



AUGUST 2023

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Knowing the Lay of the Land

REV. MATT WINTERS

In early July, Jessica and I took our girls to Naples, Italy to visit some family friends. Since our friends live there, we had the opportunity to rely on their wisdom and experience in deciding what to do. Guidebooks and suggestions fill dozens and dozens and dozens of pages, so a person can get easily overwhelmed in choosing where to go and what to see. Among the unique, hidden gems inspired by locals was the Baia Castle just outside Naples. While some of the castle's infrastructure dates to the fifteenth century, the castle sits on fortified land controlled by Emperor Nero, who lived just after Jesus, and, then prior, to Greek settlements in the centuries before Christ. That's some history.

I was fascinated by the cultural heritage of a plot of land—colonies and civilizations of Greek, Romans, Spanish, French, and Italians, plus untold others, all have ruled over it. Thinking about the land where we live, our known history dates back several hundred years. Before Harrisonburg was here, our community was formed of non-native settlers, and, then prior, native Americans. It's truly unfortunate that we don't know much about the rich history of our lands in the same way. This land is as

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ancient as the cliffs above the Mediterranean Sea, but the lack of historic transmission is unfortunate.

What is known is how beautiful God's creation is—from the mountains of the Shenandoah Valley to the Apennine Mountains in Italy, God has made a beautiful world. The lands we inhabit are truly shared lands. Let us be good stewards of what we have. Let us take care of our land and allow it to help tell our story. Let the land tell ten generations from now how our little plot of God's earth was a meeting place that gathered people from every continent representing dozens of civilizations where everyone came to glorify God, learn about his grace and reflect his love. Let this land proclaim this is a sacred space that invites peace, tends the wounded, binds the brokenhearted and shines light into darkness. May we live as the people who have the responsibility to share this important legacy.

August Prayer & Story Prompt

REV. ELI WITHERS

Prayer & Story Circle folks, I hope each group is doing well and has had time to check in regularly with one another. For the month of August, we are asking you to pray for our students—of all ages—as well as all of the faculty and staff of our schools who are preparing to go back to school for the new year. It's hard to believe it is that time and we want to pray that they still have a time of sabbath before they all get back to the hustle and bustle of a new semester.

Please remember to check in with one another on a weekly basis if possible and in person once a month. For August, you are also asked to share a special memory you recall from your own school days with your group—funny or serious—whatever comes to mind!

If I can be of any help to your group in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Backpack Blessing

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20



All of our students and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, August 20 for our annual Backpack Blessing where we, as a church, we pray not only God's blessing on them but also for safety and a year full of learning new things, having unforgettable experiences, and making amazing friends! Please be sure to join us for worship on the 20th and don't forget to bring your backpacks!



Adult Choir Resumes

Adult Choir practices will resume **Wednesday, August 16**. We will rehearse from 6:00-7:00pm followed by a Welcome Back gathering in the gazebo. If you like to sing, put yourself down for some midweek musical fellowship as we begin another year of praising God.

Many thanks to the people who are providing music this summer while the choir takes a well-earned break!

Thanks to Philip Northen who is doing a great job leading Praise Team this summer while Erin Waddell is away!

Look for information next month about the resumption of other musical activities, including our bell group, Jubellation and our Young Adult Ensemble.

New Member

Jayden French was baptized on July 16, 2023. Jayden has been part of the HBC youth group for a while. He graduated from Spotswood High School earlier this year and enjoys helping people, taking walks, and playing video games. Two fun facts about Jayden: He has lived 10 minutes from Canada, and Pastor Katelyn is his neighbor.

Congratulations!

We want to offer a special word of congratulations to **Amleset Okubagzi** who has passed her citizenship test! Amleset has been a part of our community for many years, and the hard work to prepare for and pass the US citizenship test is astounding. She put in a lot of hard work to know intimately our country's story and values. We are excited for her as she continues her journey. The good news is that we all belong to the kingdom of God, so we've already been co-citizens beside her. Now, we belong together both in this world and the next.

Kachin Church Baptism

Many of you know that we share our sanctuary with a sister church, the Kachin Baptist Church of Virginia. On Friday, July 7, they had a baptism of Daniel! Congratulations to Daniel and the Kachin Church family.





August 27
4pm

CHURCH PICNIC & BAPTISMS

It's time to go to the river!

Join us at the Folsom's River House for a great time of FELLOWSHIP - a time to catch up with friends, enjoy the views, splash in the water, throw in a line and hook - and FEAST on good food!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend! Not only do we fellowship, laugh and sing - we will celebrate with the new Christians who are taking the step of baptism.

