

OCTOBER 2022

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter



Storing Too Much

REV. MATT WINTERS

A few weeks ago, several of us took a trip to a missionary distribution center in Weyers Cave. Equipping the Saints is a ministry that collects and sends supplies to missionaries around the world. Its name describes its mission as the goal: to supply missionaries with whatever they need. They take their role seriously. In their warehouse, they have books, CDs, cassette tapes, bibles, maps, video screens, monitors, wheelchairs, dentist chairs, power cords, tools, printers, medical supplies, chairs, tables - you get the picture. If there is any saint that needs equipment to do the work of God, Equipping the Saints has it.

As we sorted and collected items to prepare for shipment, we discussed how important it was to use the supplies that have been collected. In truth, the items don't do much good in the warehouse. While it's nice to have the supplies, laying in wait and collecting dust doesn't do any good to spread the gospel message around the world. The value of Equipping the Saints ministry comes when the saints are given the tools they need to do their work.

Equipping the Saints, and our lives, become ineffective when we don't employ all our assets for the kingdom's work. We may choose to sit on a gifting we have or a

This issue:

It's About Time!
PAGE 02

Upcoming Events
PAGE 03

More Events
PAGE 04

New Members
Offering for Global Missions
PAGE 05

Youth Update
PAGE 06

Missions Updates
PAGES 08-09

Prayer Concerns
Financial Updates
PAGE 10

Calendar & Birthdays
PAGE 11



blessing we could offer. Instead, we keep it locked up in storage. God has given us a calling along with gifts to be used to help his kingdom be made known on earth as it is in Heaven. I hope we're more likely to put them to use (to equip our saintly selves) than we are to keep them unused in our personal warehouse.

It's About Time!

SHIRLEY COBB, DEACON

Never enough - sometimes too long to wait. "Time is money." "Your time is up." "If only I had more time." "Time out." "Spare time." "Make time." "Time for a change." So many words and phrases to capture what dominates so much of our attention and concerns. And, there's nothing we can do about it. "Time marches on."

My career focused on the clock - the "50 minute hour" where people would explore feelings, relationships, issues, and other areas of their life which felt problematic. Also, during this time, the client received affirmation, support, encouragement and sometimes transformative challenges. Ideally, it was a time where revelations surfaced and values, goals, needs and relationships were clarified or adjusted.

The concept of time just absorbs our existence - for better or worse - and it is either looking back to the good old days or hoping for better times ahead, or as Jeremy Irons stated, "We all have our time machines. Some take us back - they're called memories. Some take us forward - they're called dreams." One

of the therapeutic exercises to help people to better cope with a painful past or fears of the future is the practice of grounding oneself in the present. This is a negation of the shackles of time and an invitation to experience the present.

Thinking about the words of apostle Paul is reassuring when it comes to time - "When we were weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). God knew when we were weak and when the right time was for Christ to appear to humankind and heal the curse of sin, death, and separation from God. Wow, that's really powerful! Could it be that God knows the right seasons and times of my life? Regardless of disappointments, unfulfilled dreams, or struggles, God has provided - in His time - all things that are needed for those who believe and trust God. Am I that person? Sometimes yes, sometimes no. Sometimes I see the presence of God in my life - or the lives of those close to me - in ways that are recognizable and unmistakably the work of a Supreme Loving God. Sometimes I wonder if God really sees what I need (want), and just doesn't care (though I hardly admit this, even to myself).

Could it be that God is aware of the time table we are on - even though God Himself is timeless? There are the verses - "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1) and "He has made everything beautiful in its own time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11). In Galatians 4:4, the apostle Paul says "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son." It seems God is not concerned or anxious about time, but about the fulfillment of His Kingdom in accordance with His will.

Continued on pg 3



Continued from pg 2

Oh what a challenge - and liberation - to discard the tyranny of time and to just "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," knowing that all else that is needful will be a part of our lives.

O God, help me (us) to shed the burden of time or timeliness and seek your love, blessings and guidance in our lives.

Lasagna Luncheon Fundraiser

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 11:30AM

The youth group will be hosting a Lasagna Luncheon Fundraiser on October 16 following the morning worship service. The meal will include lasagna, garlic bread, salad, dessert, and water and lemonade. Free will donations will be accepted with all proceeds benefitting Passport Camp next summer.

