



JULY 2023

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

From College Life to Family Life

REV. MATT WINTERS

I recall among the first non-Covid conversations I had in beginning my ministry tenure at HBC circled around the dreams of the apartment units on South Liberty Street. These dreams have had multiple lives and iterations. Finally, something is about to take root. From the hard work of paying off mortgages to the building up of a nest egg for improvements, the church has been on a tangible journey to transform the apartment units into some type of ministry base. We've explored many ideas: youth/college ministry center, coffee shop, local business start up, co-working space, college student ministry outpost, counseling center, non-profit rental space and family rental unit. Prayerfully, we've been open to what we could do and how this space could be used to be a blessing to the community.

Over the course of years of conversation, for this season of its existence, it looks like the best use of the rental house at 305 South Liberty is for a family rental. The reasons are discernible. First, there is an inadequate amount of rental space in the city for families, especially families that would benefit from four bedrooms. We have the capacity to offer something needed in our city, and we pray the Lord will bring the right family to the unit. Second, the house is not

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well-suited to non-rental entities. The house itself would not be very conducive to being transformed into any of the above-mentioned spaces. It just works best for a family to live in. Since there is a huge need for family homes, it just fits to have the home as a family unit.

At some point in July or August, the rental portal will open for the house at 305 South Liberty Street. The property manager (not the church) will select the renter from the applications received. We will let the church know about the portal availability if you know of someone who would be interested in the home.

You'll notice the work on the home has already started—vines cleared, windows installed, trees trimmed and general remodeling is taking place. Soon, we'll have the opportunity to paint and spruce it up. College students left behind some furniture that has already been a blessing to neighbors in need. What a testimony that the house churns out blessings. May it always be so. Thank you for being a part of a blessing to others. I hope you'll continue to join us in our blessing-lifestyles.

~Pastor Matt

SBC Women in Ministry Vote

On Wednesday, June 14, the SBC annual meeting messengers voted overwhelmingly to support the amendment to the SBC

constitution that prevented cooperating churches from appointing or calling female pastors. This vote was the evidence of what we feared could take place. It's unfortunate for the kingdom of God because this matter has been a distraction from true value of kingdom-living. We're called not to bicker and chastise among ourselves but called to be salt, light and hope. We're still planning to do that among ourselves and in our community. This vote was step one of a two-step process, which will conclude with another affirmative vote next year at the SBC annual meeting.

For HBC, we're grateful for who we are and whose we are. We're thankful for the women and men who lead our church and for the bright future for the daughters and sons we're raising here. May we always remember this world is full of disappointment and disillusionment. Jesus even remarked that we're not of this world. We belong to a new world, and that's the world to which we're headed. Until we get there, we live in a rough and tumble arena that is filled with fickleness, petty, aggression, exploitation, antipathy, brokenness and pride—in other words, sin. We do our best to live so that we make the world around us better. We are called to be agents of peace, patience, grace, compassion, wound-binding, comfort and forgiveness. May we not act bitterly or shamefully toward anyone regardless of their opinions and actions. Each of us must find humility to live our best selves in the time and place Jesus has called us, for we are laborers and the harvest fields are ripe for picking.



Prayer & Story Prompts

Our prayer and story circles continue to meet regularly. However, if you have not yet been plugged into one and would like to, just come talk to me! There is always room for you!

Our prayer prompt for the month of July is to **pray for the youth ministry of HBC**. Our youth will be going to Passport in Spartanburg, SC June 9-14. We especially want to lift up Pastor Katelyn and the other chaperones as well as each of the teenagers that will be joining them for a week of fun and serving God as they learn to serve others. But let's begin praying for them now that their hearts will be preparing in the days leading up to camp for what God is going to do in that special week.

Also, take some time to share with one another in your groups. Growing up, who in your family was the best cook? Grandma? Mom? Was it your uncle? And what was your favorite dish that they made? Do you still make it today?

I hope to be able to join each of the prayer groups this month so if you could remind me when you are meeting that would be appreciated!