Bring your lawn chair & a covered dish to share.

We hope to see you there!



A Kodak Moment

DUSTYN & SHERRY MILLER

Yes, it has indeed been a long, hot, summer and it most probably will continue. Parents, grandparents, and those who deal with children are about a ten on the Richter Scale! The children are bored, fussy, and fighting. They are using those notorious phrases: “He touched me first!”; “I don’t have anything to do!”; “It’s not my time to do the dishes!”; and the one we all know and love: “I can’t wait ‘til I get my license!” This is the time when we adults step back and remember what Jesus did and what he said about children.

Mark 10: 14 – 16... But when Jesus saw what was happening, he was very displeased with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you, anyone who does not have their faith will never get into the Kingdom of God.” Then he took the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

You know, children are very good role models to follow when it comes to “growing” adults and here’s how it happened...

It seemed I wasn’t the only one who noticed him in the restaurant. Across from where I was sitting was a little boy about three years old with his mom and dad. He was a real cutie with brown hair and blue eyes.

The little boy leaned over to his mother and asked, “Mommy, is that Poppy? He looks very sad.” The boy was pointing to an older man across the way. “No dear,” was the reply, “but he looks like a sweet man.” In the next moment the little boy had crossed the room to where the older gentleman sat. The mother and father held their breath and I’m sure they were wondering what their little boy would say or do next.

The man looked down at the boy and smiled. The little boy gave back his biggest, brightest smile in return. Then slowly and tentatively he reached up his short little arms as if to tell the man a special secret. The gentleman bent down and received not a secret at all, but two loving arms to encircle his neck and a solemn kiss for a weathered cheek.

There was a quiet hush and everyone in the room watched intently as a beautiful smile touched the man’s face. The boy turned and ran back to his parents. “Mommy,” he said. “He is a nice man!”

How much indeed can we learn from children? Why are they good role models for us? Because in their freshness and innocence they look at others and see them with their hearts and not their eyes.

August Youth Events

AUGUST 6

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study
at the church

AUGUST 13

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study
at the Belchers'

AUGUST 20

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study
at the Belchers'

AUGUST 23

5:45-8:15pm Clothes Closet

AUGUST 27

9:15am Sunday School

4pm Church Picnic & River Baptisms

Youth Update: Passport Camp

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group attended their ninth year of Passport Camp from July 9 through July 14. This time, we attended camp in Spartanburg, SC and we stayed on campus at Converse University. It was a very hot week in South Carolina, but we had an incredible time, and we'd like to share some of the highlights from the week with all of you:

The theme for camp this year was *Upside Down*, and it really resonated with our students. The theme verse of the week was Matthew 4:17, which says: "From that time Jesus began to announce, 'Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!'" During the week, our students were taught during Bible Study and Worship each day to view the world and the people living in it as God does. To view others with "upside down" love and kindness and to boldly proclaim the truth of the Gospel. When we change our perspectives, as well

as the view of our circumstances and our perceptions of the people in our lives, our outlooks completely flip - for the better!

Another highlight this year was the afternoon rotations. For the first two afternoons at camp, we participated in Mission Action. For Mission Action, we went to a local nonprofit horse farm called Halter. Their





mission is to provide horseback riding therapy sessions for individuals with special needs. As you can imagine, it takes constant hard work to keep up with a horse farm. Our students spent the next two days scrubbing fences covered in dirt and mildew, clearing bamboo from the property, and cleaning and organizing their offices. It was a lot of work but so rewarding! Our third afternoon rotation was Mission Education. Our students took part in a simulation of what refugees often must experience to emigrate to a safe country. Passport was very adamant in stating that the simulation was nothing compared to what real people often go through to emigrate, but it did teach our students a lot about that process. Our mission offering was for world refugees connected to CBF and the simulation helped all the campers understand the importance of those ministries even better. And then our fourth afternoon rotation was Worship Prep. Our youth took part in planning worship for the whole camp that evening. Some of the students sang onstage, some took part in the processional, some wrote and said a prayer, and others read scripture. The Worship Prep session was very meaningful because they took an active role in leading their peers in worship.

Yet another highlight of the week would have to be all the parties we experienced each night. We had so much fun competing for the Blue House during the Rec Party. The dance party was fun



because we all dressed up in “Inside Out” costumes and danced the night away! Lastly, the Variety Show was awesome because we had three of our own students to cheer on, and Ashlynn completed the show with her amazing singing voice!

