



JANUARY 2023

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Introducing 2023 Theme: Together

REV. MATT WINTERS

As we embark on a new year, we have cultivated a theme to guide our HBC ethos for 2023: **Together**. This term is a broad canopy that allows us to explore facets and nuances of togetherness throughout the year. We'll find creative and meaningful ways of putting togetherness in practice as well as working together to serve God in our lives.

There are two foundational aspects of being together that highlight this importance. First, God has joined together with us. God, in Christ Jesus, has come to us and God is with us. God chooses to act through us and use us to show the world his love. God invites us to walk with him and commune with his spirit. That movement toward being with God allows our personal relationship with God to form the basic building block of faith to take on flesh in our lives.

Secondly, God orients us toward relationship with others and with our world. We're not called to be solitary individuals. We are called to be community, to have deep and abiding relationships with one another. What we do in the realms of faith—whether its traditional service or even discipleship—should be done with others. We have a joined calling to serve together. We'll explore this theme throughout the year, and I hope it will prompt you to deepen your roots with God and with us. "In Him, we are being built together." ~Ephesians 2:22

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Founders' Day

On Sunday, January 22, we will celebrate Founders' Day. Rev. Ben Brown, youth pastor at Second Baptist Church in Richmond, VA, will be our guest speaker.

Following the service you are invited to a fundraising dinner in the Fellowship Hall which will help defray the costs of Julia Obenschain's Eagle Scout project. J.J. is creating a landscaped walkway around Don Musselman's tree as well as the 150th anniversary tree in the lawn on the south side of the church.

Ladies' Night IN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 @ 7PM

Join us for a chance to create a work of art through paint pouring! This is a trendy new way to use your creativity (or lack thereof) and see what the paint will do for you! We have invited a special guide to lead us in teaching the finer points of paint pouring. We will, of course, also have snacks and drinks and enjoy a good time together.

Registration is required for this event. Seats are limited, so sign up early to save your spot! You can sign up at the Info Desk beginning January 8, or by contacting the church office. For a cost of \$15 we will provide everything you need (make checks out to HBC).

Perhaps most importantly—NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Join us for a fun evening with the girls!

Prayer & Story Circles

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2023

You are invited to join our Prayer & Story Circles which begin in February 2023! The goal of these Prayer & Story Circles is to make space in our lives for more prayer (and more prayer together) to lift up our church and community - but it is also an opportunity to get to know others and learn more about one another. Participants will be assigned to a specific Circle where they will receive weekly prayer prompts. Each Circle will be encouraged to touch base weekly, sharing concerns and prayer with a phone call, a text, through zoom, etc. Once a month, at the time and place that is most convenient for your group, you will meet in person for a shared time of prayer as well as time to share some of your stories with one another. Prayer & Story Circles are for all ages—we welcome anyone who would like to participate.

Throughout the month of January, there will be a clipboard sign up sheet at Info Desk, or you can notify the church office if you would like to be a part of this opportunity to get to know others in the church and spend time in prayer and sharing stories together.

Reach out to Pastor Eli if you have any questions.



God's Purpose For Our Lives

DON AITTAMA, DEACON

A couple of months ago I attended a funeral service. The pastor giving the eulogy made the statement that “she (the deceased) touched the lives of many people during her life.” He went on to talk about how the deceased had helped many people who were in need. In addition, he also talked about those that visited her home and found that she was a gracious and giving hostess. She was a wonderful cook and meals which included family and friends were always a wonderful occasion. It came to me that this is what God intends for each of us in our lives – to touch the lives of everyone that we come into contact with.

One question is how does God want us to touch the lives of those around us? The answers are found in the Bible.

One answer is in the greatest and the second greatest commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself....” (Matt 22:37-39). This woman clearly loved her neighbor as herself as she gave time and time again to others in need while also serving everyone who came into her home.

Another answer is found in studying the fruit of the spirit: “But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22). Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if everyone practiced all of these qualities? I suspect that the deceased woman who was remembered at this funeral service practiced many of these qualities.

