JANUARY 2024

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

The Stories that Make Us

REV. MATT WINTERS

Throughout the year, I've been able to make lots of visits. Sitting in your homes and in restaurants, we've exchanged lots of stories. We've shared highlights, memories and challenges together. We've laughed and cried together as we've reflected on the lows and highs of life. It's amazing how much our stories intersect and how much we can relate to one another based on our shared experiences.

This past church year has been a wonderful year together. Allow me, just briefly, to tell a part of our story as we remember what good God has done among us. Perhaps the most important metric in the life of the church is the baptism, which marks the moment of faith/acceptance of Christ for believers. We've had four baptisms throughout the year (Nathan, Daisy, Leigha and Ashlynn). One other one is planned and one additional baptism occurred in the Kachin Church. We've been blessed by the joining of men and women with our church family who have been believers for some time. They've decided to make HBC their home church, and we're grateful for all of them. You'll notice our new members board in the foyer, so please take time to welcome and get to know your new neighbors.

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Missions have always been a legacy of this church. Many years ago, the people here made a commitment to serve Christ with their whole lives, including their actions. We continue to engage in missions on a local level with partners in this community like the Salvation Army, Our Community Place, the Farm Ministry, Spotswood Elementary School, Brookdale Nursing Home, Skyline Literacy, Church World Services and Village to Village. We also invest in international missions with the Morris Family in South Asia and the Nasaruni Academy in Nairobi, Kenya. We took two mission trips as a church this year to Myra, Kentucky to offer words of hope and blessings of encouragement to a struggling community.

Above all, the greatest part of our story is in the relationships we have among one another. This church is strong and healthy because of the people who call this home. Because of your love for one another and your ability to care for one another with your words and actions, we have a special home that promotes shared lives. Because of your support, we all feel like we belong and can bring into being that which God places on our heart. We all have a place to offer our full selves to the kingdom of God, and when we look around at each other, our faces, bodies and words echo those kind words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." To me, you are what make this church special and why I believe our story is beautiful.

Prayer and Story Circles

REV. ELI WITHERS

Would you believe it has been a year since we first started our Prayer and Story Circles? It has been a beautiful thing to join your circles and hear you share your concerns, your praises, and your stories together. I look forward to the groups continuing this year. If you are not yet involved in one but would like to be, please come talk to me!

For the month of January, we are asking the whole church to pray for God's guidance for our church into this new year. Even though there may be different talents among us and unique jobs for us to do, pray that God would help us to keep going in the same direction—forward! God continues to call us to minister in a variety of ways while at the same time calling us to work together for the glory of the Kingdom of God. May it be so!

When you meet with your groups this month, share with your group about a New Year's Resolution you've actually kept and then share why you find resolutions easy or a challenge.

God bless this new year!

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.
- Philippians 4:6-7 in *The Message*

Founders' Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

On January 21, we will celebrate HBC's Founders' Day, which is the anniversary of the initial meeting to form the Harrisonburg Baptist Church. Over the past 155 years, we've continued to meet to accomplish the work of the Kingdom. May 2024 be no different!

Our guest speaker for Founders Day will be the Rev. Wayne Faison, Executive Director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). Wayne has served as pastor for over twenty years while also working with the BGAV to engage congregations in mission efforts. We look forward to the strong preaching and practical message that Wayne will share.

Deacon Installation

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

As part of the worship service on Sunday, January 7, we will be installing three deacons - Randy Dail, Laura Fly and Nico Nguimbi. Each will serve a three-year term (2024-2026).

REV. DR. WAYNE FAISON

God called Wayne from banking to vocational ministry. He moved to Virginia to begin his career with the BGAV in 2001. After serving in several positions - most recently as Growth Venture Staff Coordinator - he was elected as BGAV Executive Director in November 2022 during the 199th BGAV annual meeting in Hampton, Virginia.

In addition to his role with BGAV, Wayne also serves as pastor of East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, Virginia. He holds a Doctor of Ministry in Black Church Leadership, as well as a Masters of Divinity in Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth, from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The father of two daughters, he lives and serves with his wife Carmen in Chesapeake, Virginia.

January Youth Events

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

JAN 10
- 5:45-8:00pm Clothes Closet

JAN 14
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 5:30-7:30pm Dinner, Bible Study & Games

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

JAN 28
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 5:30-7:30pm Dinner, Bible Study & Games

Youth Update: Christmas Party

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group finished up their year with the annual Christmas Party on December 17. They were treated to a Chipotle cater, thanks to a very generous donation by Bill and Lynda Lee (thank you!). And they also enjoyed Christmas cookies made by Heidi French (Jonas and Jayden's mom; thank you!). As they listened to Christmas music, they played many games like charades, relay races, trainwreck, and signs. They concluded their evening with a white elephant gift exchange. It's always amusing to see what gag gifts the youth decide to give one another. This year, the bottle of sparkling

cider was the coveted and fought over item! As always, we are very grateful to the church for allowing us to have such a thriving youth ministry, and a huge part of that is due to the church's support - thank you! We look forward to another eventful year in 2024!