Overall, Passport Camp was an amazing experience for everyone because we were able to become closer with each other by the end of the week. We also left camp closer as a youth group, and even more importantly, closer in our relationships with God. Our week ended with a very exciting announcement: Jayden shared with our group that he was ready to join our church and be baptized the following Sunday at youth group! We are so appreciative of all the many ways HBC has supported us so that we could offer this opportunity to our youth group. We thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts. We already can't wait to go back next year!



College Ministry Update

HEIDI RUIZ

As we eagerly anticipate the start of a new semester, HBC's college ministry is abuzz with plans and opportunities to engage and support the students in our congregation and community. We wanted to take a moment to update you on the exciting events and initiatives we have in store for the upcoming months.

Mission Trip to Myra, KY

We are thrilled to be leading a group of dedicated students on a mission trip to Myra, KY, from August 3-5. This trip provides a unique opportunity for our college students to make a positive impact in a community in need and create lasting memories. We invite you to keep our team in your prayers as they embark on this impactful journey.



**Welcoming the JMU Class of 2027:
Block Party in the 'Burg
Saturday, August 26, 2023 | 12:00-4:00 PM**

We are excited to participate in Downtown Harrisonburg's Block Party in the 'Burg again, which aims to welcome the incoming JMU Class of 2027. This vibrant event will be held downtown and will provide an excellent opportunity for us to connect with new students, make them feel at home, and introduce them to our college ministry. Join us for as long as you're able as we extend a warm welcome to these students and show them the love and support of our church family.

**Lunch After Church on Sundays: Volunteers
and Donations Needed**

One of the most cherished traditions within our college ministry is our post-church Sunday lunch. This is a time for students to come together, share a meal, and deepen their connections with one another and with other members of the congregation. To continue making these lunches possible, we kindly ask for your support. We are seeking volunteers to help prepare food or make donations towards

purchasing meals for this time of fellowship with our college students.

We understand that the responsibility of preparing food for our college ministry can sometimes feel overwhelming. We invite you to consider the idea of forming teams within various groups, such as Sunday school classes, prayer groups, or even individuals with shared interests, to collectively contribute to providing meals.

Whether it's through volunteering your time to prepare meals, offering donations, or simply extending a warm welcome and listening ear, every act of your support matters in this Kingdom work. We wholeheartedly thank you for your involvement and support that makes a difference in the lives of these young adults as they navigate their college years and grow in their faith. I can definitely say it made a difference in mine!

For any questions or to express your interest in supporting our college ministry, please reach out to Heidi Ruiz at heidi@hbcalive.org.





Missions Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

Missions Team Going to Myra, Kentucky:

We have several families, young adults and college students going to Myra, Kentucky August 4 – 5 to help distribute the clothing, school supplies and food. At Christmas, they had 1,000 families drive through the line, so Lois Tackett with Manna From Heaven anticipates a large number of people will come to receive these items. They are planning to set up 15 stations to distribute the school supplies, clothing and food.

Keith Turner is helping to organize and transport the items for this event. He will send a dry van trailer down the day before to deliver the school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. On Friday, our team will help to unload the truck, sort and categorize the boxes to facilitate distribution. They will work closely with Lois during the two day event including filling boxes of non-perishables and other food items. On Saturday, they will help man the 15 stations and distribute the items as the families arrive.

Thanks to each of you at HBC for your contributions and continued support. We have collected a lot of crayons, school supplies, and packed a large number of boxes of clothing at Equipping the Saints. All of these will be transported to Myra for distribution. Please be in prayer for our mission team and this event.

Letter from Myra, KY

Dear Harrisonburg Baptist Church:

I'm excited to share an update on the generous gifts you've shared with the Myra, Kentucky, community. Your gifts, ranging from clothes, meat, cheese, chickens and garden supplies, have made such a difference.

When Keith first called me from The Farm Ministry last October, I didn't know this man from anyone. However, within two weeks, he had fresh beef on the doorstep of Myra's local food pantry, Manna from Heaven Outreach. Since then, the Farm Ministry has helped us host a Christmas food and toy distribution event reaching more than 6,400 families. We gave garden seeds and canning supplies to more than 1,600 families this spring, and now we have launched Hens of Hope to give families young hens estimated to produce more than 90,000 eggs the first year.

Folks here say food from the Farm Ministry is the highest quality food distributed in the whole Appalachian region. Even more important, though, food and supplies from The Farm Ministry have opened the door for spiritual conversations. Keith taught us "He who feeds me has my ear".