The last answer lies in the Great Commission: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt 28:18-20). The pastor giving the eulogy at the funeral service talked about the faithfulness of this woman in her church. I suspect she encouraged many people to visit and join her church. And through this effort she participated in the Great Commission.

These standards are not easy standards to live by. I find myself frequently challenged by all three of them. But by disciplining ourselves to comply with all three of these standards we will become more “Christ-like” as we go about our daily business. And, hopefully at the end of our lives our eulogy will also read “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have touched the lives of many people in a way that is pleasing to God!” Isn't this what God's purpose is for our lives?



January Youth Events

JAN 1

No Sunday School
No evening activities

JAN 8

9:15am Sunday School
5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

JAN 11

5:45-8pm Clothes Closet

JAN 15

9:15am Sunday School
5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

JAN 21

9:30-12:00 Community Bag Lunch

JAN 22

9:15am Sunday School
5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

JAN 29

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Ushering for
Worship Service
5:30-7:30pm Dinner &
Bible Study

Youth Christmas Party

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group celebrated Christ's birth with their annual Youth Christmas Party on December 18. Jeff Obenschain and his family provided a delicious dinner of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, beans, corn, rolls, stuffing, and cookies. Thank you, Jeff and family, for spoiling us with the outstanding meal! After dinner, we played Four Square and decorated wooden Christmas ornaments and made a birthday card for Pastor Eli. We also competed in four challenges: Christmas trivia, charades, puzzles, and a snowball toss. We had two teams, boys versus girls, and the boys team won! We concluded the party with a White Elephant gift exchange. There were tons of laughter, a few tears, and as a whole, we left the party with plenty of Christmas cheer!





New Deacon

CATHY LAWRENCE 2023-2025

I am thankful to have grown up in a Christian home but realized as a child that it was a personal, individual decision to accept Jesus as my savior. I did become a Christian at 10 and was active in our rural Baptist church in southern Illinois. During college I was actively involved in the Baptist Student Union both on campus, traveling to various churches on revival teams, and serving as summer missionary in bush villages of northern Alaska. After marrying Dave, we worked as a team with youth groups in our first churches. We moved locations with employment a few times, but always found places of service in each new church.

I along with Dave are proud parents of two sons, 17 grandchildren, and one great-grandson ranging in age from 6 weeks to 26 years of age. Family is such a blessing! I began my teaching career in high school vocational classes. As we moved through the years, I found myself also teaching preschool, substitute teaching any age or class, and working with 4-H in Cooperative Extension Service. We moved from Illinois to western Fairfax, Virginia in 1985. Our last move was to Penn Laird - Harrisonburg in 1999.

The Spirit drew us to HBC where I have been a member since 2000. I enjoy the Christian fellowship, worship, and opportunities for service in our church. Through the years I have enjoyed teaching Bible School, Sunday School, and organizing both Children's Church and Christmas Bible School for

several years. I have served on Children's Ministry, Weekday Preschool, Nursery, Nominating, and Deacon Nominating committees and enjoyed being part of other ministries like bag lunch, OIAM, and programs that change with needs of our community. The past 6 years since retirement, Dave and I have been blessed to enjoy lots of travel joining HBC worship services virtually several months each year, then participating in church when we are home. The recent birth of our youngest grandson has given new opportunities. When his mom goes back to work in January, I have been granted the joy to keep him during the week while his parents work. This will also allow the time for me to take a more active role in church. Seeking God's guidance, I look forward to serving as a deacon at HBC.





The Vinery Update

SHIRLEY COBB

In a nutshell the focus of the Vinery is promoting invigorated faith and connections to God and each other through deep listening and important conversations between and among college students and church members. The goal is to then to nurture that faith in our own life and culture and reflect the redemption of Christ in individuals and our communities.

