

MAY 2024

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

The Cow and Octopus

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

As high schoolers, my friends and I used to love playing hide and seek in the dark in the backwoods and farms. We had acres and acres to ramble over. Among the most scary of nights took place as I crawled through the underbrush decked out in all black thinking I had an opponent yards from me. As I jumped out of the bushes to make the tag, my flashlight revealed a massive cow. I spooked it (and me) and thankfully he/she took off away from me. Had I had my red cape I could have been a brilliant Mattador.

The key to a successful ambush in the dark woods was appropriate camouflage—blending into the surroundings. Check out the Mimic Octopus when you have a chance. That sea creature has the capacity to mimic and pose as a sea snake, a lionfish, a flounder, among others. God has created an amazing animal. I'm reminded of Paul's words, "I've become all things to all people." If we're not careful, we can take these words to heart and swallow up our sense of self. God doesn't call us to mimic and act as those around us act. Paul's statement goes further by saying that he becomes all things to all people so that he can introduce them to Christ. First and foremost, live like you belong to Christ and then Christ's love can be displayed through you in any and all situations.

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The Footsteps of Faith

JEFF OBENSCHAIN, DEACON

During our vacation last year, we had the opportunity to visit both Rome and Ephesus. What a marvelous thing it was to stroll among the places of antiquity learned of in school and mentioned in the Bible. To tread upon the same stones as Julius Caesar and Marc Antony while visiting the Forum in Rome was awesome. But in Ephesus, it occurred to me that I was walking on the same stones on which Paul walked and the idea of that took on new meaning. Paul was one of the first missionaries whose journey of over 10,000 miles on land and sea took him to present-day Israel, Syria, Turkey, and Greece. Walking on roads built by the Romans, he was a man whose faith and devotion compelled him to travel and proclaim the Gospel of Christ. I and countless others almost 2,000 years later walked in some of the same places. He was a man whose conviction would lead him to be persecuted and killed for his beliefs in Rome, where I also had walked and visited the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls that purportedly houses his tomb. Fortunately, I was not entombed in Rome, nor did I have to flee Ephesus, but I did not try to preach there.

It later occurred to me that I walk every day in the footsteps of great champions of Christ. I walk in the footsteps of Neil, Hank, Tom, TW, and innumerable others while I am in our church. I walk in the footsteps of great Christians everywhere I go, even if I do not know who they are or were. I think that I and many of us often think of faith in its mental aspect and not material action. But walking where Paul walked reminds me that faith has footsteps. While I might sometimes think faith to be merely about believing, it seems that the author of Romans and Ephesians wants me to know that, faith is equally about action.

The Bible and history are replete with great Christians whose faith is inspirational, and whose footsteps are worthy of being followed. But, we do not really need such examples, they are all around us. It has been said that a journey of a 1,000 (or 10,000) miles begins with a single step. A step: an action, not a thought. Footsteps of faith, action inspired by conviction.





Youth Update: New Curriculum!

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

Thanks to a generous donation from one of our members, our youth group is starting new curriculum in May, titled Rock Solid Bible Curriculum by Creation Resources. Our goal is to give our students a firm foundation on truths in Genesis, and to discover how the Gospel is built on this foundation. It also answers questions like: "Who wrote the Bible? How do we know God is real? Why does God allow bad things to happen? And What does it mean to have our identity in Christ?" and much more! Our goal is for our students to be introduced to a rich, chronological teaching through the Bible, and to have a deeper grasp of Scripture's overarching narrative and major themes. We pray that this will enable parents to see their students grow and deepen their walk with Jesus.

We will begin this curriculum on May 5 during our Sunday night Bible Study. All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome to join us!

May Youth Events

MAY 5

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

MAY 8

5:45-8pm Clothes Closet

MAY 12

9:15am Sunday School

No Evening Activities

MAY 19

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

MAY 26

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

@ The Belchers'



College Ministry Update

HEIDI RUIZ

As we conclude another academic year, I am filled with gratitude for the journey we have shared within our college ministry and the remarkable moments from our recent College Sunday.