I always tell people here, "Manna from Heaven Outreach belongs to Jesus. I am just a helper to Him and take care of His children." People come to Manna from Heaven with next to nothing. Some who lost their homes in floods last fall are only now



getting into temporary homes. One of our volunteers at Manna from Heaven Outreach recently lost her home in a fire. Someone came to receive food a few weeks ago, and her family says she probably won't live long enough to even eat all of the food. There is so much hardship in coal country. At Manna from Heaven Outreach, we take time to listen to each person. We show them the love of Jesus, and that gives them hope. Around here, when people say, "Thank you," we say, "No, you thank God. We are just workers to pass along his messages." Many people ask us to pray with them, and some people have actually gone to God and been baptized. They say, "I haven't seen a Christian be happy before." They see a different kind of joy in us when they receive food from Manna from Heaven Outreach, and they recognize God is working.

At Manna from Heaven Outreach, we pride ourselves in giving people a hand up, not a handout. Thank you, Harrisonburg Baptist Church, for helping us do that. I look forward to continuing partnering with The Farm Ministry in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Lois Tackett

Thank You!

I wish to thank our church family for their continued prayers and expressions of kindness over these five weeks. My eye is improving, and I know your prayers have made a difference. I have learned while being confined to home that the contacts, calls and visits from our members mean so much.

Please continue to reach out to those who are on our prayer list and at home. They need our continued love and support.

Blessings to each,
Mary Smith



Note of Appreciation

Dear Pastor Matt,

We, NENA want to thank you and the Operation Inasmuch volunteers for building the handicap ramp for the Worthy's on Broad Street. They are so happy with it. Mr. Worthy turned 90 this year and said with his health problems, it was very hard for him to walk up the steps they had. The men did an excellent job, and we all appreciate it very much.

Thank you again and God Bless you All,

Karen Thomas
President
Northeast Neighborhood Association



PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Becky Armentrout
Diane Gray
Dennis Greene
Wayne Hannah
Sue Jones
Lola McBride
Judy Miller
Sherry Miller
Sarah Northen
Bill Pond
Karen & Kerry Potter
Jimmy & Nancy Russell
Constance Via
Jim Wampler

EXTENDED FAMILY

Kati Honeycutt
(Don & Julie Aittama's daughter)
May Wolf (Julie Aittama's cousin)
Diane Bowman (Holly Pederson's sister)
Steve Loveless (Julie Aittama's cousin)

June Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 6/30/23 \$297,778.00
Budget receipts as of 6/30/23 \$ 293,260.02

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Saturday Bag Lunch \$325.00
- Love Fund \$117.00
- The Farm Ministry \$50.00

2024 Budget Planning

Committee chairpersons should have recently received 2024 budget request forms. If you have not received your form, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Please call your committees together to pray and plan for the financial needs of your ministry for next year. **Your budget requests are due on August 27.**

305 S Liberty St Update

The crew of Carr Construction continues to be hard at work renovating the rental property at 305 S. Liberty Street. Along with the new windows, the house will have renovated bathrooms, kitchen and living areas. We will need your help with an approaching paint day to be scheduled. It's coming together and will be such a wonderful resource for a family down the road. Pray that the Lord continues to guide the steps of the workers as they do the hard work.

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Katelyn: July 31 -Aug 12 Gary: Aug 2-5 Harold: Aug 6 & 13 Eli: Aug 20		1	2	3	4	5
					Myra, KY Mission Trip	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers'		6:00pm Finance Committee Mtg (B4)				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers'	6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)				August Newsletter Articles Due	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Backpack Blessing 2-6pm Kachin Church 4:30pm Youth Bible Study @ the Belchers'			5:45-8:15pm Youth Clothes Closet	11:30am Brookdale 6:30pm Preschool orientation (FH)		12-4pm JMU Block Party
27	28	29	30	31		
2024 Budget Requests Due! 4pm Church Picnic & River Baptisms						

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Community Worship

MONDAY

7:00am 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

6:00pm Choir Practice (starting Aug 16)

THURSDAY

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

SATURDAY

10:30am Community Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Aug 6 — Karen Burke
Aug 13 — Jeannie Petit
Aug 20 — Dennis Simmons
Aug 27 — Shirley Cobb

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Aug 5 — Clark
Aug 12 — Ritcher
Aug 19 — Skelley
Aug 26 — Ruiz

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Pat Byrd
1 Nancy Shomo
3 Bill Pond
4 Dana Mozingo
5 Fred Gaines
9 David Emswiler
13 Harold Bailey
15 Karen Burke
17 Bill Sanger
24 Sharon Nguimbi
26 Nico Nguimbi
27 Ethan Hartman
27 Raleigh Hartman
28 Matt Lohr
28 Philip Northen
31 Ashlynn Lilly

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

AUGUST 18, 2023

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org



*With His
Love He will
calm all
your fears.*

Zephaniah 3:17