

# HBC ALIVE

A Publication of Harrisonburg Baptist Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia

September 2020

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## WALKING THE LABYRINTH

DR. MATT WINTERS



Several days ago I had the pleasure of walking a labyrinth with Pastor Tom Reynolds. In truth, most of my experience with prayer labyrinths have been at Hillendale Park where Samantha and Leigha play tag on the stones. Trying to remove this from my mind as I walked the labyrinth was a

bit of a challenge to say the least.

For those of you unfamiliar with the process of prayer walking the labyrinth, the concept is to walk silently and reflectively along the path. The walking path invites one to brush aside distraction and find a center in the Lord's leading. Of course centering one's self has its challenges, but this thought held my attention: "I'm glad I'm on a shared path." I followed at a distance behind Pastor Tom and I noticed the path was worn—great evidence that others have come before me. It reminds me that this call to the pastorate is one that has been traveled by others both globally and at HBC. I know I'm not alone. In fact, on that day I walked a labyrinth with a specific predecessor who has great love for this community of faith.

I think most of us can find, regardless of where we live and where we work, that we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses who will share our walk and help us remain centered on what's most important. Usually, those key facets of life revolve around loving God, loving others, and loving self. If we can get those right, then our lives will be both blessed and a blessing in our shared journeys. Try walking a prayer labyrinth. I'd love to hear what focused thought came to you.

-Pastor Matt

# Joy

NANCY SHOMO, LEADERSHIP TEAM

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. -Romans 15:13*

I don't know about you but I'm struggling. I'm weary. Hope is a challenge and joy and peace? ....Well, let's not go there. I want "normalcy" back. However, I'm not sure what that would look like right now. My sparkle is gone. I yearn for that joy and peace. Does this sound familiar?

The events we are experiencing are not permanent, but it sure feels that way and life as we know it has forever changed. A companion of change is loss and we have lost a lot. Economic loss, structure/normalcy, jobs, social connection, life events and even loss of self. We grieve these losses and we each grieve differently.

Although we are sharing this moment in time, it can feel deeply personal and even lonely. We struggle with fear and wonder if God understands or if He's aware. Our Father knows this and addressed our fear in the Bible. In fact, did you know that the command "Do Not Fear" is in the Bible 365 times? That is a reminder per day that Our Father is very much on the throne and has not and will not abandon us. He has this!!

Allow me to quote Max Lucado from his book, *You'll Get Through This*: "You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good."

Because we belong to God, we have the Holy Spirit who is continually at work within us. He plants the seeds of hope, joy and peace which slowly grow and overflows into our lives and the lives of those around us.

It is possible to struggle and still have joy. Joy isn't happiness. Happiness depends on external forces. Joy depends on the internal force of the Holy Spirit. Corrie Ten Boom had joy in the concentration camp of Nazi Germany. She praised God for the bed bug infestation which kept the guards from entering. Those little bugs ultimately saved not only her life but all the lives of her fellow prisoners. God used those little bugs. Don't you think he can use the pandemic and the mess surrounding it for His Glory? We should be asking how we can make His Joy an active verb to witness to

those around us. I'm not asking you to be Pollyanna. I'm asking you to hold your Father's hand tightly as we cross the street of chaos.

I met a lady this morning in the check-out line of Walmart. It was just the two of us and the clerk. She was in front of me and turned with twinkling eyes and asked, "Does it snow in Harrisonburg?" Now, anyone who knows me knows I strongly dislike snow, so this chance encounter was comical. I explained my distaste for snow and sadly said yes, it does snow here. She said her children were looking forward to experiencing snow for the first time this winter and went on to share that she had recently moved to the area from Baghdad, Iraq, along with her children and husband for his job. We spoke for several minutes as we both checked out and continued our conversation as we left for the parking lot. She gave my "sparkle" back this morning simply because of her joy. It was contagious. I have no idea if she was a Christian; however, God used her today. I couldn't let her leave without saying thank you for making my morning. She removed her mask (we were more than 6 feet apart) and had the most incredible smile. That was Joy and that was God!! I needed it and my Father knew it.