There are over 5,000 churches within 2 miles of college campus in the United States. The opportunity to change the world has never been greater. This is the challenge Harrisonburg Baptist has taken on through the Lily Grant - the "Vinery". Members from this church have been involved in a 2 year concentration/commitment and training in deep listening, intentional conversations with college students on issues important to us all - personal, relational, and cultural. We are looking at how the message of Christ and his example can change individual lives and the culture in ways that glorify God and elevate believers in ways that can transform and redeem individual lives and the sins that erode our culture.

The work of the Vinery at HBC may not be always visible. It is the underground growth of encouraging the germination of seeds of the Gospel - which may be in small groups (with college students and church members), or around a dinner table after church on Sundays, or in a more informal outing between and among students and

congregants. The grant is an experiment fostering deeper connections between college culture (students, faculty and staff), and Christians in the community. It is an effort to spark and enliven the faith in ways that are transformative in individual lives, the community and the church. In a time when we are living in a post-Christian society the call of Christ on our lives is more pressing to those who are drinking at dry wells of materialism, addictions, power, and self-preservation. Christ offers the rich wine of life which breaks the new wineskins of the culture and provides an everlasting life of vibrancy, meaningfulness, connections and salvation to a world which desperately needs it.

Yes, the numbers of our college students in our congregation have increased by quite a bit - for which we are all thankful. We appreciate the students' gifts, energy and involvement in our church programs and the friendships that have been formed, but the work of the Vinery is more than growth in numbers. It is a fertilization of the faith through the work of the Holy Spirit which promote dynamic learning communities - for students and congregants together to address the issues of the felt deficits within each of us and our culture and which serve the common good in the likeness of Christ.

This Lily Grant is an experiment to deepen the faith of college students and church members and to encourage deep listening - to God - but to also one another - in ways which allow for exploration of self and the movement of the Holy Spirit in individual lives and our communities. A vinery is an area in which new



vines are grown; we invite all of you to join us as we grow the seeds of our faith with each other and our college and university communities. We need you to join us - there is no one else like you and no stories like your stories!

Missions Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

The Missions Committee wishes to thank **Pat Dickens** for her many years of service. Pat has given endless hours of her time to complete tasks and work on ministries for HBC. We are grateful for her dedication and commitment.

We welcome **Susan Yazdani** to the Missions Committee. Susan is familiar with international missions as well as local missions so she will be a great help to further our work for the Lord.

Christmas Blessings: Thank you, HBC congregation, for all of your generosity to those in need in our community and beyond during the Christmas season. Julie Aittama and Susan Mason were able to deliver 46 Operation Christmas Child boxes. Thirty-two children received angel tree gifts. We were able to provide a meal for Open Doors (see below), and our committee helped to plan and implement the Compass Christmas Eve service.

Open Doors Meal: Kathy Ritcher made the arrangements for a meal for Open Doors on December 21st. Money from the missions' budget paid for The Village Inn to provide the meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, cherry cobbler and rolls. Thanks to Sharon and Mike Clark who volunteered to help pick up the food, deliver and serve at the shelter at Massanetta Springs.

Nasaruni Academy for Girls, Kenya Africa: Don Cude and his daughter, Michelle, shared during our December meeting that there are hopes to include a clinic for the girls on campus at the academy. There is a Maasai doctor who will oversee the clinic. The Academy now has both elementary and high school students. The campus has expanded over the past years to include three wings for the high school with a library, science labs, administrative offices, and three dormitories.

Moses and Alice would like to provide a conference for the girls in January. They would like to bring the girls back to campus, while they are on break, so they can counsel and encourage them about their education and future. They need funding for this conference. This past month, we had a donation of \$1,000 specifically for the Nasaruni Academy. Thank you so much! The Missions Committee approved including the final amount in our non-local line of \$162.66 along with the \$1,000 donation to the Nasaruni Academy toward the costs of this January conference.



Farm Ministry Update

KEITH TURNER

The Farm Ministry has been helping flooded churches and families in Kentucky. On December 16, a truckload took food and toys to Myra, KY. There was great excitement in Myra as the families brought their children to Manna from Heaven, a local non-profit partner, for another food distribution, selecting toys and clothes. Lois Tackett said that the toys, clothes, meats, cheeses, and food is giving the people there some Hope, just in time for Christmas. Lois said that our effort is so awesome and a blessing to the mountain folks receiving all that we sent.

