NOVEMBER 2023

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Adding to the Family

REV. MATT WINTERS

Many of you have heard my girls' glorious news about their new puppy. For the past week, we've been learning as a family how to adapt life around an eight-week old puppy. Jessica knew a bit of what to expect, but the rest of us have just seen dogs on television. Despite the unfamiliar territory, our girls have been so excited. They're attentive, eager and proud. Their disagreements usually center around the amount of time their sister has spent with the dog. Oh, and his name is Cooper; my suggestion of Corn Dog was soundly rejected.

While the jury is still out on exactly what type of personality Cooper will develop, a couple traits are beginning to show. First, he seems a bit stubborn. He doesn't get excited for walks, which is fine for the girls because they prefer to carry him everywhere. He also fights against the leash and no amount of my encouragement and cajoling inspires him. Second, he gets excited by the simplest of things. His tail wags so quickly when his food bowl is filled, or when someone plays with him. Just a bit of attention brightens his world.

I suppose I'll be able to discern more of his habits, body language and routines in the coming months. But it

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seems that he's a bit like all of us--a bit stubborn and filled with excitement by the smallest of things. Additions to the family, whether it's in a home or a church, bring all kinds of change. We have the capacity to adapt to these changes because we stand upon the firm foundation of Jesus Christ who remains the same today as he was yesterday.

Fellowship Luncheon

NOVEMBER 2 @ NOON

All who are able are invited to join us for our November Fellowship Lunch on Thursday, November 2 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up at the Info Desk in the sanctuary foyer so we will be sure to have enough food for everyone! We look forward to seeing you there!

Walk to End Alzheimer's

NOVEMBER 4 @ ROCKINGHAM PARK

Harrisonburg Baptist Church is participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's taking place in Rockingham Park, Saturday morning, November 4. HBC has been a part of this walk since 2020. To join the HBC team or make a contribution please use this link - act.alz.org/goto/HBC - or contact Gary Ritcher.

Singers Needed

Many thanks to those people have joined the choir to learn the cantata!

In addition, because the congregation is such a part of the cantata this year, I would love to have a group of people whose job it is to sing the tune whenever the congregation is called on to do that. If you can come to choir on Wednesday December, 6-7:30pm and Saturday, December 9, 9:30am-noon that should do the trick. The tune is almost always happening somewhere in the choir, but I think this would be a help. If you can sing Christmas carols and have ever wanted to be on the other side of things on cantata Sunday, this is your chance. Just drop me a line at gary@hbcalive.org.

Christmas Cantata

On Sunday morning, December 10 the Choir will present "Carols – A Cantata for Congregation and Choir" by Heather Sorensen – a series of beautiful arrangements of traditional carols for choir and orchestra. As the title suggests, the congregation joins in the singing on many of the songs. They are also involved in the readings that occur between the musical selections. Our readers will be Laura Fly and Zoe Moser. So warm up your voices and come be a part of this beautiful worship experience!

November Youth Events

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

NOV 8
- 5:45-8:15pm Clothes Closet

NOV 10-12
- Fall Retreat at Eagle Eyrie

NOV 12
- 9:15am Sunday School
- No Evening Activities

NOV 19
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 5:30-7:30pm Dinner, Bible Study & Games

NOV 26
- 9:15am Sunday School
- No Evening Activities

Annual Trip to Simmons Family Cabin

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group went on their annual trip to the Simmons family cabin in Mathias, WV on October 22. Even though it was chilly, the fall foliage was absolutely breath-taking! We enjoyed eating dinner and s'mores together, hanging out around the fire pit, playing lots of different yard and card games, and, of course, our annual trek to watch the sunset over the mountains. We cherish having this time to get away from the city and to be consumed by God's beautiful creation. Thank you so much to the Simmons family for hosting us once again!

Fall Business Meeting Update

A couple points of emphasis regarding the Business Meeting November 12.

