MAY 2023

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

HBC's Survey of the Land

REV. MATT WINTERS

There is a scene in the musical film Annie where Annie becomes the tug-of-war rope between two opposing sides. Folks have grabbed her arms and are yanking on her. She's being pulled and yanked, while she's just trying to be a girl. I feel like Annie - being yanked to and fro by forces beyond us.

For three years together, we've focused our attention on caring for our community and sharing in the lives of our neighbors. We have looked for unique ways to serve as well as develop meaningful relationships. I think we have done a good job. Then, from left field (or out of nowhere, for the non-baseball fans among us) we get roped into an identity struggle within the Southern Baptist Convention over our calling of a female in the role, function and title of pastor. We are proud of our female pastors, Eli and Katelyn. They help us live out the kingdom of God and represent the mercy and love of Christ daily.

A Constitutional Amendment to the Southern Baptist Convention's Constitution has been proposed by a pastor in Arlington, VA. His amendment to their constitution states the SBC "Does not affirm, appoint, or employ a

This issue:

Business Meeting Agenda
PAGE 03

Love & Unity
PAGE 04

Flamingo Flocking!
VBS
PAGE 05

Youth Update
PAGES 06 & 07

College Graduates
PAGES 08 & 09

Missions Committee Updates
PAGE 10

What's In a Name?
PAGE 11

Prayer Concerns
Financial Updates
Thank Yous
PAGE 12

Calendar & Birthdays
PAGE 13

woman as a pastor of any kind." His amendment, if passed, would lead to an eviction of Harrisonburg Baptist Church from the Southern Baptist Convention. Currently, a letter in support of the amendment has over 2,100 signatures. It is not known whether or not this amendment will pass. If successful, however, the vote for eviction would sever our church's standing with the SBC. We are one of about 170 churches specifically and intentionally identified to complement this proposed constitutional amendment. The reason is solely because we affirm, appoint, or employ a female pastor and, therefore, possible disassociation. This singular fact, and based on no other datum, is the reason for their proposal to evict us, and other churches, from their convention.

Their proposed removal of our church from the SBC would have specific ramifications on the giving plans of WM1 and WM2. We will be forced to pivot and reconfigure the ways the church offers its tithe to the agencies and associations with whom we remain in partnership. Their proposed act of severance does not prevent the work our church has been doing from continuing. We will still be able to do the kind ministry of compassion and service that is in our DNA. We will be able to support the missionaries and mission activities that are crucial to our Kingdom-focused ministries.

I have been very disappointed in their proposal to disassociate with us, especially since we've striven to get along and make space for every neighbor we have—neighbors with whom we have little in common as well as much in common. I would have preferred their attention be focused on objectives of the Kingdom, but this possible severance has been thrust upon us.

We do not yet know the strength of support for the constitutional amendment. In June, we will learn about the SBC's decision when the proposal may make it to the floor for a vote. We do know that recently six churches have been removed from the SBC because of their employment of female pastors. Rick Warren's church, Saddleback, is one of these churches.

Our Leadership Team has suggested if a faction within the SBC plans to propose an amendment that would formally remove HBC from their fellowship of churches, then perhaps HBC could go ahead and decide formally to discontinue our fellowship with the SBC. If they believe we do not fit their concept of Baptist church, perhaps it is best to begin the process of grief and mourning and start to move on. The Leadership Team has invited the church to weigh in on this decision by vote at the May business meeting on Sunday, May 21. The question before us is: "SBC's proposed constitutional amendment reads: '*Does not affirm, appoint, or employ a woman as a pastor of any kind.*' Given this proposed amendment, should HBC disassociate itself from the SBC?"

We want to have a thoughtful and open conversation with everyone about this topic. We have had a relationship with the SBC for as long as the church has been in existence. Is

now the best time to move on or should we wait and see what happens at the convention? These are all good and necessary questions to ponder.

In addition to any personal conversations you would like to have with me, Pastor Eli, Pastor Katelyn or Shirley Cobb (Leadership Team Chair), I invite you to join us for a community conversation around this topic at the following times:

- **Thursday, May 4, 10 AM in the Sanctuary**
- **Wednesday, May 10, 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

I hope you will prayerfully consider what is best for the future for HBC.

