FEBRUARY 2024

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Founders' Day Recap

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

We had such a delightful worship on Founders' Day Sunday, January 21, 2024. To celebrate the fourteen years Mary Smith taught in Kids Alive, the children put together a video presentation as well as shared their reflections on the impact of Mary's ministry. It was a completely heartfelt and moving tribute to the love shown by Mary for these many years.

Cathy Baugh shared a year-in-review of the Together theme from 2023 and highlighted specific ways the church embodied a sense of togetherness throughout the year.

The guest speaker for worship was the Baptist General Association of Virginia Executive Director Rev. Dr. Wayne Faison. He delivered a challenging message based on HBC's tagline below its logo, "A Heart for the Valley." He encouraged us to keep our compassion and ministry going as we serve both the geographic/physical valley as well as the valleys of peoples lives who surround us. He encouraged us to use our voice, keep our vision, and live out God's victory as God works in us.

The Founders' Day worship reminds me of the strength of HBC for the 155 years we've served God. From the two

This issue:

Liberty Street House
Prayer & Story Circles
PAGE 02

Mid-Winter Social
PAGE 03

Possible Women's Retreat
Disaster Relief Training
Advent Artwork
PAGE 04

Children's Ministry News
PAGE 05

Youth Ministry Update
PAGE 06

College Ministry Update
PAGE 08

Thank You!
PAGE 09

Prayer Concerns
Financial News
PAGE 10

Calendar & Birthdays
PAGE 11

dozen men and women that began the Baptist Church in Harrisonburg in 1869 until our day, Harrisonburg Baptist has been advocating for, walking beside and reaching out to neighbors who seek God and receive from God. Our purposes and activities are grounded in God's presence and His redemptive Spirit. May that desire always orient our hearts as we seek to love and serve for the years to come.

Liberty Street House

Several years ago, we made a strong push to pay off the mortgage of the three Liberty Street properties. We envisioned those homes to be used for ministry purposes. We've prayed and evaluated options over the years but we found the critical need for our community was family housing. We decided to pull one house (305 S. Liberty) out of the college housing market to be used for a family. After conversations with local organizations that work with families in need, we opted to lean into a partnership with Church World Services to offer 305 S. Liberty to a refugee family. Often, refugee families need larger homes for multi-generational family units. This partnership furthered the mission of the church to be good neighbors. By early February, one such family should be moved into the Liberty Street house.

We are so thankful for a new chapter in the home's history as well as the church's ongoing ministry. We'd also like to say a huge thank you to the Premises Committee and all the volunteers for their tireless effort in cleaning and preparing the home for a new family. While we will not have any expectations on our church's direct ministry to this family, we do hope that our seeds of hospitality and shared space will be used by God to accomplish much in the larger epic of God's kingdom on earth.

Prayer and Story Circles

PASTOR ELI WITHERS

As you gather with your groups in this new year I encourage you to spend some time in prayer for this coming church year. It was a real encouragement when Cathy Baugh reminded us of many of the highlights of 2023 at our recent Founders' Day worship service. That also reminds us to keep our eyes wide open for the work of God in and among our pews and our community this year. What is it you would like to see God do? Where do you feel God already moving? How can we better love others in the name of Jesus? Share your thoughts with your circle. Also-think back to your time in church (whether growing up in the church or as an adult) and share some of the most meaningful people or experiences you have had in your faith life. Who are the people that taught you the most about God? When are the times you felt the church was truly being the church? And of course, take time to share your own concerns and praises with one another as well as the concerns of our church family.

THE HBC RECREATION TEAM PRESENTS

CHILI & BINGO

Mid-Winter Social

Beat the winter chill - join in the fun!

FOOD | FUN | PRIZES

5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 23, 2024

Stay tuned for more details

Possible Women's Retreat

PASTOR ELI WITHERS

I am working on putting together a retreat for the ladies of the church and would like to hear from you if you would be interested in attending. I am looking at possibly the weekend of May 17-19 or June 1-3. If you're interested, let me know if these dates are possible for you, and if they're not, we will go back to the drawing board! It will be a peaceful time of getting away, spending time with other Christian ladies as well as spending some very intentional time with God. Please email me or talk to me on Sunday morning if you are interested!

