JUNE 2023

# HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

## Vote to Disassociate from the SBC

REV. MATT WINTERS

On May 21, 2023, at the Spring Business Meeting, HBC voted to disassociate from the Southern Baptist Convention by a vote of 73-7. This vote helped clarify the church's position in relation to the SBC. For about fifty years, HBC has been thriving under the leadership of female deacons. Female pastors have been on staff for at least ten years, if not longer. Disassociating from the SBC came in relation to a proposed amendment to the Southern Baptist Convention's Constitution. The amendment sought to remove collaboration within the SBC to any church that affirmed or employed female pastors. If the amendment passed, our church would be moved to non-collaborative status—essentially, removed from the SBC.

Sometime in early June, the SBC will vote yea or nay on that proposed amendment. The strength of the support for the amendment is not known but is hinted at, and guessed at. For HBC, we're blazing a new trail so our eyes may not follow closely the movements of the SBC from here forward. We're moving ahead with ministry that is important to us and where God continues to call us. The truth is that the SBC and HBC have not been partners in ministry for a long time. We have served Christ in our own

## This issue:


Proposed LT Changes
PAGE 02

Prayer & Story Circles
Tree Art
Ladies' Night Out
PAGE 03

Lessons from James
PAGE 04

VBS & Children's Church
PAGE 05

Youth Update
PAGES 06 & 07

High School Graduates
PAGES 08 & 09

College Ministry Recap
PAGE 10

Missions Committee Update
New Members
PAGE 11

Prayer Concerns
Financial Snapshot
Giving Plans Update
PAGE 12

ways but have been doing so with very little overlap. In the future, we will remain committed together in the support of missionaries specifically, and the kingdom of God generally. That union and call never ends.

What is different remains in the way we operate as a church and in the overt partnerships we retain. As a Baptist church, we pride ourselves in our autonomy, and we will decide as a congregation what is best for us. While the partnership with the SBC has been decided through this vote, let us be mindful that the vote was not unanimous. That means not each of us felt this was the best decision for this day and time. And, while the SBC may have voted us out anyway, there are some that were not ready for this disassociation. I think it's important for us to maintain unity of spirit among ourselves and realize that some grief in this loss may resonate within our walls.

We have been called to be the Harrisonburg Baptist Church in this day and era. Let us be the best version of that call we can be. Let us find the partners that will help us best accomplish that call. We need each and every one of us to do our part. As we move forward in ministry, let us be strong together, patient with one another, compassionate to one another and prayerful in our response to what's before us. As always, I'm more than happy to talk with you as we move ahead.

## Proposed Changes to the Leadership Team

REV. MATT WINTERS

At the May Business Meeting, the Operations Manual Review Committee outlined a proposal to separate the Leadership Team and Deacon duties. Currently, the Deacons serve as the Leadership Team of the church. Based on feedback from the Deacons and congregation, this proposal attempts to clarify and define the functions of each in ways that will benefit the church moving forward. Copies of the proposed changes are available on the Information Desk, or via email by request to kim@hbcalive.org.

Please take some time to review the proposal, which would separate the deacons from the Leadership Team. We plan to have a community conversation on Sunday, June 11 directly after the worship service to review the outline and answer questions about the proposal. The plan will is to bring the proposal to a vote at the Fall Business meeting in November.

## Deacon Nominations

Nominations for Deacons to serve 2024-2026 will be collected May 28 through June 18. Forms can be found in your Sunday bulletin, on the Information Desk, or requested by email to kim@hbcalive.org.

## Prayer and Story Circles

REV. ELI WITHERS

A special thank you to Donna Downey for creating our prayer prompts for the last couple of months! Way to go, Donna!

I pray that your Prayer and Story Circles are going well. If I have not been able to meet with your group recently, please reach out and let me know how your groups are going!

Our prayer prompt for June is: spend time in prayer for folks in our congregation (and others you may know personally) who are dealing with recent medical diagnoses that are causing extra struggle, worry, and concern. Please lift these folks up by name and seek God's guidance in how you can be an encouragement to them.