Peace -
Pastor Eli

Piano Concert

FRIDAY, JULY 14 @ 6:30PM

Expressions is a collaborative concert by Harold Bailey and Brian Bratton, which includes classical, contemporary and original compositions! The first goal is to present music that uniquely resonates with and represents each performer's musical identity, and in particular, to share our original music within the community. The second goal is to raise funds for our musical endeavors including the recording and publishing of our original works, and booking a performance event at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, VA, which would conclude this concert series. The Expressions piano tour will feature performances throughout Harrisonburg, Charlottesville, and Richmond. Along the way we hope to use music to aid our community by bringing attention to charitable causes throughout the Shenandoah Valley and beyond!





God's Promise to Us

LYN WEAVER, DEACON

The 4th of July is a day of celebrating our birth and life as a nation. A day to celebrate with enthusiasm and gratitude. I am thankful for the hard work and sacrifice of those who laid the foundation of our nation and for those who gave of their lives for securing and keeping our freedom.

I am thankful for the contributions of some of my ancestors who worked together on a shared belief. A nation built on Christian principles: "It is impossible rightly to govern the world without God and the Bible." (George Washington) "The Bible is the cornerstone of liberty." (Thomas Jefferson) The Christian influence in the birth of America is inescapable. Thus, the birth of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

James Madison, the main author of the Bill of Rights and thus the First Amendment, was the foremost advocate of religious liberty, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press. Religious freedom was not easily won. In the early 18th century the Baptists of Virginia were a small minority but later during the Great Awakening they became more numerous. As a result they were perceived as a threat to the established order. From 1768-1778 the Baptists were persecuted by "rowdies" or overzealous officials. By the end of the decade 40 Baptists (both laypersons

and ministers) were in prison for their faith. All during this time the numbers of Baptists kept increasing. As they grew, they were vocal in their call for religious freedom for all people.

As a result of our fragile beginning, I can go to church freely, I can speak and work for justice and I can share my faith with others. As a Christian I have dual citizenship and my citizenship in the Kingdom of God should inform everything about my citizenship as an American. Our highest call is to walk in wisdom, integrity, compassion, faithfulness, and humility as followers of Jesus Christ. Being Christian and an American means confronting injustice and asking the Holy Spirit to redeem our country, starting with us. "We utter our cry: that peace may prevail. That earth will survive, and faith must not fail. We pray with our life for the world in our care, for people diminished by doubt and despair." (*We Utter Our Cry*, Fred Kaan)

God's promise to us... "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." "Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God." (John 8:32-36 KJV, 1 Peter 2:16 NIV) "True freedom is not something we possess, but is a gift of God; it is grace that only God can give." (Will Willimon)

When the fireworks go off this 4th of July, be reminded to thank God for the freedom and opportunity to live in our country. "My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing: Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims pride, From every mountainside Let freedom ring!"



Passport Kids Recap

JESSICA WINTERS

HBC took seven students to Passport Kids! Both the students and chaperones had a wonderful time at Eagle Eyrie, learning about Jesus. The theme of the week was Upside Down faith. Our students were challenged to see and think in a way that differs from the world. That is not an easy task. As a reminder of this, they made Jesus looking glasses with pipe cleaners. What if we really had glasses to help us see as Christ does? How would our actions, words, and behavior change? Thinking and seeing as Christ sees is “upside down” thinking, as it differs from the bombarding messages of this world to be first, be the best, be the only, etc. Our students really seemed to get this message. This week, I have found myself gently reminding my girls to think as Christ or to see as Christ, when they are bickering at each other.

The missions this week supported migrant work across the world. Students had a powerful mission experience, where they learned first hand the challenges of those who flee from war torn countries or those in search of a better life for their family.

It is a very powerful experience to see the next generation worship God and wrestle with how to follow him more closely. It is also an amazing experience to see them worship God with their whole heart. We thank you for supporting our students. I know they are excited about next year’s camp experience. Please continue to pray and partner with the HBC kids’ ministry.

VBS 2023

Thank you to all of the teachers, and shepherds, and VBS helpers in June! We continue experimenting with VBS to see what works best for our church and our community and WE CANNOT do this without you! Your time, talent, energy, and care mean the world to our kids and we are grateful. Our prayer is that no matter how our experiment wavers that God is always glorified in what we do! Again- thank you! Thank you! Thank you!