1. The Constitution and Bylaw changes largely reflect the splitting of the Leadership Team duties and Deacon duties. The Deacons are asked to serve as ministry support, family-focused servants within the church. The administrative wing of the church function will be handled by the Leadership Team, which will be mostly comprised by the chairs of the major committees. Copies of the previous Constitution are available at the Info Desk.
2. The Budget has a new section called "Expanded Missions and Ministries." This is funded as a percent of every gift. In previous years these funds were sent to the BGAV for state and global missions. For 2024, instead of funneling this money through BGAV, we're looking for partners and new opportunities to fund mission work. We hope to increase our missional footprint with this reorganization of our funds and continue to be a blessing to the world around us. We also hope that our acute awareness of the mission field will increase with this investment.
3. The Trustees have been asked to sell to the city about 115 square feet of land at the southernmost point of the church property. The city intends to widen the road between the church land and the statue, as well as improve the sidewalk. They also would like to install a sign that highlights the Lady Liberty statue and tell its story. The church body must vote to approve or deny this proposed land transaction. The Trustees will follow the will of the church membership on this decision.

If you have any questions about these, or other items, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Matt.

Fall Business Meeting Agenda

Sunday, November 12, 2023
directly after the worship service

- Recognition of Members Who Passed Away November 2022 - October 2023
  - Barbara Pond, 1/13/2023
  - Sara Kate Moore, 4/4/2023
  - Lola McBride, 10/2/2023
- Vote on Deacons (Jan 2024-Dec 2026)
  - Randy Dail
  - Laura Fly
  - Nico Nguimbi
- Vote on Trustees (Jan 2024-Dec 2026)
  - Angela Hayes
  - Doug Skelley
- Vote on Officers (Jan 2024-Dec 2026)
  - Moderator - Richard Baugh
  - Treasurer - Kerry Potter
  - Assistant Treasurer - Dennis Simmons
- Vote on Slate of Committees & Other Positions
- Vote on Revised Constitution & Bylaws
- Financial Report
- Vote on proposed 2024 Budget
- Trustees' Report
- Vote on Land Sale Proposal
- Committee Reports
- Leadership Team Report
- Pastoral Reports
- Announcement of Vote Results
- Closing Prayer

Missions Committee Updates

MARY SMITH

Missions Committee received a number of requests by various organizations for support during the upcoming Christmas season. Due to rising costs over the past year, we are limiting the number of mission projects in November and December. We encourage our members to contribute what they can, given the current economic climate.

Operation Christmas Child: Shoe boxes are available in the foyer. We will have a packing party on November 5th after church with lunch provided. The last day to turn in packed shoe boxes is Sunday, November 12th.

2023 Spotswood Elementary School Winter Knight Buck Store: The Spotswood Winter Knight Buck store will run from Monday 11/27 to Friday 12/1. Volunteers are needed to assist students while they shop and to wrap the gifts the children select. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the foyer in November. If you have questions, you can contact Angie Adamek, school counselor, at aadamek@harrisonburg.k12.va.us.

Salvation Army and Spotswood Christmas Angel Tree Gifts: Once again we will participate in the Salvation Army Angel Tree and Christmas gifts for children and families of Spotswood Elementary. Our Christmas tree with tags will be up in the foyer in November. Due to rising costs, we are encouraging our HBC members and families to work together to fill the requests on these tags. The sign-up sheet will have two places for each tag #. Please be sure to identify which tag # you took on the sign-up sheet provided. Gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 3rd.

Christmas Gifts for Children in Myra, Kentucky: The Pi Beta Chi Fraternity brothers will be collecting used and new toys and athletic equipment for the children in Myra, Kentucky. The Missions Committee will be supporting the fraternity brothers in this ministry. There will be a plastic container in the Liberty St. foyer if you wish to provide a used or new toy or some athletic equipment,

Operation Christmas Child

JULIE AITTAMA

Operation Christmas Child boxes, labels, and packing tips are located in the foyer. Like last year, we also have a basket where you can donate items on the list. Please take notice of the packing tips. Some items cannot be packed.

We will have a packing party on **November 5** after the worship service. **The last day for turning in packed boxes is November 12**. Any questions contact Julie Aittama at aittamava@aol.com or 540.421.2896.

How Important is it to be Obedient to God's Word?

DON AITTAMA, DEACON

We have been studying the Gospel of Mark for the past five weeks in Sunday School. We have studied two incidents where Jesus shows His complete obedience to God by rebuking someone who is trying to encourage Him to avoid the cross.