Virginia Baptist Male Chorale

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7:00PM

Harrisonburg Baptist Church will be the first stop on the Fall Tour of the Virginia Baptist Male Chorale. This outstanding ensemble consists of Baptist music leaders from around the state, including Joe Northern and Gary Ritcher. The director is Dr. Michael Hawn, Director of the doctoral program in Pastoral Music at Southern Methodist University. The musical selections are based the "I am" statements in the book of John and feature a variety of instruments as well as hymns for the audience to sing. The Kitchen Team will be providing a meal for the chorale. Help may be needed to host a couple of the singers.

Ladies' Night Out

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6PM

Our October Ladies' Night Out will take place on Thursday, October 20 at 6 pm (restaurant to be determined). Please let Pastor Eli know if you would like to go so we know we will have enough space for everyone to join us! You won't want to miss it!

Halloween Party

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 5:30-7:30PM

Please plan on attending our Halloween party on Friday, October 28 from 5:30-7:30. Wear your favorite costume! Prizes will be given out and games and snacks will be offered for all ages! Join us and bring a friend!

Ladies Sunday School Class

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 9AM

Ladies of all ages are invited to a special opportunity to gather on Sunday, October 30 at 9am in the Fellowship Hall! We will be exploring ideas for women's ministry here at the church. What ideas do you have? What would you like to see us do? How can we reach out to other women in our community? Please plan on being a part of this exciting conversation with us!



Christmas Cantata

Sunday morning, December 11, HBC will present the cantata “I Hear the Prophet Callin’” by Pepper Choplin. It is not too late to be a part of this group. Just come to the first 30 minutes of choir practice each Wednesday at 6:00pm. Part specific practice CD’s are available and there are make up practices Thursdays at 4:00pm. Some of you may even remember singing this particular piece in 2015. For more information, see Gary Ritcher.

Family Retreat

NOVEMBER 4-6, 2022

If you are interested in joining us for the Family Retreat at Camp Crossroads November 4-6 please speak to Pastor Eli as soon as possible! **Deposits of \$150 per family are due by Sunday, September 25.** Financial help is available for families so please don’t let the cost keep your family from going! We will have a special guest retreat leader and plan on talking about the things that really matter to us. It will be a great weekend and we look forward to your family joining us!

PRICES

Cost covers two nights lodging & five meals.

\$100 per adult

\$75 per child ages 8-18

\$50 per child under 8

New Music Group

Sunday, September 25 marks the first Sunday for a Small Ensemble of College Age individuals. “Richer Than Before” is a contemporary sounding choral piece with instrumental accompaniment. We will try to do one or two such pieces in the fall and spring. If you are interested in singing in a group like this in the future, see Gary Ritcher, Leah Tripp or Heidi Ruiz.

Grief Workshop

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2PM

At this workshop, we will take some time to work through our feelings and attitudes on grief—recognizing that grief is not just something we experience after the death of a loved one. Our own grief expert, Nancy Shomo, will be leading this conversation. We plan to continue this conversation with future workshops addressing how we can help one another deal with end-of-life issues—whether our own or those of someone we love. We also want to get your suggestions as to what would be helpful for you in future conversations. How can the church better support you as you care for a loved one or struggle with your own health issues? Maybe you would like help in planning your own funeral service before the time comes so your family will know it is what you want. Sometimes we avoid conversations like these because of the difficult subject matter, but we want to look our fears and concerns in the face and seek God’s guidance as we inevitably deal with these things. Please plan to join us.



New Members

BUD & JANE BRANCH



Bud and Jane grew up in Florida and graduated from the University of South Florida, Tampa with BA degrees. They are grandparents of five delightful grandchildren. Bud enjoys to work with stained glass, and Jane enjoys music and people. They consider themselves fortunate to be able to travel in state and abroad.

Thank You!

Thank you for the many cards, messages, calls, and caring words following the passing of my mother. We are also so grateful for the meals that were provided by loving friends the weekend of the funeral services. Thanks to Pastor Matt for his phone call. The thoughts and prayers of all of you have been felt. - Randy and Kelly Shenk

Offering for Global Missions

THROUGH THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Sunday lunch! The family and some friends gather after church to share a meal. It is a tradition that has perhaps begun to fade, but it nevertheless evokes the sentiment of belonging, of caring, of community, of having a place.

In Luke's gospel Jesus taught about what it meant to be invited. It was not about inviting brothers, sisters, relatives or rich neighbors. Rather invite those least expecting an invitation—a place at the table for everyone. Equally. With plenty. With lavish hospitality for all.

“... But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you...”
— Luke 14:12-14

The theme for this year's Offering for Global Missions is “A Place at the Table for Everyone.” The Offering for Global Missions provides for the long-term presence of CBF Global Missions field personnel. This includes their compensation, benefits, housing, and children's education needs. When you give to CBF's Offering for Global Missions, more than 50 field personnel in 18 countries cultivate beloved community, bear witness to Jesus Christ and seek transformational development as they invite one and all to the table.