July Youth Events

JULY 2

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JULY 5

5:45-8:15pm Clothes Closet

JULY 9-14

Passport Camp

JULY 23

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JULY 26-28

Grow & Serve

JULY 30

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

Youth Update: Summer Bible Study

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group kicked off Summer Bible Study on May 28 with a pool party! Our students invited a lot of their friends and they had so much fun getting to know everyone better. We will meet for bible study during the summer on most Sunday evenings at the home of Chris and Katelyn Belcher. In addition to bible study, we will enjoy dinner together, and plenty of pool time. We will also continue with our flamingo flocking fundraiser throughout the summer. Here's a peek at what we'll learn about this summer during bible study:

Our theme is **STRUGGLES** and it will contain a specific emphasis on biblical truths each week.

Week 1: *Don't Let Worry be a Distraction*. Bible passages: Psalm 46; Psalm 9:9-10; Psalm 62:8; 2 Corinthians 1:3-6. Bottom Line: God is our strength, refuge and comfort in times of trouble.

Week 2: *God is faithful in the midst of our struggles*. Bible passages: Matthew 22:37-39; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 34:10. Bottom Line: When life is a struggle, surrender to God. Although the situation may or may not get better, God will be faithful to show up.

Week 3: *God Turns our Struggles into Victory*. Bible passages: Quick overview of the struggles Joseph faced (Genesis 37-50). Bottom Line: When life doesn't turn out as expected, continue to be faithful because God is always doing something in and around you.

Week 4: *The Potter and the Clay*. Bible passages: James 1:2-4; Philippians 1:6; Romans 12: 1-2. Bottom Line: If we are willing, struggles can shape and mold us to become more like Christ.





Harvesting the Fruit in Kentucky

BRITTANY BOWMAN

Last fall, we responded to the flood disaster in Appalachia, Eastern Kentucky, and discovered that extreme poverty was just as challenging as the flood itself. The Farm Ministry initiated the Garden Project and Hens of Hope for Appalachia. They are long-term sustainability projects which allow the people in Appalachia to maintain their dignity by offering them a "hand up" instead of handouts.

Recently, a trailer carrying pullets from Ohio arrived in Kentucky, and they are projected to lay over 90,000 eggs in their first year of production. Additionally, The Farm Ministry delivered a trailer load of chicken sheds, feed, waterers, canned chicken meat, clothes, and other supplies. Recipients of the hens donate a portion of the eggs to Manna From Heaven Outreach, a food pantry in Myra, Kentucky. The rest of the eggs are eaten by the families and can be sold to generate additional income. We are also set to soon begin producing poultry meat, which families can keep for themselves and donate a portion to Manna From Heaven Outreach.

Hens of Hope is integrated with the Garden Project, as the manure can be used as plant nutrients, and the hens can help control insects in the participants' gardens by free-ranging during the day.

People in Appalachia have long gardened and canned vegetables to feed their families. However, during the flood, many of their winter vegetables and canning supplies were washed away. The Garden Project has

provided seeds and plants to more than 1,600 families. Fertilizer, lime, garden hand tools, pressure canners and canning supplies were distributed this spring. As families care for themselves and continue their gardening traditions, it creates hope. Project participants agree to donate a portion of their vegetables and produce to Manna From Heaven Outreach.

Staff Recognition

GARY RITCHER

Gary has served as HBC's Director of Music & Worship for seven years as of July 10. Thank you, Gary, for your humble leadership and thoughtful music selections each Sunday.

New Employee

On June 21, 2023, Jim Kiser began serving as the Facilities Manager at HBC. His specific role will be to help with the upkeep of the building. He'll be working closely with the Premises Committee and tackling projects around the church. He'll also serve as the point person for larger projects. If you notice anything around the church that needs some attention, please let the office know. Jim is uniquely qualified for this role due to his longevity at and familiarity with the church. Further, he is a general contractor, so he is a perfect fit for our team. Welcome aboard, Jim!