College Mission Trip

On Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, ten college students and adults went to Myra, Kentucky to share in the Farm Ministry distribution of hams, ground beef, cheese and Christmas toys. Many members of the HBC community sent toys to be a blessing for the families of Eastern Kentucky. Over two days, about 400 families received much needed food, hygiene products and gifts. Beyond the physical, material gifts, these young adults shared the presence and love of God. They were patient, kind and encouraging toward the families. They worked tirelessly in ministering to the families—right on the heels of completing their final exams for the semester. Mission trips such as these allow these students to bond with one another while also sharing the love of Christ in word and deed. Many thanks to the church for its support of these trips, to Keith Turner and the Farm Ministry for organizing the project and to the missions and college committee who ordain and bless such trips!

New Members

CHAR & KEITH TURNER

Char & Keith formally joined HBC on November 26.

Call for Auditions for "The Witness"

This musical is being directed by James Kiser and be presented in our sanctuary April 5, 6 and 7. Auditions will take place at HBC on January 13, 1:00-3:30pm and January 14, 2:00-4:30pm.

See the flyer in the foyer for additional details or contact James at 540-271-2571 or lyricbaritonejames@gmail.com.

Thank you!

The pastors and staff at HBC wish to thank you all for your generous contributions to the Staff Christmas Fund. We are honored to serve with you and are greatly blessed by your kindness!

Save the Date!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2-4PM

baby shower

for Pastor Katelyn Belcher

Stay tuned for more details!

PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Judy Stewart
Mary Smith
Sandy Cude
Jim Wampler
Sarah Northen
Jimmy & Nancy Russell
Karen & Kerry Potter

NURSING CARE/HOMEBOUND

Bryan Acker
Dennis Greene
Wayne Hannah
Sue Jones
Bill Pond
Wayne Robertson
Neese & Alma Spitzer
Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Dustin & Kati Honeycutt & family
(Don & Julie Aittama's daughter)
Cynthia Shifflett
(Joyce Deavers' daughter)

November Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 11/30/23	$549,744.00
Budget receipts as of 11/30/23	$602,551.98

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Love Fund	$160.00
• State Missions	$75.00
• Lottie Moon Missions	$50.00
• World Hunger	$25.00
• Nasaruni Academy	$1,000.00
• Saturday Bag Lunch	$145.00
• Mission Trips (Daniel Sanger Memorial)	$100.00

December Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 12/17/23	$584,103.00
Budget receipts as of 12/17/23	$644,141.98

Upcoming Financial Dates to Remember

December 31 – 2023 year-end stock and other donations to the church must be in the church office by December 31 or postmarked by December 31.

January 5 – All 2023 invoices or requests for reimbursement must be dated by December 31 and delivered to the church office by January 5, 2024. Any 2023 items received after January 5 will be posted to the 2024 budget.

2024 Directories

Updated print directories (regular and large print) are now available in the church foyer.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30am Deacon Installation Service 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	8 3pm Missions Comm mtg (parlor)	9	10 5:45-8:00pm Youth Clothes Closet	11 12pm Bag Lunch & Beyond Team mtg (B4)	12	13 1:00-3:30pm Auditions for "The Witness"
14 2:00-4:30pm Auditions for "The Witness" 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	15	16	17	18	19 February Newsletter Articles Due	20
21 10:30am Founders' Day Service 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	22	23	24	25 11:30am Brookdale	26	27
28 2-4pm Baby Shower for Pastor Katelyn 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	29 6:30pm "The Witness" Rehearsal	30	31			

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

SUNDAY
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 10:30am Community Worship
- 11:45am College Lunch (resumes Jan 21)
- 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
- 4pm Jubellation Practice

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

Jan 7 — Shirley Cobb
Jan 14 — Phil Douglas
Jan 21 — Lyn Weaver
Jan 28 —Dustyn Miller

COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

Jan 6 — St Stephen's
Jan 13 — Skelley
Jan 20 — B'water Methodist Yth
Jan 27 — Ritcher

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Katelyn Belcher
3 Jayden French
4 Genny Kline
4 Deb Propst
7 Char Turner
12 Quinn Belcher
13 David Downey
15 Kent Folsom
16 Matthew Mozingo
18 Sharon Clark
18 Andree Griffin
18 Carol Morrow
22 Caroline Hayes
30 Jackie Leonard
30 Samantha Winters

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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

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
JANUARY 20, 2024

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