Disaster Relief Training

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

Virginia Baptists have been responding to families affected by natural disasters for many years. After Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, I had the opportunity to serve on a feeding crew. It was a meaningful week as we served thousands of meals per day.

In April, our local Baptist Association is hosting a training session to prepare you to serve in response to a natural disaster. The date has not been set, but the training will be at Stuarts Draft Baptist Church. If you're interested, please let Pastor Matt know.

Advent Artwork

Hopefully you have had a chance to take a look at the beautiful piece of art in our foyer that Randy Shenk created for Advent. Actually, he created it during Advent as an intentional work in progress, reflecting how God is at work in our lives and in the world. Randy's creation followed the four titles given the Messiah by Isaiah - Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace - that framed our worship in December. Each week he inscribed a new title and added detail to the manger scene in the middle and returned the work to the church to be displayed. On December 24, we were able to enjoy the final version, transformed from a simple piece of word to a glorious celebration of the arrival of our Lord and Savior. Thank you for sharing your incredible talent and for this thoughtful reflection on who it is that came to dwell among us.

New Kids Alive Leaders

PASTOR ELI WITHERS

In January, we expressed our gratitude to Mary Smith for her 14 years of teaching in the Kids Alive Sunday School department and we still celebrate all that she has meant to so many of our HBC kids and their families through the years. We also want to celebrate and offer our thanks to Noelle Carroll and Jessica Winters who have agreed to be our new Kids Alive leaders! We are grateful to you too! Along with Amleset Okubazgi, we know our children are in great hands while they are in Sunday School—they are with three ladies that love the kids and love the Lord and for each one of you we are grateful!

Passport Kids

Parents of third through sixth graders: the kiddos are heading back to Eagle Eyrie for Passportkids! camp June 12-15. If your child would like to attend, please turn in a **deposit of $100 no later than Sunday, February 25.** The balance of $100 will be due no later than Sunday, April 7. If you have questions about camp, do not hesitate to contact Pastor Eli. You might also want to check out their website for more information - https://passportcamps.org/location/eagle-eyrie/ . The kids (and chaperones) always have a great time and have been looking forward to this year since they left Eagle Eyrie last year! And friends are always invited!

Vacation Bible School

JUNE 24-28, 9AM TO NOON DAILY

It's that time of year again! Believe it or not plans for Vacation Bible School are already in the mix! This year it will be held Monday, June 24 through Friday, June 28 from 9 am to noon daily. And we will have a very special celebration lunch on Friday! The theme for this year's VBS is SCUBA-diving into friendship with God! We look forward to workshops about sticky Scripture and Bible study discoveries as well as Imagination Station and Sing and Play Splash!

WE NEED YOUR HELP AND CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU! This MUST be a congregational effort if we are to make a meaningful week for our HBC kids as well as the kids in the community! How can you help, you ask? We need teachers/leaders for the different workshops, shepherds to take the groups from workshop to workshop, and a group of folks committed to working on decorations (this is something that needs to be done before VBS even starts so if you can't actually help the week of VBS this would be a great place for you to be involved!). We will also need folks to manage registrations for VBS and be the welcome/last minute registration table.

There is something for all of us to do! If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Directors Katelyn Belcher and Jessica Winters or Pastor Eli. It is going to be a great week in the life of HBC!

February

FEB 4
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 5:30-7:30pm Dinner, Bible Study & Games

FEB 11
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 6pm Super Bowl Party (location TBD)

FEB 14
- 5:45-8:00pm Clothes Closet

FEB 17
- 9:30am-noon Community Lunch

FEB 18
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 4pm Youth Committee Meeting
- 5:30-7:30pm Dinner, Bible Study & Games

FEB 25
- 9:15am Sunday School
- No evening activities

Youth Update

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group had a fun night out on January 14! We enjoyed eating dinner at CiCi's Pizza and playing in the arcade room. After dinner, we had a rare winter flamingo flocking job. To say the least, it was very cold that night, but we were excited to help raise funds for Passport Camp this summer! After the flamingo job, we finished the night by playing "Scatter" in the fellowship hall.

