbells my life has been enriched and changed. I have been able to play and perform with some amazing people. I have been able to play alongside my children. I have been able to perform with hundreds of other ringers at handbell festivals. I have been able to worship when there were not words to express what I felt.

Bells at Harrisonburg Baptist will start on September 6. We practice Tuesday evenings in the balcony from 6-7 pm. There is a place for you. If you would like to join us and have rung before, please contact Anne Wright at wrightaz@comcast.net. If you have never rung before, please contact Mike Mandigo at mike.j.mandigo@gmail.com and we will teach you how to ring.

The words of Tamara Raetz (Enslaved 2002) resonate with me:

*When I first put my hand upon a bell
I didn't know my life would change as well.
So innocent, they lay reflecting light,
Not one so much as hinting at the plight
Of hopeless addicts permanently bound,
Indentured to a lifetime filled with sound.*

*How can these golden beauties be so fell?
And yet their fascinating habits tell*

*A tale of bell entrapment at first sight
(for ear and eye and hand a pure delight),
Of mental pleasures nowhere to be found
But deep within a score, in music drowned.
A wall divides what was from what can be
For each and every note is changing me.*

Music at HBC

You are invited to participate in the Music Ministry of the church. See the list below for ways you can get involved. Have another idea or another artistic gift you would like to share? Please let us know! Music and the other arts are an integral part of worship and bring special blessings to those who are involved! Here is a list of opportunities, contacts and meeting times:

Adult Choir

Contact: Gary Ritcher – gary@hbcalive.org
Meets: Wednesdays 6:00-7:15pm (make up sessions on Thursday at 4:00pm)

As an alternative, consider being a part of the **Cantata Choir** which practices the first 30 minutes of regular choir time beginning September 14 (Cantata date: December 11).

Praise Team

Contact: Leah Tripp – leah@hbcalive.org
Meets: every other Friday 6:00-7:30pm

Handbell Choir – Jubellation

Contact: Anne Wright – wrightaz@comcast.net
Meets: Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm beginning September 6

Orchestra

Contact: Gary Ritcher – gary@hbcalive.org
Meets: Sunday 9:00am-9:15am



Missions Committee Update

Children's Mission Project: On Sunday, August 21, Associate Pastor Eli Withers packed up the Kids Alive children along with boxes and bags of toys they had collected over the past month. We drove to Mercy House where Chaplain Nan was waiting for us. She gave us a tour of the food pantry and the area where they have church on Sundays. Chaplain Nan was so happy to receive the toys and told us she would be sharing the toys with the children and their families. We even got to meet Mercy the cat.



New Teachers' Appreciation: We are celebrating two new teachers in our congregation. Kimberly Bernales is teaching at Spotswood Elementary School in Harrisonburg and Noelle Carroll is teaching at W.W. Robinson Elementary School in Woodstock, VA. Kimberly and Noelle were each provided a \$100 Amazon gift card to purchase materials for their classrooms and students.

Nasaruni Academy for Girls in Kenya, Africa: The Missions Committee sent a \$500 donation to the Nasaruni Academy in August. With the high school completed, they are now working on additional libraries and a medical clinic. The number of girls attending the academy is increasing each semester, and they are now adding grade 11.





Creation Care Opportunities

Check out these opportunities to join our community's efforts in Creation Care during the month of September:

Pollinator BioBlitz - throughout the entire month of September (more info at www.inaturalist.org/projects/parks-for-pollinators-2021-harrisonburg-va)

Honoring our Trees – the Circle of Life – Thursday, Sept 8, 5:30pm at JMU Arboretum
Join us for a lovely Fall evening in the arboretum and learn more about the Virginia and Harrisonburg Urban Wood Utilization Programs while enjoying food and beverages that include ingredients derived from our beloved trees! Learn from Virginia Department of Forestry's Joe Lehn and City of Harrisonburg's Greenspace Manager Jeremy Harold about their organization's programs focused on upcycling felled or damaged trees due to pests such as the emerald ash borer. Registration is \$25 and includes one drink ticket and hors d'oeuvres. To register, visit bit.ly/fall22wineandcheese.

Stay tuned for more fall opportunities for Creation Care at HBC and in our community, because...the earth is the Lord's!

Cornerstone

DENNIS SIMMONS, DEACON

A few months ago in Sunday school class, we read Mark 12:10, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone."

This got me thinking. Last year I celebrated the 50th anniversary of my graduation from Virginia Tech. When you reach this milestone, you become a Cornerstone alumni of Virginia Tech. You get a nice little pin and you feel proud, not only that you have made it this far in life, but that you now feel even more an essential part of that great university.

What is the definition of a "Cornerstone"? It is the stone that is placed in the corner of a building or a basic essential part of something (the foundation). It can also mean a person of prime importance. For us Bible believers it is Jesus Christ. He is the unbreakable foundation for our belief. Without Him our life means nothing and it will fail. The cornerstone needs to be placed correctly so that other stones that follow make a sturdy building. Our cornerstone was placed correctly. Can we build upon His foundation with a sturdy and secure faith?

We also have another passage in the Bible, 1 Peter 2:6, which says the "cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for a great honor, and anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced." We believers can rejoice in the fact that our sins are forgiven and our reward awaits us in heaven.

I have always loved the hymn, "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." Thank you, Lord, for giving us a solid foundation to stand on. I am proud to be a cornerstone alumni of Virginia Tech, but that will be over someday. As a believer in the Christian faith, my cornerstone will never perish, but give me everlasting life.