As we continue to trudge through the muck and mire of Covid, politics, negative media and on and on. Let's not forget to ask God to fill our vessel each morning with His love, hope and peace so we can overflow on those around us by the power of the Holy Spirit. May God bring each of you peace and joy!

## WANTED: HBC MEMENTOS

Do you have small mementos that symbolize why you love Harrisonburg Baptist Church? Want to contribute to a fun work of art? Bring those mementos to church on Sunday morning! As we gather for worship or linger afterwards, we will add our little pieces to this project. Mementos can be pictures (that you don't need back—feel free to print on plain paper), your favorite Scripture passage written out on a scrap sheet of paper, a poem you've written, or even a picture you've drawn. You may even have a card or a note someone sent you years ago that you'd want to share—whatever you can think of to add to our magnificent collage! Questions? Talk to Pastor Eli.



# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AT HBC

SHIRLEY COBB, PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

This month marks the 10th Anniversary of Katelyn Belcher as HBC's Minister of Youth and we thank Katelyn for her devoted service to our youth. Under her leadership our young people have grown in their belief and faith in Jesus through Bible studies, socials, mission trips, camps, and they have loved it. One parent of our teens commented it was one of the things they looked the most forward to each week. Katelyn (and her husband Chris), have been so involved in the life and spiritual growth and development of our young people. Katelyn, we thank you and thank God for your ministry.



REV. KATELYN BELCHER  
HBC MINISTER OF YOUTH

## MY CPE EXPERIENCE

PASTOR ELI WITHERS

From mid-June to just a week or so ago, I was able to participate in what is called Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Eastern Mennonite Seminary offers a program in cooperation with Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital. It was a challenging process for me—but first, I thought you may want to know what Clinical Pastoral Education really is, and why it was something worth so much time and energy this summer?

According to the national CPE website that “it is interfaith professional education for ministry. It brings theological students and ministers of all faiths into supervised encounter with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need, and the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological reflection on specific human situations, they gain a new understanding of ministry. Within

the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and interprofessional relationships.” There are three main focuses to the program:

- **Pastoral Reflection** - reflection on one's self as person and pastor in relationship to persons in crisis, the educator, and peer group members, as well as the curriculum and institutional setting.
- **Pastoral Formation** - focus on personal and pastoral identity issues in learning and ministry.
- **Pastoral Competence** - deepening and unfolding of competence in pastoral function, pastoral skills and knowledge of theology and the behavioral sciences.

Normally, students would participate in peer group interaction in person. However, like the rest of the world these days, alternative plans had to be made. Our group of three students and one educator met for 12 hours each week via Zoom. We shared our own projects and assignment in this way and we evaluated one another's work throughout the process. We reflected on who God has created each one of us to be as well as how God has called each of us to serve. Our own Nancy Shomo was even a guest speaker in one of our group meetings. She led us in a conversation on helping folks through periods of grief in their life.

My clinical time was split between being here at church as well as visiting with patients as a Student Chaplain at SRMH. I met folks for the very first time as I walked into their hospital rooms and tried to offer a listening presence to allow room for whatever conversation they might need in that moment. Sometimes, I was asked to offer prayer. Other times, folks were more interested in simply talking about their life and what they might be going through right now. It was very sacred space and I do not take it for granted any time I am invited onto that holy ground—whether it be patients or HBC parishioners. As I said, it was a challenge. But I believe it was worth it. At times, it pulled me away from more general responsibilities here at church, but the whole process promises to certainly make me a better

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# COMMITTEE UPDATES

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## Missions Committee

MARY SMITH

**School Spirit Drive-Thru**—On behalf of the Missions Committee, we wish to thank the congregation for their overwhelming support in donating school supplies and coming out dressed in their school attire. A fun time was had by all. A special thanks to the Food Services Committee for purchasing our new popcorn machine! It made great popcorn Friday evening and will be a welcomed addition to our events in the future. The school supplies have been distributed to Spotswood Elementary and the children in the Grattan Street apartments.