The first incident occurs during the forty days Jesus spends in the Wilderness. Mark only gives a brief description of this incident, but Matthew gives a much more complete description (Matt 4:1-11). During this time Jesus fasted for 40 days and it is at the end of these 40 days that He is tempted three times by Satan. The first temptation is to change stones into bread, the second temptation is to throw himself off of the highest point on the temple and the third is to give Him an earthly kingdom if He will bow down and worship Satan. In all three incidents Jesus rebukes Satan. After the third temptation Satan leaves and Jesus is cared for by angels.

The second incident occurs in Mark 8:31-33. Jesus tells his disciples "the Son of Man would suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed and rise after three days." Peter immediately makes his objection known to Jesus and Jesus responds with the rebuke "Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God's concerns but only of human concerns." Although Peter had acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah he still did not understand the full purpose of Jesus's mission on earth. Peter saw him as a great teacher who had supernatural powers and didn't want to see Him leave. Peter did not realize it but he had come under the influence of Satan when he tried to convince Jesus to avoid the cross.

So why was it so necessary for Jesus to resist all attempts to get Him to commit sin? God is a pure God who sees all sin as offensive and unacceptable. God's plan for salvation was for Jesus to remain sin-less all the way to the cross. Only the pure lamb of God could provide the sacrifice God was looking for to pay for the sins of all mankind. If Jesus had committed just one sin and allowed Himself to give in to the physical temptations that were being offered to Him, God's plan of salvation would self-destruct and become worthless. Satan would win. Jesus knew that and because of that He remained completely committed to being sin-free all the way to the cross. Philippians 2:9 tells us "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on the cross."

So why is it important for us to be obedient? 1 John 2:3-6 "We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him: This is how we know we are in Him: "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

This passage tells us the key to our own salvation is obedience to God's commands.

Obedience provides proof of the genuineness of our faith. And what is interesting is it takes us back to the example Jesus gave by referring to the walk that Jesus did on this earth. That is the walk of absolute obedience. In order for us to receive our salvation it is not enough to say "I believe." We must say instead "I believe and I will obey."

Without obedience to God's word there is no proof of our faith. At the end of our life we might find ourselves knocking at the door to the wedding banquet as described in the parable of the ten virgins and being told "Go away, I ne
ver knew you" (Matt 25:1-13). And in Matt 7:21 Jesus states " Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

If Jesus had not perfectly obeyed God in His plan of salvation, we would have no salvation to hope for. We would still be living in a dark world with no hope beyond the grave. Obedience is what put God's plan of salvation into place and obedience to God's word is what paves the way to our own salvation.

Prayer and Story Circles

For the month of November, let's take the time to really focus not only on gratitude to God, as we should regularly, and share that for which we are most grateful in this season. Let's also be very specific in our prayers for peace for Israel and around the world. If you have any particularly meaningful readings or songs of peace you would like to share as a prayer when your circle gathers, please feel free to bring those along.

Tuesdays Together Outing

The Tuesdays Together group recently enjoyed an outing to Showalter's Orchard near Timberville. Thanks for Showalter's for providing doughnuts, cider and apples. It was a beautiful time of fellowship!

Tuesdays Together meets at HBC weekly to encourage one another through prayer and Bible Study.

PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Sandy Cude
Edith Cupp
Diane Gray
Dennis Greene
Wayne Hannah
Sue Jones
Judy Miller
Sarah Northen
Bill Pond
Karen & Kerry Potter
Wayne Robertson
Jimmy & Nancy Russell
Mary Smith
Constance Via
Jim Wampler
Tracie Ward

EXTENDED FAMILY

Mark Holland
(Rosemary Lonberger's brother)
Maurice Copeland
(Rosemary Lonberger's friend)

Looking Ahead to Advent

Beginning on Sunday, December 3 (the first Sunday of Advent) a daily Advent reading will be posted on our Harrisonburg Baptist Facebook page and will run through Christmas day. Please be sure to “like” our HBC page so you will be able to follow all of the readings and share them with others.

September Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 9/30/23	$458,120.00
Budget receipts as of 9/30/23	$461,577.19

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Love Fund	$400.00
• Saturday Bag Lunch	$170.00
• VA State Missions (Alma Hunt)	$304.00

Contribution Envelopes

Please contact the church office (540.433.2456 or kim@hbcalive.org) by November 13 if you would like to begin receiving contribution envelopes for the year 2024. Options are for weekly or monthly envelopes.