If you would like to read the letter regarding the constitutional amendment, it can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yR4GD03KD2842r3RFlfJL-WX2CFRAbLTp5O592twPSw/edit

If you would like to read the list of churches for yourself, it can be found here: https://gk2611.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Churches-with-Female-Pastors-from-churches.sbc_.net_-2.pdf

Thanks,
Pastor Matt

May Business Meeting Agenda

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Directly after the worship service

Call To Order	Richard Baugh
Committee Reports	
Missions Committee	Mary Smith
Operation Manual Review	Phil Douglas
Personnel Committee	Bill Lee
Premises Committee	Kerry Potter
Finance Committee	Don Aittama
Trustees' Report	Karen Folsom
Leadership Team Report	Shirley Cobb
SBC Constitutional Amendment Review	Rev. Matt Winters
Vote on Disassociation with SBC	
Ministry Team Reports	
Senior Pastor	Rev. Matt Winters
Associate Pastor	Rev. Eli Withers
Youth Minister	Rev. Katelyn Belcher
Closing Prayer	

Love & Unity

SHIRLEY COBB, DEACON

A chorus we used to sing more often was "We are one in the Bond of Love." Nice song, easy tune to sing (in my limited vocal range), excellent message. A message all Christians would claim, verbalize, and live out - right?

My Sunday School class has been studying the prayers of Jesus, and more recently Jesus' prayer in John 17. This last prayer of Jesus is in anticipation of the glory of the cross and resurrection - the completion of redemptive blood shed for us. In this chapter Jesus prays for the "church " of believers, that they would be in the world living out God's love, but kept from the evil in the world. He also prays for unity of all - unity with God the Father and Son: "The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one. I in them and you in me, so that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.....the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17: 22, 26).

So, it's all about love and unity, and yet some decisions and judgments made recently by Christians and organized churches seem to fly against unity and love when a challenge is presented that women shouldn't be in leadership as pastors, even though they are living out their calling from God. Of course there are other issues - in almost any Christian church on the local and/or national level - which Bible translation to read, what kind of worship service to have, whether to immerse or sprinkle for baptism, and the list goes on. However, this particular charge not only dishonors an individual and her personal relationship with God and her call from God to ministry, it also negates the leading of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the church who called this minister.

While Christians with various concerns may desire to correct or purify the fellowship initially, it at times seems to run contrary to the goal of unity by polarizing believers on a variety of issues. Love and unity and the Great Commission are placed on hold while attention and energy are devoted to these issues.

Time to look to Jesus, and ask where Jesus would be, with whom would he be associating, and what would he do. Scripture bears out His focus would be on love, service and healing and not judgment. He would be calling people to love God and others - to encourage, heal, and reconcile.

An old favorite hymn of mine is "There is a Wideness in God's Mercy." The words are "There is a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty." Another verse says, "But we make God's love too narrow, By false limits of our own, And we magnify its strictness With a zeal God will not own." And finally, my favorite verse: "For the love of God is broader, Than the measure of the mind, And the heart of the Eternal, Is most wonderfully kind." Beautiful words expressing the depth and width of God's love and negating the false demands that sometimes we as believers place on others and even ourselves, as we seek to follow Jesus. A far cry from judgment, and a focus

on God's love and kindness which we are called upon to reflect and pass on.

It is disappointing and disheartening to experience this kind of conflict, but God's love, forgiveness, kindness and understanding is available to us as we look to him. As another old chorus says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face, and the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace." May we unify as believers in the love and grace that is extended to us as we extend it to all - believers and non-believers.

Flamingo Flocking!

A PASSPORT FUNDRAISER

HBC Youth is hosting a Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser during the entire month of May! Give a fun-loving friend, neighbor, or family member a yard full of beautiful plastic pink flamingos. Here is the cost information:

$20 donation- a trained technician will remove the flock and relocate the flock to a friend of your choice.

$30 donation- flocking insurance will protect your home from one future flocking.

To arrange a flocking, flocking removal, or to purchase flocking insurance, please contact Katelyn at 540-820-5283 or katelyn@hbcalive.org. These birds will nest in your yard for 2-4 days. All proceeds will benefit Passport Camp this July.

Vacation Bible School!

JUNE 26-30

Vacation Bible School this summer will be held Monday, June 26 through 30. On Monday (the 26th) and Wednesday (the 28th) we will begin at the church at 10:30 am running through 1:30 pm with lunch provided.

On Tuesday, the 27th, we will meet at church at 9 am and take a road trip down to Lexington to visit the Safari Park. We will definitely need chaperones for this and possibly drivers.