**Bridge of Hope**—We are happy to announce our HBC Bridge of Hope neighborhood team: Deb Douglas, Elisabeth Glover, Susan Huffman, Mary Smith, Ron Smith, Pastor Eli Withers, and Jessica Winters. Over the next few weeks, we will be finishing our training. Sometime in September, we will meet our new family. The goal of a neighborhood team is to do life with a family facing homelessness. We will be offering tangible and emotional support and encouragement while living out Jesus' call "to love your neighbor."

**Local Missions**—Thank you for your generous giving to our missions' budget and projects. This past month, we were able to send \$200 to each of our local mission partners: Bridge of Hope, Salvation Army, and Spotswood Elementary. Each month, \$200 is sent to People Helping People, an ecumenical crisis agency helping those in financial need in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

**People Helping People**—Judy Simmons says, "I have been volunteering at People Helping People since 2006. I started out helping clients and now have gone to writing checks to the vendors every Monday morning. The total amount can be \$1,000 - \$2,000 per week. We have 56 churches from Harrisonburg & Rockingham County who donate to us. From every dollar 92 cents goes directly to the client for help with past due electric & water bills, medicine, eyeglasses (America's Best), work shoes, IDs, birth

certificates, and fuel oil. We also try to help them find other resources, if we can't help them directly. Since COVID-19 we have been more lenient to those who have lost their jobs due to COVID. We have many, many returning clients, but some new clients, learning about us through word of mouth. Your donation every month helps to give people hope & faith in a time of real crisis."

## Cheese Ministry

HEIDI RUIZ

Thanks to the help of members of the HBC

Leadership Team

and the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, we were able to get 116 bags of cheese delivered out in the community last month! It's always a blessing to get to meet our neighbors and hopefully get to make an impact, however small, one bag of cheese at a time!



## Creation Care Team

KATHY RITCHER

All HBC'ers are invited to join us in caring for God's creation by signing up for a time to pick up trash around the HBC property. All you need to do is choose a week in September, and you can come any day and time that works for you. You could even make it a family or Sunday School class outing by bringing snacks to enjoy afterwards! Gloves and grabber tools are recommended and provided, if requested. Please contact Kathy Ritcher (540-908-0699 or [gkcdrit@aol.com](mailto:gkcdrit@aol.com)) to claim your week — September 1, 8, 15, 22 or 29. Because... "the earth is the Lord's" (Psalm 24:1)!

## College Ministry

HEIDI RUIZ

As college students make their way back into town, HBC's College Ministry has been gearing up to provide a safe and welcoming environment for



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students! We had a great time of food and fellowship at our College Meet & Greet Pizza Party where we got to reunite with some familiar faces while also getting to meet and connect with some new ones. It is always great to see the church community faithfully sharing Christ with the local student population and offering to be a place of security through the shifting sands of college life. As we begin to see more students around town and in worship, we're each provided with a host of unique opportunities to be a blessing in some way. When Christ's love is apparent, the effects of our interactions can go far beyond that which we see on the surface, even the seemingly small and simple act of saying "Hello!"

## Bag Lunch Ministry

KATHY RITCHER

September 2020 marks the completion of 26 years of caring for friends in our community through Saturday Bag Lunch Ministry. We continue to show Jesus' love on Saturday mornings as we provide to-go hot chicken sandwiches and lunch bags to neighbors in need. Thanks to all our teams for their continued faithfulness – and especially their flexibility during this coronavirus season – and to HBC'ers for their generous contributions! Special thanks to our team leaders for their service over the past year: Katelyn & Chris Belcher, Sharon Miller, Faye & Jeff Obenschain, Jeannie & Kevin Petit, Kathy & Gary Ritcher, Heidi Ruiz, Cindy & Doug Skelley, DD Dawson (St. Stephen's), Medalyn Diaz (Rayos de Esperanza), Kevin Early (Bridgewater/Dayton Methodist youth), and Becky & Kirt Ritchie (New Hope, Stanley). Thanks also to Andree Griffin, Janet & Steve Smith, and Char Turner for their service in special tasks needed for this ministry.