Note! If you received envelopes in 2023, you will continue to receive them and do not need to contact the office unless you want to opt out.

2024 Budget Vote

The proposed 2024 budget will be voted on at the Fall Business Meeting on Sunday, November 12, directly following the worship service.

Staff Christmas Fund

Express your appreciation to the staff at Christmas for their work throughout the year. Specially marked envelopes for your donations are available in the foyer, or you can donate online at www.hbcalive.org/give (under Funds, select "Other" and put "Staff Christmas Fund" in the comments section). Please make your donation by December 15.

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Eli: Nov 13-15, 28 Gary: Nov 13-14 Matt: Nov 13-15, 26			1	2 12pm Fellowship Luncheon	3	4 9am Alzheimer's Walk (Rockingham Park)
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends Remembrance Sunday 11:45am Operation Christmas Child Packing Party 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	6 3pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor)	7	8 4-8pm Fraternity/First Responder Dinner (FH) 5:45-8:15pm Youth Clothes Closet	9	10 **Youth Fall Retreat**	11
12 11:45am Fall Business Meeting	13 6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)	14 6pm Bag Lunch Team Leaders Mtg (FH)	15	16 11:30am Brookdale	17	18
19 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	20 December Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	23 **Office Closed** 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

SUNDAY
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 10:30am Community Worship
- 11:45am College Lunch
- 11:45am Children's Chime Practice

MONDAY
- 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mr J's)
- 10am Skyline Literacy (Rm 111, 201 & 203)
- 1pm Staff Meeting (Parlor)
- 6:30pm Scouts

TUESDAY
- 11am Tuesdays Together (B4)
- 4pm Jubellation

WEDNESDAY
- 10am Ladies' Prayer Group (B4)
- 6pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY
- 10am Skyline Literacy (Rm 111, 201, 203)

FRIDAY
- Office Closed

SATURDAY
- 10:30am Community Bag Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Nov 5 — Shirley Cobb
Nov 12 — Phil Douglas
Nov 19 — Lyn Weaver
Nov 26 —Dustyn Miller

COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

Nov 4 — Ritcher
Nov 11 — Mandigo
Nov 18 — Ruiz
Nov 25 — Clark

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Josie Leonard
4 Alma Spitzer
6 Hayley May
6 Hayley Simmons
6 Constance Via
8 Karen Folsom
8 Sarah Northen
9 Jo Ann Martin
10 Kate Dear
12 David Lawrence
13 Donnie Shifflett
14 McKenzie Webb
15 Esmyele Elan
15 Jenevieve Leonard
17 Abigail Kopcinski
22 Tom Smith
23 Cindy Mandigo
25 Liah Phaga
27 Phil Douglas
27 Tony Graham
29 Brittany Bowman

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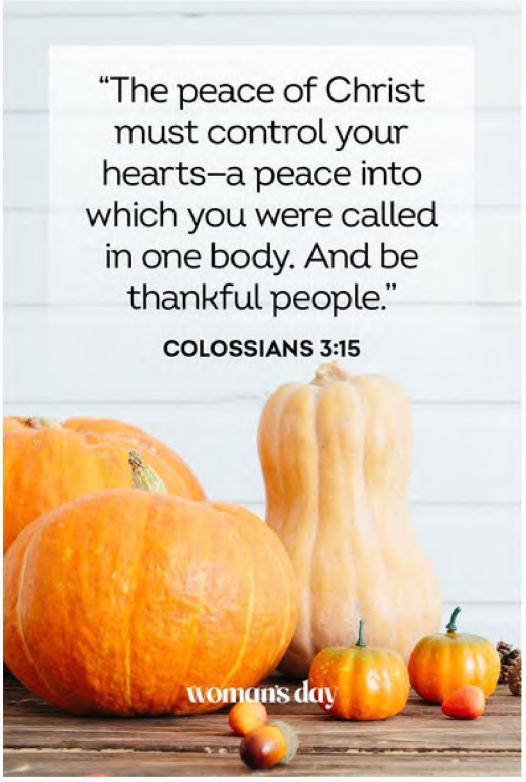
Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Youth Pastor
Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship
Erin Waddell, Praise Team Leader
Rosemary Lonberger, Organist
Harold Bailey, Pianist
Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant
Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 20, 2023

Please submit articles to
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