On Thursday, the 29th, we will plan a pool party for the kids and on Friday, the 30th, we will have a picnic at Hillandale Park!

The hope is that we will have some of our Compass friends join us on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday but the Tuesday and Thursday outings are specifically for our HBC regulars.

Please talk to Pastor Eli or Sue Mason if you are able and willing to help out with VBS by teaching, leading a workshop, or being a shepherd to lead the groups of kids or if you can help with the visit to the Safari Park or the pool. This is going to be a unique VBS and we are so excited to see how we can connect with our children and other children in our community!

May Youth Events

MAY 6
- 8:30am-12pm Operation Inasmuch

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

MAY 10
- 5:45-8:15pm Clothes Closet

MAY 14
- 9:15am Sunday School
- No evening youth activities

MAY 21
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

MAY 28
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 4:30-8:30pmPool Party, games & Bible Study at the Belchers'

Mission Madness

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

A fabulous group of girls from our youth group attended Mission Madness in Blacksburg, VA on March 24-26. Mission Madness was hosted by Blacksburg Baptist Church. We enjoyed our meals and worship services there. Over the course of the weekend, we attended three deeply meaningful worship services. On Saturday, we helped build 40 beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which is a local non-profit that ensures every child in the Blacksburg-Christiansburg community has a bed to sleep on. On Saturday afternoon, we helped package 6,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. We even managed to enjoy some girl time by treating ourselves to Starbucks and shopping at the mall. Mission Madness was a wonderful retreat and we can't wait to go again next year!

One of our students who went to Mission Madness wanted to share some thoughts about her experience as well: "Mission Madness was really inspiring. For our missions we had to help build beds and put together meals for people around the world. It made me realize how much we can do to help the people around us because when we built those beds for people who needed them, and people who have never had a bed in their life. The food was going to people without food supplies or no food at all. Katelyn, Olivia, Abigail, Carolina and I made the most of what we were doing because we knew how much this could help other people. I really do wish more people had come along with us, but it was kinda fun with just the girls. My favorite thing about Mission Madness is the people there, helping with the missions not complaining about anything. Not wanting to be there just for the fun of it, but actually

being there to want to help and provide service for the community. And that's why I recommend that if you are willing to put in the effort to work and help out other communities and people then you should definitely consider joining us next time. Since it is such an important thing for us to do to show we care."

~ Ashlynn Lilly, 8th grader

High School Graduates Info

We plan to recognize our 2023 high school graduates during our worship service on Sunday, June 11, and in the June newsletter. If you are graduating from high school this spring, or have a child or grandchild who is graduating, please provide us with the following information: name, school, future plans if known, and a picture of the graduate. Feel free to include any other pertinent information you'd like us to report. Please send this information to kim@hbcalive.org by Friday, May 19.

Congratulations!

to our college graduates

KATE DEAR

Kate graduates from Bridgewater College with a degree in Biochemistry and Summa Cum Laude honors. She hopes to enroll in a Physician's Assistant program and has a long-term goal of doing medical mission work in the US.

DEVIN ESLECK

Devin graduates from James Madison University with a Bachelors in Music with a concentration in Instrumental Music, and a Bachelors of Science in K-13 Mathematics. He is currently seeking employment as a music teacher.

CAROLINE HAYES

Caroline graduates from Christopher Newport University with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. She also minored in Judeo-Christian Studies, Leadership Studies, and Computer Science. She plans to enter North Carolina State University's Doctoral program for Operations Research in the fall. Caroline is the daughter of David and Angela Hayes.

MATTHEW MOZINGO

Matthew graduates from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Education. He plans to spend the next year working on his music full-time and then will pursue teaching. Matthew is the son of Eddie and Dana Mozingo and grandson of Tony and Marie Graham.

ELISE RITCHIE

Elise graduates from James Madison University and in the fall will be attending the Sentara School of Radiologic Technology to become a Radiology Technician RT(R). Elise is the daughter of Greg and Faye Lohr Ritchie and granddaughter of Gary and Ellen Lohr.

Music Recital

Who: Harold Bailey and Brian Bratton

What: Piano recital featuring classical and contemporary piano pieces, as well as several original compositions from both performers.

When: Friday, May 26th, at 5:30 pm

Where: Eastern Mennonite University, Martin Chapel. 1181 Smith Ave, Harrisonburg VA, 22802

Why: An occasion of celebrating music, making connections, and debuting several of our original works!