Staff Recognition

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

Katelyn has faithfully served our youth and their families for 12 years!

KIM BRUBAKER

Kim joined the HBC team as Administrative Ministry Assistant three years ago.

CHRIS BELCHER

Chris became HBC's Facilities Manager one year ago.

LEAH TRIPP

Leah has served as HBC's Praise Team Leader for one year!

New Members!



Ethan Hartman, Raleigh Hartman and Joshua Fly were baptised on August 14, 2022.

A SPECIAL Thank You! to HBC's

Recreation Committee

Many thanks to the folks who serve on HBC's Recreation Committee. Each year this committee plans and coordinates several recreational and fellowship activities for the church. Most recently they planned the annual church picnic for us.

Recreation Committee Members:

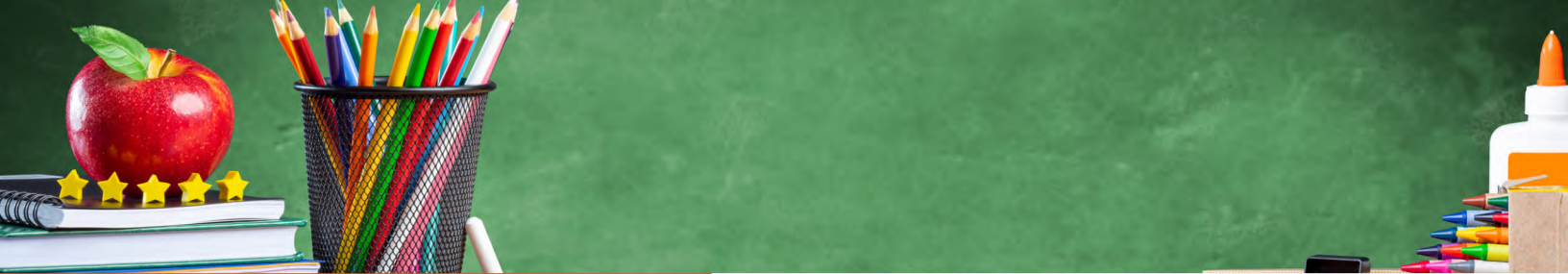
Pat Dickens, Chair; Mark Griffin; Andree Griffin; Ellen Shomo, Steve Smith and Vickie Westlake

Thank You!

HBC Friends,

Thank you for allowing us to use your paint gear. We finished the big room and can (hopefully) rest from painting for a while. you have saved us tremendous time, money and effort on this and other projects, and for that we are truly grateful. I pray this fall is a fruitful season for the church.

- Scott Anderson (JMU BCM)



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

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

EXTENDED FAMILY

Jane Tervo (Don Aittama's aunt)
Mark Hayes (Deb Douglas's brother)
Bob Withers (Pastor Eli's father)
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)

SYMPATHY

We grieve with

- Randy and Kelly Shenk and family the death of Randy's mother, Dorothy Shenk.
- Scott Simmons and his family upon the death of his father, Perlie Simmons.

July Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 7/31/22 \$ 341,837.00
Budget receipts as of 7/31/22 \$ 328,876.97

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Love Fund \$225.00
- Saturday Bag Lunch \$380.00

Budget Planning is Underway!

Thanks to the committees who have turned in their budget requests for next year. If you have not yet turned in your budget request, please do so as soon as possible.

The Finance Committee appreciates your help as they consider and plan for the HBC ministry budget for 2023.

2023 BUDGET PLANNING CALENDAR

- August 28 – Budget requests due
- October 9 – Joint Meeting of Finance and Personnel Committees and Leadership Team
- October 23 – Budget presentation to congregation
- November 13 – Budget vote at Fall Business Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Kim - Sept 14-19 Eli - Sept 18-22 Susan - Sept 27-Oct 3				1	2	3
4 4:30pm Youth Pool Party @ the Belchers	5 Office Closed  MEMORIAL DAY	6 6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	7	8	9	10
11 SS Promotion Sunday 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	12 3pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor) 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	13 2pm Trustee Mtg (Parlor)	14 5:45pm Youth Clothes Closet	15	16	17
18 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	19	20 October Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	23	24
25 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	26	27	28 2pm Brookdale	29	30	

WEEKLY REOCCURRING 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 111, 201 & 203)
11:00am Tuesdays Together (B4)
6:00pm Jubellation Practice

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 111, 201 & 203)

SATURDAY

10:30am Community Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Sept 4 — Phil Douglas
Sept 11 — Lyn Weaver
Sept 18 — Nico Nguimbi
Sept 25 — Mark Griffin

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Sept 3 — HBC Youth
Sept 10 — Obenschain
Sept 17 — Miller
Sept 24 — Ritchie

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Kathy Ritcher
3 Melinda Rose
4 Ron Garber
5 Jeff Obenschain
8 Carson Lohr
10 Gary Ritcher
10 Tracie Ward
11 Christian Hayes
12 Noelle Carroll
13 Faye Obenschain
15 Tuka Nguimbi
16 Rosemary Lonberger
20 Jim Pederson
23 Mark Griffin
23 Connor Kopcinski
24 Lola McBride
26 Luciani Paul
27 Ron Smith
28 Jane Shifflett
29 Sengko Phaga
30 Regina Ingram
30 Judy Miller
30 Jessica Winters

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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A publication of

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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

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Please submit articles to
Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