We will be collecting this special offering throughout the month of October. Please designate Global Missions on your check or envelope.

For more information about this offering, visit www.cbf.net/ogm.



October Youth Events

OCTOBER 2

9:15am Sunday School

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

OCTOBER 9

9:15am Sunday School

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

OCTOBER 12

5:45pm - 8:15pm Clothes Closet

OCTOBER 16

9:15am Sunday School

11:30am Lasagna Luncheon Fundraiser

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

OCTOBER 23

9:15am Sunday School

11:30am Pizza & OCC packing party

4:30pm Youth Cooking Class

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

OCTOBER 30

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8pm Halloween Party



Youth Update

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group has been busy planning and implementing Backyard Bible Club for children and youth at the Gratten Street apartments. Backyard Bible Club is an outreach ministry that began two years ago, and we continue to be blessed by serving our neighbors across the street. For three Sunday evenings in September, the youth group has planned games, Bible studies, and crafts for the children who live on and near Gratten Street. We chose the theme of "Parables" to guide the three Sundays there and we have studied the parables of The Good Samaritan, Treasure, and The Lost Son. And thanks to the generous donation by Keith Turner, we have been able to serve ice cream cones to the children.

We can't begin to list all of the blessings this time with our neighbors have meant to us, but we'd like to share a few! First, it's been wonderful to witness the students in our youth group become so excited to plan games, Bible studies, and crafts centered on biblical teachings. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to serve in that capacity has truly touched all of those observing them. Second, Sunday nights have been even more enjoyable with 30 or more kids to play and hang out with. Our students have connected with kids from their schools and have invited them to join our youth group. And third, this special connection with our neighbors has helped us to see the need in the shadow of our own steeple, and we are anticipating and exploring new ideas to reach out to them and continue that ongoing relationship for next summer. It has truly been an incredible experience for all involved!





Missions Minute: Operation Christmas Child

JULIE AITTAMA

Missions is excited to be a part of Operation Christmas Child this year. Now more than ever the children around the world need to receive a bit of compassion and the love of God through a box at Christmas. Starting October 2nd there will be boxes available for the congregation. Lists of what to pack (and not pack) will also be available. There will be a box in the entryway for donations as well.

October 23rd the Youth and Children will have a Pizza Packing Party after church. November 13th is the last day to turn in the filled boxes and the Blessing of the Boxes during the Worship Service. Don't forget to include the shipping cost of \$10. A check can be made out to HBC or cash in an

envelope addressed to HBC put in the box with the label on the outside.

This year Operation Christmas Child will have a special focus on the children of the Ukraine. Please pray about this project and plan to pack a box (or several)!

Questions can be directed to Julie Aittama or Susan Mason.

Treat Yourself – Help Our Friends

KATHY RITCHER

Friday Lunch Restaurant at Our Community Place (OCP) is a great way to treat yourself to a delicious meal and help our friends at OCP. The mission of OCP is to “build a safe, loving community of restoration and hope for all, especially those facing homelessness and other adverse experiences.” Several friends we've met at Saturday Bag Lunch serve and work in the OCP kitchen. Friday Lunch is served 11:30-1:30 each Friday, with dine-in or carry-out options available, both for \$10/meal which includes the main course, drink and dessert. OCP is located at 17 E. Johnson St. Check out ourcommunityplace.org or call 540-208-7552 for the menu or to place an order.



People Helping People

JUDY SIMMONS

People Helping People was organized in 1992 to meet the needs in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. It provides services for more than 2,000 families each year. The focus is to provide financial assistance to avoid disconnection of basic utilities (electric, water and heating oil). We also help with medicine, eyeglasses (America's Best), work shoes, IDs and birth certificates. The clients are also directed to other resources, if it's not something PHP helps with directly. Over 50 area churches support us. It is only through the generosity and support of the faith community that People Helping People is possible. To learn more or volunteer, visit phpharrisonburg.org or email phpinfo.help@gmail.com. We are very aware of the many places your money could go and we appreciate the donation each month from HBC. Many weeks the checks to help people total up to \$3,000 - \$4,000. Thank you for giving these people hope in their time of crisis.

Who is My Neighbor?

KATHY RITCHER

HBC's next-door neighbor, Compass Counseling Services, will soon be moving to a different location in Harrisonburg. (Compass is a behavioral health agency that has been

serving children and families throughout Virginia since 2004.) On September 27, our missions committee will host a picnic to celebrate and thank the Compass staff and wish them well in their new location.