Missions Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

OIAM, May 6 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon (Breakfast at 8:30 am)
We still need helpers on several of our projects this year. Here are a few of the tasks we are attempting to complete. Sign up to help at hbcalive.org/OIAM or on the sign up sheet at the Information Desk. Donations to cover the costs for OIAM are appreciated.

- **Working at Neil Showalter's Home:** Dustyn Miller is the lead on this project. There are several projects to be completed around Neil's home and yard.
- **Baking Cookies for First Responders and the Fraternity Brothers:** Katelyn Belcher is leading this project. We are hoping the youth families will help with this project. The congregation can help by providing extra cookies.
- **HBC Yard Work:** Helpers needed to join the Ritchers and the Skelleys in weeding and cleaning up flower beds and spreading mulch.

Mission Outreach for the Families in Myra, Kentucky: The Missions Committee is working with Pastor Matt and Keith Turner to plan ways HBC can help the families in Kentucky impacted by the flooding. There will be several events and ways for everyone to be involved. 1) We will continue to collect the 16 count Crayola Crayons. In the summer, we will collect school supplies that will be given out to the children through Manna from Heaven. 2) On Thursdays from May 18th through June 15th, we will sort and pack clothing by size and gender at Equipping the Saints in Weyers Cave. Each Thursday, we will meet at the church at 9:00 am to drive to Weyers Cave together and return to the church by 12 noon. Keith Turner will send the boxed clothing along with the school supplies on a truck to Myra, Kentucky later in the summer. 3) Finally, we are in the planning stages of organizing a Mission Team that will go to Myra, Kentucky on August 4 & 5 to help unload the trucks and distribute the clothing and school supplies we have collected. There will be a planning meeting on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30pm in Room B4 for anyone interested in going on the Mission Trip to Myra or finding out more information about how to help the people in this area. We are asking that you cover this ministry in prayer and ask God's guidance in all we do.

Church World Service is an organization that works with refugees in our community. Our area recently experienced an influx of new arrivals and with these new arrivals are children that need tutors to help them learn the English language and help with their schoolwork. Church World Service is in need of tutors in elementary, middle, and high school. This would be after 4:00 when the children are home from school. If you would like to be a tutor you can contact Olga Baltazar, Volunteer Coordinator, Church World Service, at 540-824-8895 or obaltazar@cwsglobal.org.

What's in a Name?...

KATHY RITCHER

To continue Shakespeare's thought... “That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.” Names may have been irrelevant for Romeo and Juliet, but what does Jesus think is “in a name?”...

“Jesus asked Mary, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher').” (John 20:15-16)

When Mary first encountered the Risen Lord Jesus outside the garden tomb, she didn't recognize him, perhaps because of the grief and tears distorting her vision, perhaps because of the shock, trauma and surprise she had experienced. But when Jesus called her by name, something changed. She turned toward him and now recognized him. Her grief turned to joy, and her spirit was transformed.

Names matter. Being called by name boosts a person's dignity, removes barriers, affirms relationships, restores brokenness. With Jesus' model in mind, Bag Lunch Ministry has begun a renewed emphasis on learning the names of our guests. Our first step is to have servers on our teams to wear name tags, opening the door for personal interactions. Along with name tags, we are encouraging volunteers to try to learn and remember names and stories of individuals we meet on Saturdays. Although some of us may be said to have a “natural gift” for remembering names, we can all grow in this skill through intentional efforts. We look for these efforts to result in kingdom fruit, as we follow Jesus' example.

The Good Shepherd calls His sheep by name – do we? What difference will it make in our ministry if we more and more embrace the habit of calling our sheep by name? Perhaps as folks come to us filled with grief, in tears, and in the midst of shock, trauma, surprise, pain, depression, and all kinds of suffering – perhaps the simple act of calling them by name will open the door to transformation of the Mary-kind, the Jesus-kind.

Meat Distribution

On Friday, April 7, members of HBC and the Pi Beta Chi Fraternity handed out packages of ground beef from the Farm Ministry to neighbors off Grattan Street. It was a blessed event and another distribution is scheduled soon. We’re so thankful for the partnership with The Farm Ministry and their support of both farmers and neighbors.

PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Becky Armentrout
Edith Cupp
David Downey
Dennis Greene
Madea Greene
Wayne Hannah
Sue Jones
Lola McBride
Bill Pond
Karen & Kerry Potter
Jimmy & Nancy Russell
Tom Smith
Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Steve Banks (Julie Aittama's friend)
Kati Honeycutt
(Don & Julie Aittama's daughter)
Maurice Copeland
(Rosemary Lonberger's friend)
Edna Baugh (Richard Baugh's mother)
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)

SYMPATHY

We grieve with

- the Moore family upon the death of Sara Kate Moore on April 4, 2023.

- the Irving & Pat Byrd family upon the death of Irving's sister, Dixie Newlin.

March Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 3/31/23	$148,889.00
Budget receipts as of 3/31/23	$ 136,596.16

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Love Fund	$100.00
• Saturday Bag Lunch	$75.00
• Operation InAsMuch	$70.00
• Annie Armstrong Missions	$655.00

Thank You!

The Executive Director and Treasurer of the Baptist General Association of Virginia express appreciation to HBC for your generous support of Cooperative Missions and special missions giving in 2022. HBC's giving for these causes in 2022 totaled $41,800. HBC ranks in the top 2% of the 1300 Virginia Baptist Churches in giving to cooperative missions. THANKS, HBC, for your generosity and heart for missions.

Thanks!

Thank you to our church family for all the prayers, cards, meals, calls and texts. Thank you for the visits in the hospital.

~ David & Donna Downey

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Gary: May 1-2 Kim: May 12-19 Susan: May 22-24 Matt: May 22-28 Gary: May 31-June 12	1	2 3pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor) 6pm Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	3	4 10:00am Community Conversation (Sanctuary)	5 Office Closed	6 8:30am-12pm Operation Inasmuch
7 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	8 6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)	9 7:30pm KY Mission Planning Mtg (B4)	10 5:00pm Community Conversation (FH) 5:45-8:15pm Youth Clothes Closet	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 HAPPY Mother's DAY	15	16	17	18	19 Office Closed May Newsletter Articles Due	20
21 11:30am Spring Business Meeting 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	22	23	24	25 11am Brookdale	26 5:30pm Harold Bailey's music recital at EMU	27
28 4:30 - 8:30pm Youth Pool Party @ the Belcher's	29 Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY	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 & 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

May 7 — Jeff Obenschain
May 14 — Cathy Lawrence
May 21 — Don Aittama
May 28 — Karen Burke

COMMUNITY LUNCH

May 6 — St. Stephen's
May 13 — Miller
May 20 — Clark
May 27— Ritcher

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Jeannie Petit
8 T. W. Johnson
8 Phoebe Renfroe
8 Judy Stewart
9 Devin Esleck
9 Holly Pederson
10 Bill Lee
11 Olivia Hartman
12 Ruth Bryant
16 Sandy Cude
19 Keith Turner
20 Wally Holthaus
21 Joyce Deavers
21 Mike Mandigo
21 Kerry Potter
21 Faye Ritchie
24 Wayne Hannah, Sr
24 Alice Hughey
24 Annabelle Lehembre
25 Greg Ritchie
29 Susan Kiser
31 Grant Folsom

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
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A publication of

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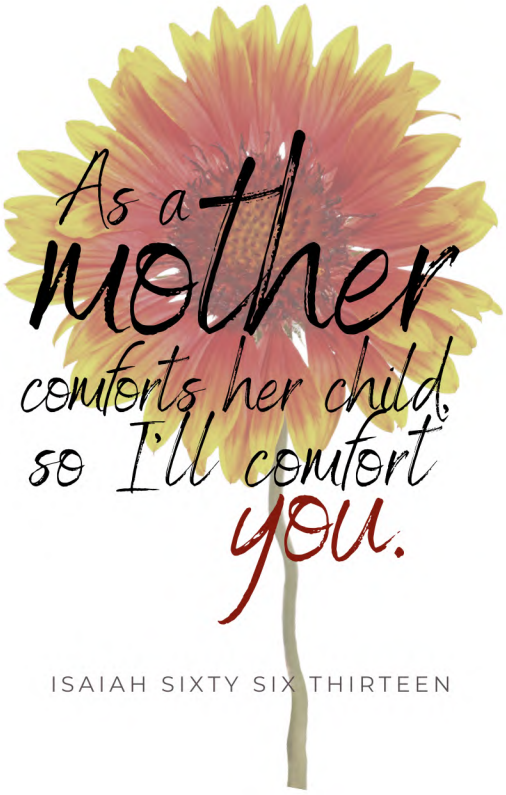
JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
MAY 19, 2023

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



ISAIAH SIXTY SIX THIRTEEN