Needs

The youth group is in need of meals for our Sunday evening gatherings, particularly during Katelyn's maternity leave. If you would like to sign up to provide a meal, please visit www.takethemameal.com. The last name is "Youth" and the password is 5775. Or, feel free to sign up by contacting Katelyn at Katelyn@hbcalive.org. The youth group will be so blessed by your meal!

We also need seven scholarships for Passport Camp this Summer. Scholarships are $200.00 each. Please contact Katelyn if you would like to donate a scholarship!

Save the Date!

Luncheon & Cake Auction Fundraiser, March 3

The youth group is hosting a Luncheon and Cake Auction fundraiser for Passport Camp on Sunday, March 3, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Freewill donations will be accepted and all donations will benefit our trip to camp this summer. Lunch will include lasagna, roll, salad, fruit, and dessert. We will also have lots of delicious cakes and desserts to auction off.

cicis
HARTMAN

College Update

HEIDI RUIZ & COLLEGE COMMITTEE

Once again, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of yet another exciting chapter in Harrisonburg – the beginning of the new college semester. The return of our students from their well-deserved break brings a renewed energy and spirit to our city and congregation. Their presence reminds us of the vibrant, dynamic communities we are blessed to be a part of.

This semester is particularly special as it offers unique opportunities for our students to step into roles of leadership and mentorship, both within and beyond our church walls. These experiences are not just about personal growth but also about extending the love of Christ to others.

Highlighted Events of the Semester

Youth Retreat Collaboration: In a beautiful display of cross-community collaboration, some of our college students have been invited to lead breakout groups at the youth retreat of another church. This is a remarkable opportunity for our students to share their insights, experiences, and faith, impacting younger hearts and minds.

College Sunday - A Student-Led Worship Service (April 28): Mark your calendars for April 28, a day when our college students will take the lead in our worship service. This special service will include one of our own students delivering the sermon!

JMU Campus Tour and Q&A Session (April 27): In conjunction with College Sunday, we have a unique opportunity planned for interested high schoolers – a guided tour of James Madison University, led by our college students. This will be followed by dinner and a Q&A session, where high school students can gain insights into college life, academics, and maintaining a strong faith foundation during these transformative years. It's a fantastic opportunity for youth to connect with and learn from those who have recently walked the path they are about to embark on.

These events are more than just activities on our calendar; they are avenues for our students to showcase their leadership, share their faith, and make meaningful connections.

We are in awe of the incredible work God is doing in the lives of these young adults, and we are eagerly looking forward to seeing how God will continue to work through our college ministry this semester.

To our wider church community, your support, encouragement, and prayers for these events and our college students are invaluable. Thank you for the tremendous role you play in this ministry!

May His grace and blessings be upon us all as we journey together in faith.

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!

I wish to express my appreciation to the children and the parents for the flowers, cards and kind words they expressed on Sunday, January 21st in recognition of my years teaching Kids Alive. My life has been enriched and blessed over these years working with the children and families of HBC. We are so privileged to have Noelle Carroll and Jessica Winters willing to continue this important ministry in our church. I am grateful they will continue to teach the children about Jesus and share God's love with them.

Thank you,
Mary Smith

The highlight of the year is most definitely our trip to the National Jamboree. During one week last July, we attended two days of the jamboree where the scouts rappelled down a 70-foot cliff, attended character building programs from recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and enjoyed countless activities and events. This was followed by white water rafting, hiking a section of the Appalachian Trail in the Shenandoah National Park before heading to Philadelphia where we visited the USS New Jersey, toured Independence Hall, the U.S. Mint and saw the Liberty Bell. . . The trip ended with touring Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty before heading for home.

The trip was eight days and seven nights and each of those nights was spent in a church because if we had to pay for hotel rooms, the additional cost would have kept some boys from being able to attend. We would like to thank the Harrisonburg Baptist Church for hosting us one night. It was just a piece of the puzzle for the entire trip but it was an important piece of the puzzle and we can't thank you enough. The hospitalities extended were sincerely appreciated.