At the picnic, we plan to serve local beef from our neighbors at the Simmons Heritage Farms in Mt. Solon, VA (part of the Beef Ministry) and cheese from local dairy farmers (through the Cheese Ministry). Keith and Char Turner have been instrumental in helping us support local farmers in connection with providing top-quality products for neighbors in need.

We also plan to make the picnic for Compass staff earth-friendly by using compostable plates, utensils and cups. Compostable items may be taken to Black Bear Composting receptacles located 1 block north of HBC, near the City Hall building. As one of the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), composting is a great way to be good neighbors and good stewards of the amazing earth God has created!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORS:

Compass Counseling Services –

compassva.com

Simmons Heritage Farms –

Facebook @simmonsheritagefarms

Black Bear Composting –

www.blackbearcomposting.com



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

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

EXTENDED FAMILY

Joan Garrison
(Susan Huffman's mother)
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)

SYMPATHY

We grieve with Lola McBride and family upon the death of Mac McBride.

Contribution Envelopes

Please let the Financial Ministry Assistant (susan@hbcalive.org | 540-433-2456) know if you would like to begin receiving contribution envelopes for the year 2023. Options are for weekly or monthly envelopes. Please designate your preference.

Note! If you received envelopes in 2022, you will continue to receive them and do not need to contact the office unless you want to opt out or change your designation.

August Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 8/31/22 \$ 385,945.00
Budget receipts as of 8/31/22 \$ 368,054.23

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Love Fund \$380.00
- Saturday Bag Lunch \$100.00
- Lottie Moon International Missions \$5.00

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your crops.

Proverbs 3:9 NIV

Budget Planning is Well Underway!

Thanks to the committees and teams that have completed and turned in their budget requests for next year. Your promptness is very much appreciated!

The 2023 proposed budget will be presented to the church for discussion on Sunday, October 23 following the worship service. Copies will be available by email and at the information desk the week prior.

BGAV Expresses Their Thanks!

The Treasurer and Executive Director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia express gratitude to the HBC congregation for its generous support of Cooperative Missions giving for the first six months of 2022. Gifts from HBC for this period total \$20,390.80. This represents an increase of 28% over the same period in 2021. Shout out to HBC members and friends for your heart for missions near and far!



October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Susan: Sept 27-Oct 3 Matt: Oct 9-16 Gary: Oct 18, 22-29						1
2 World Communion Sunday 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	3 3pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor)	4 6pm Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	5	6	7	8
9 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	10 6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	11	12 5:45pm Youth Clothes Closet	13	14	15
16 11:30am Lasagna Luncheon Fundraiser 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	17 7pm VA Baptist Male Chorale	18	19	20 November Newsletter Articles Due 6pm Ladies' Night Out	21	22
23 11:30am Budget Presentation 11:30am Youth & Kids OCC Packing & Pizza 4:30pm Youth Cooking Class 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	24	25	26 2pm Brookdale	27	28 5:30pm Halloween Party	29
30 9am Ladies Sunday School Class (FH) 4:30pm Youth Halloween Party	31					

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 & 203)
- 11:00am Tuesdays Together (B4)
- 6:00pm Jubellation Practice

WEDNESDAY

- 10:00am Ladies Prayer Group (B4)
- 12:30pm *When Helping Hurts* Book Study (FH)
- 6:00pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY

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

SATURDAY

- 10:30am Community Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- Oct 2 — Jeannie Petit
- Oct 9 — Nancy Shomo
- Oct 16 — Don Aittama
- Oct 23 — Karen Burke
- Oct 30 — Bill Lee

COMMUNITY LUNCH

- Oct 1 — St. Stephen's
- Oct 8 — Ritcher
- Oct 15 — Skelley
- Oct 22 — Ruiz
- Oct 29 — Petit

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debbie Douglas
- 6 Julie Aittama
- 9 David Ingram
- 9 Matt Winters
- 10 Sherry Miller
- 10 Roi Ji Phaga
- 10 Leigha Winters
- 15 Sandy Weaver
- 16 John Helbert
- 16 Barbara Pond
- 17 Gary Creasy
- 18 Neese Spitzer, Jr.
- 19 Evelyn Hoover
- 24 Vickie Westlake
- 26 Dustyn Miller
- 27 Becky Armentrout
- 27 Lyn Weaver
- 28 Anna Lee Fega
- 29 Tom Reynolds, Jr.

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

OCTOBER 20, 2022

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