The total value of the three truckloads of food and supplies exceeded \$200,000.00. Our team served over 1,000 families in the 2 day distribution. The 2,500 toys were distributed in 2 days. We provided meat and cheese protein for over 60,000 meals with this distribution. We started beef distribution on October 12. We have well exceeded \$300,000.00 in the value of distributed items. All we have to do is make the effort. The results are truly amazing.

The Farm Ministry is a ministry of hope. Hope for struggling farmers facing liquidation and hope for disaster victims. For the Thanksgiving meat and food distribution we used the Hope Distributed refer truck because the word HOPE is printed very large on the side of the truck. This was for messaging. As the people waited for hours in the distribution line, they could see HOPE on the truck and relate this to hope through the distribution. With the same team arriving in bigger trucks

and distributing more food and needed supplies, the word of the ministry of hope is spreading to mountains away. Lois said that some people had no hope and did not know God when they came in need of food. Some people have found God through the outreach of Manna and hope through the help they are receiving.

In Recognition

We want to especially recognize the work of **Sarah Northen**, who marks her 6th work anniversary, and **Harold Bailey**, who marks his 3rd anniversary in January. Thanks for your selfless and beautiful work you do for us.



Congratulations!

We want to congratulate **Noelle Carroll** on her graduation from JMU with a Master of Arts in Teaching for Early Childhood Education. She is currently in her first year of teaching 1st grade at WW Robinson Elementary School in Woodstock. Well done, Noelle! We're so proud of you.



PassportKIDS!

REV. ELI WITHERS

Kids who are currently in grades 3rd through 6th are invited to attend Passportkids! Wednesday, June 14 through Saturday, June 17 next summer at Eagle Eyrie near Lynchburg, Va. Last summer we had an amazing experience! Please know that friends are welcome to attend as well! Deposits of \$55 are due **BY SUNDAY, JANUARY 22**. A balance of \$200 will be due by Sunday, March 19. This may include a fundraiser to help offset the cost. (This cost includes money from the Children's Ministry budget toward each child who attends camp.) Feel free to check out Passport's website for more information and let me know if you have any questions at all! www.passportcamps.org/location/eagle-eyrie/

New Sidewalk!

Many of you have been using our new sidewalk from the gazebo to the main door. Thanks to the Premises Committee for making it happen. A special thanks to Chris Belcher who served as the project manager.



Fa-la-la-la-la...

On December 14th, Christmas carolers from HBC shared music and fellowship with members of our church family who are homebound. HBC youth who participated in caroling shared the following reflections on their experience:

"(Caroling was)...fun and exciting. It made me feel good to sing and spread Christmas cheer."

"While we were caroling I learned a lot from the members we went caroling for. From Evelyn I found out that the house she lives in has been in her family for years. While we were at Neil S.'s house I learned about stuff he did with my grandmother like when they went to Rhode Island for a mission trip. And finally at Wayne R.'s house we found out that for Christmas his family goes to one of his daughters house and then they go to Wayne's house."

In addition to Harrisonburg residences, carolers visited HBC'ers who live at VMRC and Bridgewater retirement centers, where a number of "housemates" joined in on the singing and jingle-belling.

What a blessing to share Christmas joy among the generations!



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

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

EXTENDED FAMILY

Sandra Mace (Julia Aittama's friend)
Joyce Obenschain
(Jeff Obenschain's mother)
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)

SYMPATHY

We grieve with Faye Obenschain and family upon the death of her sister and brother-in-law, Cindy and Bobby Tate.

November Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 11/31/22 \$ 529,296.00
Budget receipts as of 11/31/22 \$ 507,306.31

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Love Fund \$650.00
- Staff Christmas Fund \$1,375.00
- Lottie Moon Missions \$5.00
- World Hunger \$325.00
- Trustees Fund \$5,000.00
- Nasaruni Academy \$1,000.00
- Saturday Bag Lunch \$135.00

December Stewardship Snapshot

As of December 18, 2022

Budget needs \$ 562,377.00
Budget receipts \$ 538,262.47

Financial Dates To Remember

2023 offering envelope sets are available in the church foyer. Offering envelopes for those unable to pick them up will be mailed or delivered by our Visitation Team.

December 31 – 2022 Year-end stock and other donations to the church must be in the church office or postmarked by December 31.

January 6 – All 2022 invoices or requests for reimbursement must be dated by December 31 and delivered to the church office by January 6, 2023. Any 2022 items received after January 6 will be posted to the 2023 budget.

JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2 Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8 Deacon Ordination & Installation Service 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	9 3pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor) 6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4) 6:30pm Scouts (Sanctuary)	10 6:00pm Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	11 5:45-8 pm Youth - Clothes Closet	12	13	14
15 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	16	17	18	19	20 February Newsletter Articles Due	21
22 Founders' Day 12pm Fundraiser Dinner 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	23	24	25	26 11am Brookdale	27	28
29 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	30	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)
6:00pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY

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

SATURDAY

10:30am Community Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Jan 1 — Don Aittama
Jan 8 — Karen Burke
Jan 15 — Jeannie Petit
Jan 22 — Dennis Simmons
Jan 29 — Shirley Cobb

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Jan 7 — Petit
Jan 14 — Emmanuel Episcopal
Jan 21 — HBC Youth
Jan 28 — B'water/Dayton
Methodist Youth

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Katelyn Belcher
4 Genny Kline
4 Deb Propst
7 Char Turner
12 Quinn Belcher
13 David Downey
15 Kent Folsom
16 Matthew Mazingo
18 Sharon Clark
18 Andree Griffin
18 Carol Morrow
22 Caroline Hayes
30 Jackie Leonard
30 Samantha Winters

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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A publication of

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 433-2456 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

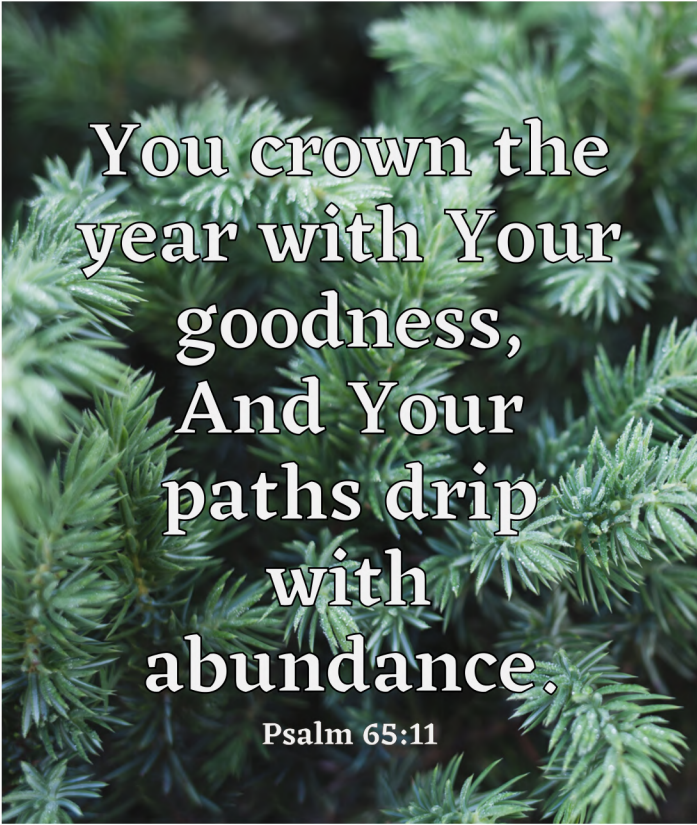
Chris Belcher, Facilities Manager

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JANUARY 20, 2023

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org



You crown the
year with Your
goodness,
And Your
paths drip
with
abundance.

Psalm 65:11