For our stories this month: share with your group about one of the most special gifts you've ever received and why it was important to you and who gave it to you.

May God continue to bless this specific season of prayer.

## Tree Art

Pastor Matt is doing a special summer sermon series on the trees of the Bible. We are going to create a masterpiece painting/collage this summer to contribute to this series! Beginning on June 4, we are asking everyone in the church to bring either an old fabric scrap, or a piece of fabric from something significant (a baby blanket, a special shirt that is no longer worn) to contribute to the summer art project. If you have no fabric scraps at home, please stop by the table that will be set up in the elevator foyer and choose a fabric scrap on the table to add to the creation! Just know that for the first couple of Sunday in June the table will be set up before and after the worship service to allow folks to add their own mark on this project! Let's build this together!

## Ladies' Night Out

THURSDAY, JUNE 22 @ 6:00PM

Ladies of the church (and their friends!) are invited to a Ladies' Night Out on Thursday, June 22. We will meet at O'Neill's Grill on University Blvd at 6 pm. Please contact the church office by June 18 if you are planning to join us. Also please let us know if you need a ride.

If you haven't been able to join us for one of our Ladies' Night Out before, please know that the fellowship is wonderful and it is a great opportunity to get to know other ladies of all ages in our church!

# Lessons from James

PHIL DOUGLAS, DEACON

We began studying the book of James this month in our Sunday School class and I am continually amazed, even though I shouldn't be, how much God speaks to us all in so many ways. We have not quite made it through the first chapter, but we could write a book on all that we have been given insight into. Much of what I am writing here was in the lesson material by the late Dr. Warren Wiersbe, a great man of God. In our first 2 lessons I was reminded about trials, yes trials, that are going to come. It can be summarized in four words: Count, Know, Let, and Ask.

Count: When trials come, not if, but when, we should immediately give thanks to God and adopt a joyful attitude. Easy right? Not at all. But whether the trials are because we are human, or because we are a Christian, God is there to help us through and to help us mature in the process. Outlook determines outcome, and so to end with joy, begin with joy!

Know: Have an understanding mind. When trials come, know that if it is God testing us, he is doing it to bring out the best in us. If Satan is tempting us, it's to bring out the worst in us. God is helping us to develop patience. In the Bible, patience is not a passive acceptance, but a courageous perseverance in the face of suffering and difficulty. The only way that God can develop patience and character in our lives is through trials.

Let: Have a surrendered will. God cannot build our patience or character without our cooperation. God is working for us through salvation. God is working in us because we are his workmanship. When God builds our character then we become more like Jesus. God is working through us via service. We are created in Christ to do good works. If we go through trials without surrendered wills, we will end up more like immature children than mature adults.

Ask: When we are going through difficulties we should be praying, and we should ask. What should we ask for? We should be asking for wisdom. Now I always thought that this was something given, but the lesson told us that "knowledge is the ability to take things apart, but wisdom is the ability to put them together. Wisdom is the right use of knowledge." We probably all know someone that is very educated, but that doesn't mean they are wise. We need wisdom more than strength, more than grace, and even more than deliverance. We need wisdom so that we don't waste the opportunities that God is giving us to mature.

This is a summary of what we studied in just one week, but it gave me a new thought process in asking for wisdom. I have done that many times, but never with the thought of helping me to mature through trials! So, as I go on from here, I encourage you to join me in asking for wisdom. Not so that you will know more, but so that you can mature more and grow more in the nature of Christ.

## VBS Training

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 @ 11:30AM

**Vacation Bible School Volunteers**: If you are helping **in any way** with VBS this summer, please plan to attend our very important **training session on Sunday, June 4** in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service (boxed lunches will be provided). Please let Sue Mason know if you are unable to attend. Sarah Nolley from Compass Behavioral Solutions will be meeting with us to help us understand how we can best serve our friends with special needs who will be attending VBS with us. Sarah is excited to meet with us and we are looking forward to the training. Thanks for agreeing to be a part of our VBS ministry this year! We could not do it without you!