This year has been one of tremendous growth for our college ministry. Together, we've delved deeper into our faith, tackled challenging questions, and supported each other through the unique trials and triumphs of college life. We've laughed, learned, and grown together through it all. Whether it was a thought-provoking conversation, late-night study session or a hands-on service project, these experiences have enriched our lives and strengthened our community.

College Sunday was a true highlight this year, showcasing the vibrant spirit and deep faith of our student community. It was inspiring to see everyone involved, from those who led prayers and songs to those who shared how faith has influenced their year. Each contribution highlighted the unique talents and the heartfelt faith within our ministry.

Looking back, I am deeply thankful for how each of you has contributed to our ministry. From those who shared their homes to those who supported behind the scenes, every effort has helped to shape a truly welcoming and dynamic environment. Our College Sunday not only highlighted the talents within our ministry but also reinforced the strong bonds of our church community.

As summer begins, many of our students will be embarking on new adventures—internships, jobs, and various service opportunities. I ask for your prayers for these young adults as they apply the lessons of faith and community they've learned.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your ongoing support and encouragement. It has been a privilege to work with such a dynamic group of young adults, and I am excited to see what the next year holds. As always, our doors are open to any student seeking a community where they can grow in faith and fellowship! :)

Thank you for being such a vital part of our church family. Here's to another year of making a difference in the lives of our students and in our community!



Congratulations!

to our college graduates

AVERY MCCRAY

B.S. Hospitality Management
Minor in Business
James Madison University

KATIE MOZINGO

B.S. Middle Grades Education
Concentration in Social
Studies
James Madison University

ZOE MOSER

B.A. International Affairs
Concentration in International
Conflict and Security
Minors in Religious Studies and
Spanish-English
Interpretation and Translation
James Madison University

PHILIP NORTHEN

A.A.S. Accounting
Blue Ridge Community
College



CLAUDIA OBENSCHAIN

Bachelor of Arts
Summa Cum Laude
Musical Theatre
James Madison University

Congrats, Zoe!

A special shout-out to Zoe Moser, who delivered the message during College Sunday. Zoe has been a part of our Harrisonburg Baptist family since her freshman year, and watching her grow and lead has been a joy to witness. As a graduating senior, she's truly left her mark!

This summer, Zoe is taking her passion and skills to Piedras Negras, Mexico, where she'll work with Fellowship Southwest. Alongside Pastor Rodríguez, she will provide humanitarian aid and minister to migrants in the community, continuing to live out her faith through service.

Zoe, thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and all the incredible ways you've contributed to our community. We're so excited to see all the great things you'll accomplish next. Congratulations on your graduation, and God bless you in your new adventure in Mexico!



Missions Minute

JULIE AITTAMA

The Mission Committee and others have been busy with many projects this month. Bag Lunch and Beyond has helped transport those individuals with disabilities to doctor appointments, eye care, prescriptions, and taken care of rent issues and much more. Each month Mercy House sends a list of much needed items for their food pantry that is purchased and delivered. The Blessing Box team continues to fill the box for those in need. Individuals and Sunday School classes help provide snacks for teachers at Spotswood Elementary. The Cheese and Beef Ministry has continued to provide beef for Mercy House, the Salvation Army kitchen, and several local food pantries. 600 egg cartons were delivered to Myra, Kentucky last month to help with Hens for Appalachia. Continue saving those egg cartons! Donations in various forms have been received for the Mission Trip to Nasaruni Academy for Maasi Girls in June that Don and Julie Aittama will be going on.

Thank you for all the support you have given to the Mission Committee projects here and abroad.

Eritrean Church Plant Update

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

Pastor Daniel Tes has been working hard to reach the people of Eritrea for an Eritrean Grace Baptist Church. They are ministering to dozens of families and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray that the hearts will be open to the Holy Spirit. They typically meet on Saturday afternoons in the fellowship hall from 3-5 pm.