Missions Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

Village to Village: HBC worked with Village to Village during Mission Madness when a group helped to sort clothing and kitchen items. Village to Village is a Christian non-profit organization that builds relationships here and abroad, providing sustainable resources to community members in need. They are helping refugees as they come into the Harrisonburg area. VTV needs groups of people to help move furniture and help set up housing. This would include cleaning, sweeping, making beds and unpacking kitchen items. If you would like to be a part of the HBC team to help VTV, please contact Mary Smith (540-222-5873).

Missions Trip to Myra, Kentucky August 4-5: It isn't too late to join the team! Keith Turner is helping to transport the boxes of clothing, household items and school supplies to Myra where they will be distributed through Manna From Heaven. Our team will help to unload the truck and distribute the items to the families in need. Call Pastor Matt or Mary Smith if interested.

Equipping the Saints: Thanks to everyone who helped pack boxes at Equipping the Saints. We packed an amazing amount of clothing and even managed to pack some boxes with kitchen items.

Myra, Kentucky Crayons and School Supplies: We continue to collect school supplies during the month of July. Walmart

will have these supplies on sale after July 4th. In August, our mission team will assist Manna From Heaven in giving out these supplies to children and families in the Myra, Kentucky area.

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



Helping at Equipping the Saints

PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

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

EXTENDED FAMILY

Susan Payne (Sue Jones' daughter)
May Wolf (Julie Aittama's cousin)
Maurice Copeland
(Rosemary Lonberger's friend)
Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)

NEW MEMBER

Michael Coggins joined with us on
May 21, 2023.

May Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 5/31/23 \$251,966.00
Budget receipts as of 5/31/23 \$ 262,075.16

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Lottie Moon	\$20.00
• World Hunger	\$20.00
• Saturday Bag Lunch	\$120.00
• Operation Inasmuch	\$550.00
• Love Fund	\$80.00

2024 Budget Planning

The Finance Committee expresses appreciation to the congregation for supporting the ministries of HBC during the first half of 2023. We praise God for your faithful and generous financial stewardship!!

As we enter the second half of the year, we are approaching the time to begin planning for next year's budget. Committee chairpersons and team leaders will be receiving budget planning information the week of July 24. Please call your committees together to pray and plan for the financial needs of your ministry for next year. Your budget requests will be due on August 27.

Save the Date!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

River Baptisms and Church Picnic
Stay tuned for details!

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Matt: July 3-18 Susan: July 6-10 Katelyn: July 9-14 (Passport Camp)						1
2 4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers	3	4 Office Closed 	5 5:45-8:15pm Youth Clothes Closet	6	7 4-9pm Hawley & Madong rehearsal	8 11am-10pm Hawley & Madong wedding
9	10 6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)	11	12	13	14 6:30pm Harold Bailey & Brian Brattan concert	15
Youth Passport Camp						
16 2-6pm Kachin Church 4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers	17	18	19	20 August Newsletter Articles Due	21	22
23 4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers	24	25	26	27 11am Brookdale Youth Grow & Serve	28 5-6pm N'Goran & Greico rehearsal	29 4:30-6pm N'Goran & Greico wedding
30 4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers	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)

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

July 2 — Lyn Weaver
July 9 — Dustyn Miller
July 16 — Jeff Obenschain
July 23 — Cathy Lawrence
July 30 — Don Aittama

COMMUNITY LUNCH

July 1 — HBC Youth
July 8 — Obenschain
July 15 — Miller
July 22 — Ritchie
July 29 — St. Stephen's

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Don Aittama
2 Don Cude
10 Jean Holthaus
15 Amleset Okubazgi
17 Mary Petit
19 Sam Huffman
22 Liz Garber
22 Mary Smith
25 Dorothy Layman
29 Joe Laughland
29 Anne Wright
30 Mary Laughland
30 Doug Skelley
31 Lee Chapman
31 Karen Potter

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Winters, Senior Pastor

Rev. Eli Withers, Associate Pastor

Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Youth Pastor

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship

Philip Northen, Praise Team Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JULY 20, 2023

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org.