For 6 weeks this summer, Bag Lunch Ministry expanded to include 30 lunch bags provided for individuals at high risk for Covid being housed in a local motel. This outreach of Open Doors was discontinued as of the end of July, but Joel Ballew, director of Open Doors says, "We have been deeply appreciative of all that Harrisonburg Baptist has done that we have been able to be a part of the past month and a half. It has been amazing to learn of how long you guys have BEEN serving meals as well!" We look

forward to partnering with Open Doors again in the future. Special thanks to Anne Wright and Cindy Skelley for helping prepare these additional lunch bags.

"Tuesdays Together," an extension of Bag Lunch Ministry, began in July as a time of encouraging one another through scripture and prayer. We meet in the gazebo Tuesday mornings at 10am and have recently been focusing on Psalm 23 and what it means for God to be our Shepherd. HBC'ers and community friends are welcome to join us!

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## HBC AND DEMENTIA

GARY RITCHER

In his book, Ministry with the Forgotten, Kenneth Carder says that the tragedy of dementia is not only that those who suffer from it forget, but that they are often forgotten. Isolated from their communities as their disease progresses, they are out of sight and too often out of mind. Nearly 6 million people suffer from some form of dementia. By 2050, that number is projected to grow to 14 million. That number includes people in our own congregation as well as friends and relatives of members.

We are beginning to explore ways in which HBC can support those who suffer from dementia and those who care for them. September 21 is World Alzheimer's Day. We are planning a service for **Sunday, September 20** that will focus on dementia awareness. We are considering how we might participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's taking place in Harrisonburg **Saturday morning, October 10**. Other possibilities are a book study, sponsoring educational presentations for the community, providing programs for area institutions, and building on efforts that are already taking place to fully support members of our church.

If you have an interest in this ministry, have other ideas, or would like to share your story of how dementia has impacted you, your friends and family, please contact me. One of our first goals is to be sure we are aware of the needs that exist among our members. Stay tuned for further information about the service September 20 and the Walk on October 10.



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## SMALL GROUPS

Are you interested in participating in a small group this fall? Check out this list of topics and locations! Call the church office at (540) 433-2456 and ask for Pastor Eli, or email Pastor Eli at [eli@hbcalive.org](mailto:eli@hbcalive.org) with the group you're interested in and if you need child care and/or transportation. Once the groups are established, we will reach out to participants to find a day of the week and time that works for all participants.

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### WHAT'S NEXT?

Addressing the transition from college to post-college life and all of the hopes, expectations, and pressures that brings.

WHERE? Zoom/ HBC Gazebo

LEADER: Brandon Hawley

### JUGGLING LIFE'S DEMANDS

Are you feeling overwhelmed by your daily duties of work, marriage, parenthood, and activities? Struggling to find some meaningful time for your relationship with Jesus? Then this small group is for you! Join us for treats, games, and Jesus-time as we do life together: sharing our struggles and burdens while encouraging and lifting each other up as we grow together on our journey with God!

WHERE? The Belcher's  
7631 McGaheysville Rd.  
Penn Laird, VA 22846

LEADERS: Chris & Katelyn Belcher

### WHITE FRAGILITY

What is white fragility? In this ground-breaking and timely book, antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility. Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth examination, DiAngelo explores how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

WHERE? The Folsom's  
1515 Cumberland Dr.  
Rockingham, VA 22801

LEADER: Karen Folsom

### BACK TO THE BASICS WITH JESUS, THE BIBLE & HBC

Join this small group for an opportunity to get acquainted or reacquainted with the basic beliefs, stories and doctrines of our Christian faith and learn what Harrisonburg Baptist Church has to offer to our community, our world, and you!

WHERE? Joyce Deavers'  
2131 Mt. Clinton Pike  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
(or the church)

LEADERS: Pastors Matt & Eli

### CHANGE IS INEVITABLE. GROWTH IS OPTIONAL.

*Coping with Loss and Change*

The first cousin of change is loss. Whenever we move forward, we have to leave something behind. In these unprecedented times, we are experiencing change by the hour. Join us as we discuss ways to cope as believers.