Prayer and Story Circles

PASTOR ELI WITHERS

Our prayer focus for the month of May highlights the fruits of the spirit from Galatians 5.22-26. Take some time to read through this passage of Scripture several times (perhaps in various translations) and ask God to help you discern which fruit of the spirit needs to grow in your life right now. Where do you need God's direction? Are you in need of a bit more joy in your life? More peace? More self-control? Where is God challenging you to flourish at this point in your life? When you meet in person with your Prayer Circles share about someone in your life who exemplifies the fruit of the spirit you've chosen to focus on and how that has been evident in that person's life. How did this person live into your understanding of the fruit... or the Biblical understanding of the fruit? If you like, ask your Prayer Circle to lift you up in prayer that you might be able to grow in this area yourself.



Spring Business Meeting Agenda

MAY 19 @ 11:45AM

Call To Order..... Richard Baugh

Committee Reports

Missions..... Julie Aittama
Nominating..... Mary Smith
Personnel Mike Mandigo
Premises..... Kerry Potter
Finance..... Don Aittama

Trustees' Report..... Karen Folsom

Leadership Team Report..... Richard Baugh

Updates to Constitution..... Matt Winters

Votes

HBC Constitution Changes
Clerk (to complete term ending Dec 2025)

Ministry Team Reports

Senior Pastor..... Matt Winters
Associate Pastor..... Eli Withers
Youth Minister..... Katelyn Belcher

Closing Prayer..... Matt Winters

Ladies' Tea in Honor of our Teachers

SATURDAY, MAY 18 @
NOON

Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the church foyer if you plan on attending the Ladies Tea Party in the Fellowship Hall Ladies on Saturday, May 18 from noon to two. This special event will be in honor of our many public-school teachers—whether current or retired! We want to honor you for the many ways you have cared for and educated children often while facing many challenges. We appreciate you and want you to know that! Those of us who are not teachers are invited to participate by bringing in finger sandwiches and scones (or any of your other favorite tea party treats) and everyone is invited to wear your biggest, brightest hat and pristine white gloves for this festive occasion! If you could email names of the teachers in our congregation to Pastor Eli at eli@hbcalive.org that would be much appreciated so that we don't miss out on including someone. We look forward to celebrating with you soon!

Vacation Bible School

JUNE 24 - 28
9AM - NOON DAILY

This year Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 24 through Friday, June 28 from 9 am to noon daily (with a celebration picnic on the last day). 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! Register your children at www.hbcalive.org/vbs.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! How can you help, you ask? We need: teachers/ leaders for the different workshops, shepherds to take the groups from workshop to workshop, folks to help with decorations. **Our next decoration day party will be Saturday, May 11 from 1 to 3 pm.** If you are willing to come and help out we could use you! Please also check the blue scuba donation box in the foyer for updates on items that can be donated to help out with the decorations. There is something for all of us to do! If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to co- Directors Katelyn Belcher and Jessica Winters. It is going to be a great week in the life of HBC!



Sea Creature Creation Contest

You are invited to create your very own sea creature to be added to the Vacation Bible School decorations this summer! Feel free to use lots of color, lots of eye balls, lots of imagination—whatever it takes to create your very own sea creature! Please turn sea creatures in no later than **Sunday, June 16** so we can have them all in their very own comfy little nook in time for the beginning of VBS! Please talk to Sarah Northen or Pastor Eli if you have any questions! The contest is open to anyone who wants to submit a creature!



The Witness Recap

What a tremendous success we had with the Witness. Thanks so much for all the support from everyone. A special thank you to JD Kiser, director, and the whole cast and crew. They worked so hard for months to put on a great show. We had three shows with attendance estimates of 150 on Friday night, 125 on Saturday night and 225 on Sunday morning. All told, the church was able to donate \$3,000.00 from the love offering from the show to Our Community Place. What a terrific experience, and the play allowed us to tell the redemptive story of Christ in a new way.

Address Changes

Ron & Mary Smith
2995 Preston Lake Blvd
Rockingham, VA 22801

1st Lt. Addison Ritchie
A CO, 1-68 AR
FoS NDTA
APO AE 09116

Addison will be in Poland until the end of the year. He would appreciate your cards. (Postage is a regular first-class stamp.)