## Children's Church

Just a note to let you know that our kiddos (and our volunteer leaders!) will be taking a break from Children's Church this summer (beginning June 4). Please welcome the kids into the worship service and make them feel at home.

When we resume Children's Church in September, we will need more helpers - so please pray about how you can be a part of this very important ministry!

## Vacation Bible School

JUNE 26-30

VBS Registration forms are now available at the Information Desk in the church foyer as well as online at hbcalive.org/vbs! Please sign your child up as soon as possible so we will have an accurate number of students that will be attending that week. Remember that our more traditional VBS days will be Monday, June 26 and Wednesday, June 28 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm with lunch served both days. We will be looking at our relationship with creation on Monday and our relationships with one another on Wednesday.

In addition, we will be taking field trips on Tuesday (June 27) and Thursday (June 29). The plan for Tuesday is to take a trip to the Safari Park in Lexington. We will meet at the church at 9:30 am and plan to return around 3 pm. A picnic lunch will be provided by the church. **The cost for this trip is $20 per person**. On Thursday, we will meet at the church at 11:30 am for a picnic lunch and then head to Westover Pool for the afternoon. We should return to the church by 3 pm. **This trip will cost $5 per person**. Please note on your registration form if your child will be attending the field trip days and include payment (**due by Sunday, June 18**).

We will close our week with games and a picnic at Hillandale Park starting at 10:30am on Friday. More details on that soon.

Summer - here we come!!!

## June Youth Events

JUNE 4
- 9:15am Sunday School
- No evening youth activities

JUNE 11 - YOUTH SUNDAY!
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 10:30am Graduate Recognition
- 4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers'

JUNE 14
- 5:45-8:15pm Clothes Closet

JUNE 18
- 9:15am Sunday School
- No evening youth activities

JUNE 25
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers'

JUNE 26-30
- 10:30am-1:30pm Vacation Bible School

## Youth Update: Operation Inasmuch

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group participated in Operation Inasmuch on May 6, and it was so great to serve our community in a new way! For our project, we joined forces with the younger children of HBC. The children and youth worked relentlessly to bake almost 200 cookies. They also wrote “thank you” and “thinking of you” cards to send with the cookies. Once the cookies were cooled and organized into containers and cookie bags, we loaded up in a church van and delivered them. It was our pleasure to take cookies to Harrisonburg Fire Department Station 4, Harrisonburg Police Department, Pi Beta Chi Fraternity, and to many of our neighbors on Gratten Street. The children and youth loved being able to bake cookies together and deliver them to people. We were even featured on HPD’s Facebook page! We are so grateful to the Missions Committee for organizing this day of serving. We also want to thank Judy Simmons for her delicious donation of homemade chocolate chip cookies!

## Thank You!

The youth group would like to thank the congregation for their overwhelming support of our Luncheon Fundraiser and Cake Auction. Thanks to you and your generous donations, we were able to raise $2,076.00 for Passport Camp!!! We want to especially thank Jeff Obenschain for being our auctioneer, as well as these individuals for their cake donations: Jeff Obenschain, Sharon Wampler, Sandy Weaver, Mike Kopcinski, Sarah Beery, Victoria Moutinho, Julie Aittama, Missy Simmons, Sarah Northen, and Erin Waddell. Thank you all so much!

# Congratulations!

## to our 2023 high school graduates

### ETHAN BURKE

Ethan graduates from Thomas Dale High School in Chester, Virginia. He plans to attend Temple University in Tokyo, Japan, where he will study Japanese Language with plans to either teach or be an interpreter. Ethan is the son of Leanne Burke and grandson of Robby and Karen Burke.

### JAYDEN FRENCH

Jayden graduates from Spotswood High School and plans to enter the workforce this summer. Jayden is the son of Patrick and Heidi French. He is also Katelyn Belcher's neighbor, and he joined HBC's youth group in 2019.

### KALIN GLOVER

Kalin graduates from Spotswood High School. She plans to study nursing at James Madison University in the fall. Kalin is the daughter of Scott Glover and step-daughter of Elisabeth Glover.