Respectfully,
Steve McKinney
BSA Troop 229
Winamac, Indiana

In Recognition

Susan Kiser has been HBC's Financial Ministry Assistant for six years as of February 14. Thank you, Susan, for your dedication and hard work to keep our financial records in order!

PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Sallie Darling
Diane Gray
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

Diane Bowman (Holly Pederson's sister)
Carl (Dustin Honeycutt's uncle)
Cynthia Shifflett
(Joyce Deavers' daughter)

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathies to Liz Garber and the Garber family upon the death of Ron Garber on January 25, 2024.

December Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 12/31/23	$595,556.00
Budget receipts as of 12/31/23	$662,538.55

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

• Lottie Moon Missions	$300.00
• Annie Armstrong	$20.00
• Global Missions	$150.00
• Hope Fund for Cancer Care	$929.00
• Community Bag Lunch	$105.00
• Passport Camp (Christmas Post Office)	$599.25
• Love Fund	$55.00
• Van Fund	$3,000.00

2023 Budget Surplus

Thanks to the generosity of each person in the church, we were able to finish off 2023 with a budget surplus of just over $100,000. We were also aided by a gift from an estate—a brilliant way to continue the love and service of God in legacy giving. Here is a quick breakdown of the ways the surplus is being invested.

Mission Work ($27,000)

- $10,000 Habitat for Humanity project
- $7,000 HBC Bag Lunch and Beyond! Ministry
- $5,000 local food pantry (TBD)
- $5,000 Missions Committee

Education ($2,000)

- $2,000 HBC Preschool (scholarships and expenses)

Church Infrastructure ($51,000)

- $25,000 Building/Major Maintenance Fund
- $10,000 Pastor Sabbatical Fund
- $7,000 Safety & Security Team
- $5,000 Operational Reserve Fund
- $3,000 Additional 1% staff retirement fund match
- $1,000 nursery childcare

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Katelyn - Feb 19-25				1	2	3
4 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	5 3pm Missions Comm mtg (parlor)	6	7 6:30pm John Kelley rehearsal	8	9 6:30pm John Kelley recital	10
11 6pm Youth Super Bowl Party	12 6pm Deacons' Mtg (B4)	13	14 5:45-8:00pm Youth Clothes Closet **6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service**	15	16	17
18 **8am Scouts' Pancake Breakfast** 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	19	20 March Newsletter Articles Due	21	22 11:30am Brookdale	23 **5:30pm Mid-Winter Social**	24
25 **Passport Kids Deposit Due**	26	27	28	29		

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
- 6:30pm Rehearsal for "The Witness"

TUESDAY
- 4pm Jubellation Practice

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

THURSDAY
- 10am Skyline Literacy (Rm 111, 201, 203)
- 6:30pm Rehearsal for "The Witness"

FRIDAY
- Office Closed

SATURDAY
- 10:30am Community Bag Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Feb 4 — Phil Douglas
Feb 11 — Jeff Obenschain
Feb 18 — Lyn Weaver
Feb 25 —Nico Nguimbi

COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

Feb 3 — Clark
Feb 10 — Mandigo
Feb 17 — HBC Youth
Feb 24 — Obenschain

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Sue Mason
4 Dianne Greene
5 Michael Coggins
7 Patti Good
8 Judy Simmons
8 Jim Wampler
11 Edy Cupp
12 Dawn Krall
15 Ellen Shomo
16 Jonathan Phaga
17 Laura Fly
17 Jimmy Russell
18 Victoria Moutinho
19 Kevin Taguedong
21 Trace Belcher
21 Isaac Kopcinski
21 J J Obenschain
21 Missy Simmons
22 Susan Creasy
22 Nomene Paul
24 Abigail Araya
24 Caroline Lohr
25 Terry Hughey
26 Tom Ward
26 Jay Webb
27 Laura Logan
28 Joshua Fly

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

HBC ALIVE!
A publication of

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 433-2456 www.hbcalive.org

STAFF
Rev. Dr. Matthew Winters, Senior Pastor
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

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 20, 2024

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