Thank You!

Dear Harrisonburg Baptist Church,

We just want to say thank you so much for the gift from the love fund for when we unexpectedly lost power shortly after Zeke was born. It really helped us so much and it was so generous of you.

Love,
Katelyn, Chris, Trace, Quinn & Baby Zeke

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Dear Pastor Matt and friends at Harrisonburg Baptist Church,

This letter is to acknowledge the very generous gift of \$1,250.00 your congregation made to the operation of the Patchwork Pantry earlier this year. Your commitment to helping those in need is greatly appreciated.

Because of congregations such as yours, we are able to continue to help members of our community with food and non-food items when they come to us on Wednesday evenings.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your contribution and from all of us who come together as a "patchwork" of community help. We could not serve them without your kindness.

Sincerely
Patchwork Pantry



PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Austin Harper
 Don Aittama
 Cathy Baugh
 Chris Gamble
 Jane Branch
 Joyce Deavers
 Sue Mason
 Debbie Snyder
 Edy Cupp
 Diane Gray
 Sandy Cude
 Jim Wampler
 Sarah Northen
 Jimmy & Nancy Russell

NURSING CARE/HOMEBOUND

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

EXTENDED FAMILY

Cynthia Shifflett
 (Joyce Deavers' daughter)
 Robert Flournoy
 (Julie Aittama's brother)
 Grace Kaleda (Julie Aittama's cousin)

SYMPATHY

We grieve the death of Alma Spitzer on April 8, 2024.

March Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 3/31/24 \$ 156,104.00
 Budget receipts as of 3/31/24 \$ 142,970.60

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Lottie Moon offering \$25.00
- Annie Armstrong offering \$60.00
- Community Bag Lunch \$100.00
 (Ron Garber Memorial)
- Operation Inasmuch \$100.00
- Love Fund \$340.00

Building Updates

Over the last week of April, you may have seen a lot of work being done around the church. We've installed mini-splits in the offices for a/c and heat. We've also had new trim work been added behind the gutters. Soon after that job is completed, we'll be working on landscaping on the Main Street side of the church. Soon, the sidewalk by the statue will be improved—this work will be done by the city of Harrisonburg. Thank you for your patience as we continue to care for and beautify our building.

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Matt: May 5, 29-31 Eli: May 6-11 & 23-26 Susan: May 8-16			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study		3:30-5pm Sulzer Strings Rehearsal	5:45-8:00pm Youth - Clothes Closet		4-7pm Sulzer Strings Recitals	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	6pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)				9am - 3:30pm Everence Financial Training (B4/FH)	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
11:45am Spring Business Meeting 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	June Newsletter Articles Due			11:30am Brookdale		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers	Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY					

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeannie Petit
- 5 Prime Afolabi
- 8 T. W. Johnson
- 8 Judy Stewart
- 9 Devin Esleck
- 9 Holly Pederson
- 10 Bill Lee
- 11 Olivia Hartman
- 12 Ruth Bryant
- 16 Sandy Cude
- 16 Chris Gamble
- 19 Keith Turner
- 20 Wally Holthaus
- 21 Joyce Deavers
- 21 Mike Mandigo
- 21 Kerry Potter
- 21 Faye Ritchie
- 24 Wayne Hannah, Sr.
- 24 Alice Hughey
- 24 Annabelle Lehembre
- 25 Greg Ritchie
- 29 Susan Kiser
- 31 Grant Folsom

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:15am Sunday School
- 10:30am Community Worship
- 11:45am College Lunch

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- 10:30am Tuesdays Together (B4)
- 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
- 3-5pm Grace Baptist Eritrean Church

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- May 5 — Shirley Cobb
- May 12 — Nico Nguimbi
- May 19 —
- May 26 — Lyn Weaver

COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

- May 4 — Ruiz
- May 11 — Emmanuel Episcopal
- May 18 — HBC Youth
- May 25 — Miller

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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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

Erin Waddell, Praise Team Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

MAY 20, 2024

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

As a *Mother*
comforts her
Child so will I
comfort *You*

~ Isaiah 66:13