## CARSON LOHR

Carson graduates from Broadway High School and plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College and then transfer to Virginia Tech. He is planning to take his real estate license exam this fall and he hopes to sell real estate while attending college. Carson is the son of Matt Lohr and grandson of Gary and Ellen Lohr and Larry and Carol Lynch.

## VICTORIA MOUTINHO

Victoria graduates from Harrisonburg High School and will attend Blue Ridge Community College in the fall. She plans to study to be an American Sign Language interpreter. Victoria is the daughter of Sarah Beery and granddaughter of Kathy Beery.

## WILL SIMMONS

Will graduates from Turner Ashby High School and plans to study engineering at James Madison University. Will is the son of Scott and Missy Simmons.

# College Ministry Recap

REV. ELI WITHERS

Our college ministry has been an incredible blessing throughout the past school year! Sunday morning services don't seem quite complete with their absence in recent weeks. I want to take a moment to thank our college students and share the many ways they have served us this year. We are already counting the days until they come back in August.

Several of our students led the Children's Messages. They assisted with Children's Church as well as many special events like our outdoor-field-day-turned-indoor-game-night! (What fun everyone had that night, playing games Pastor Matt seemed to invent on the fly!) College students participated in small group studies, helped serve our Saturday lunch friends, collected the Sunday morning offering, and have been a big part of the music ministry. They also planned and carried out a Sunday morning worship service. They blessed us so much just by being themselves!

Beautiful relationships were created and enhanced throughout the school year. There was A LOT OF LAUGHTER! There were sometimes tears this past year as we mourned with our neighbors the passing of some of their fraternity brothers. But God even helped new relationships grow out of that tragedy and enhanced some that began many months ago.

Our Sunday lunches continued thanks to many of you and especially because of Doug and Cindy Skelley. We want to also recognize our College Ministry Committee members—Shirley Cobb, Sandy Weaver, Ron Smith, David Hayes, Cindy Skelley and Lynda Lee—for their encouragement and assistance along the way. We are so grateful to you for making this happen. We've all learned that the magic here is not in the food, but in the sharing of the meal—just like Jesus taught.

We also want to thank Heidi Ruiz for continuing as our College Ministry Assistant/Intern this year. We were blessed to witness her no doubt first of many sermons to come, and we were challenged that Sunday to continue the work to strengthen our community and invite more people to be apart of our community. We thank you, Heidi,

for your leadership and creativity in our ministry to college students and young adults!

We ask that you be in prayer for our college students this summer! Many are working. Some have very important work to do this summer on a personal/ family level. Some will be traveling. Some will be studying still. At least one of our students will be doing an internship in Ghana! We want to wrap them in prayer even as we begin to anticipate what God will continue to do in our College and Young Adult ministry in the future!

## Missions Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

As part of our ministry to the families in need in Myra, Kentucky, we will collect school supplies during the months of June and July. In August, our mission team will assist Manna From Heaven in giving out these supplies to children and families.

The list of children's school supplies needed:

- crayons
- colored markers
- colored pencils
- highlighters
- black pens
- #2 pencils
- erasers
- glue sticks
- notebook paper
- 3 ring binders/notebooks
- spiral notebooks
- composition notebooks
- scissors
- book bags/back packs

## New Members

### EDITH CUPP

Edith graduated from Buffalo Gap High School and enjoys fishing, hunting, camping, sewing, reading and crafting.

### DENNIS & DIANNE GREENE

Dennis & Dianne met at Bluefield College in Bluefield, Virginia, and later owned a furniture store in Boone, North Carolina. They moved to Harrisonburg from Abingdon, Virginia several years ago to be near their daughter, Martha (a professor at EMU). They also have twin sons, Brent (a middle school teacher) and Byron (a chaplain at Mayo Clinic). They have seven grandchildren.

### MORE NEW MEMBERS

**Daisy (Cynthia) Howard** was baptised on May 14, 2023.
**Michael Coggins** joined on May 21, 2023.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Becky Armentrout
Dennis Greene
Wayne Hannah
Sue Jones
Lola McBride
Marie N'Goran
Bill Pond
Karen & Kerry Potter
Jimmy & Nancy Russell
Constance Via
Jim Wampler

EXTENDED FAMILY

Penny Bennett (Karen Folsom's friend)
Barbara Creasy
(Gary Creasy's sister-in-law)
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)

## April Stewardship Snapshot

| | |
|---|---|
| Budget needs as of 4/30/23 | $206,154.00 |
| Budget receipts as of 4/30/23 | $ 214,136.77 |

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

| | |
|---|---|
| • Love Fund | $395.00 |
| • Saturday Bag Lunch | $145.00 |
| • Operation Inasmuch | $478.00 |
| • Annie Armstrong Missions | $310.00 |
| • State Missions | $20.00 |
| • The Farm Ministry | $20.00 |
| • Hank & Jane Bowers Memorial | $5,000.00 |

## HBC Giving Plans – Update

At the spring business meeting on Sunday, May 21, the church voted to disassociate with the Southern Baptist Convention. Given this decision, the Finance Committee has **discontinued** the following giving plans as of 5/21/2023:

**WM1** (Southern Baptist Convention)
**WM2** (SBC & Baptist General Assoc of Va)

If we receive a donation marked for one of the discontinued giving plans, it will be redirected to the HBC Plan (the default giving plan).

Both WM3 (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) and the HBC Plan (the default giving plan) remain available. Both options support the ministries of the Baptist General Association of VA (BGAV).

Questions about the giving plans going forward may be addressed to Susan Kiser at the church office 540-433-2456 or susan@hbcalive.org.

# June 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Staff Out of Office**<br>Gary: May 31-June 12<br>Susan: June 5 - 9 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4<br>11:30am VBS Training | 5 | 6<br>3pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor) | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Youth Sunday!<br>11:30am Community Conversation (LT/Deacon changes)<br>4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers' | 12<br>6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4) | 13 | 14<br>5:45-8:15pm Youth Clothes Closet | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18<br>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY<br>2-6pm Kachin Church | 19 | 20<br>June Newsletter Articles Due | 21 | 22<br>11am Brookdale<br>6pm Ladies' Night Out at O'Neill's Grill | 23 | 24 |
| 25<br>4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers' | 26<br>Vacation Bible School | 27<br>Vacation Bible School | 28<br>Vacation Bible School | 29<br>Vacation Bible School | 30<br>Vacation Bible School | |

## 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 & 203)
- 1:00pm Staff Meeting (Parlor)
- 6:30pm Scouts

*TUESDAY*
- 10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201 & 203)
- 11:00am Tuesdays Together (B4)

*WEDNESDAY*
- 10:00am Ladies Prayer Group (B4)
- 10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201 & 203)
- 6:00pm Choir Practice

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

*SATURDAY*
- 10:30am Community Lunch

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

June 4 — Jeannie Petit
June 11 — Dennis Simmons
June 18 — Shirley Cobb
June 25 — Phil Douglas

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

June 3 — Ritchie
June 10 — Ruiz
June 17 — Petit
June 24 — Emmanuel Episcopal

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Dale Wright
3 Irv Byrd
5 Sallie Darling
5 Donna Downey
5 Larry Ecklund
7 Dennis Greene
10 Emily Hartman
14 Hunter Hayes
17 Susan Huffman
20 Randy Dail
21 Sue Jones
21 Michael Renfroe
22 Michael Kopcinski
23 Faye Bland
27 Steve Smith

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

HBC ALIVE!
*A publication of*

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 433-2456 www.hbcalive.org

STAFF
Rev. Dr. Matthew Winters, Senior Pastor
Rev. Eli Withers, Associate Pastor
Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Youth Pastor
Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship
Erin Waddell, Praise Team Leader
Rosemary Lonberger, Organist
Harold Bailey, Pianist
Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant
Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
JUNE 20, 2023

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