WHERE? The Huffman's  
199 Suffolk Dr.  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

LEADERS: Nancy Shomo & Pastor Eli

### THE ART OF MARRIAGE

Every marriage is unique expressed by the colorful personalities of each spouse and textured by the circumstances at play in their lives. Blending these to make marriage work is a divinely inspired art form—challenging to master but definitely worth the effort. For more than three decades, FamilyLife (publisher of the material) has been helping couples discover God's plan for relationships. Now in this six session plan for small groups, we weave together expert teaching, engaging stories, man-on-the-street interviews, humorous vignettes and much more to portray the



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hope and beauty of God's design.

WHERE? The Douglas's  
4265 Lucy Long Dr.  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

LEADERS: Deb and Phil Douglas

## SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

How "catching" is your Christianity? Do joy in Christ, hope for the future, abounding love, and moral sureness radiate from the core of your life and spread to others around you? It's so easy in our world to catch serious inner diseases from the cold moral fog surrounding us, the purposelessness, the angry hatred seen everywhere we turn. People so desperately need real health and life—the life that Christ is and gives to us. If you want a more infectious faith that transmits reviving truth, join us as we follow Paul's correspondence with a church renowned for its contagious Christianity.

WHERE? Patti Good's  
12517 Spotswood Trail  
Elkton, VA 22827

LEADERS: Don and Sandy Cude

## LIVING LIVES IN RESPONSE TO JESUS

Episcopal priest, writer and Professor Lauren Winner says, "... the question of how to live a Christian life isn't answered by a list of do's and don'ts. It's answered by looking at lives that have been lived in response to Jesus." This small group will talk about just that. We will study Scripture, books both fiction and non-fiction, as well as poetry, song, our own experiences and more to reflect on our lives being lived in response to Jesus. We will look at the Spiritual Gifts that God has given each one of us as well as the unique qualities of our own personalities in considering who God has created us to be as well as who God is continuously calling us to be. This is the work of Spiritual Formation. We will also engage in creative projects throughout our group time to give us an opportunity to practice our faith in brand-new hands-on ways. Join us!

WHERE? Church

LEADER: Pastor Eli

## LADIES' PRAYER GROUP

We plan to resume our ladies' Wednesday morning prayer group on September 2, 2020. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am and sit around the tables to allow for physical distancing. Please wear your mask. It will be a blessing to be back together! We hope you will plan to attend!

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## READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

JIM WAMPLER

*My thoughts about reading the Bible through...  
(in no particular order, nor order of importance)*

I've been in church most Sundays since childhood—also Sunday nights, Wednesdays, and any other day the doors have been open.

I taught and attended countless Bible studies, but never read the Bible cover to cover. I started several times, but didn't make it.

I'd like to say that my motivation this time was pure, but probably also motivated by just wanting to be able to say that I did it. So Sharon and I started the One Year Bible on January 1, 2020. Shortly after, we started attending a Sunday School class which was made up of others doing the same.

**Realization #1**—There is so much in the Bible that I've never read, heard of, nor could imagine is in there. We, from childhood, learn stories and memorize verses with no understanding of what came before or after. We pick out passages (some great) and preach, teach, and repeat, but rarely talk about other things surrounding it.

**Realization #2**—God is the creator of the universe. Jesus was there too, and He created us for a very special relationship with Him. He watched over Israel and took care of them. But there were a few rules, and all people had to do was obey them.

**Realization #3**—That didn't go so well—from the Garden, Sodom, the Ark, to the Exodus, and everywhere between and after. The people couldn't get it right, and were not doing so well. Today we move away from God, He draws us back, sometimes disciplines us, but always forgives.

**Realization #4**—It takes a village. In the middle of

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“Reading Through The Bible...” cont’d from pg. 7

all the details of rules for people—materials for altars, curtain dividers, sacrifices, repeating and repeating—I was tempted to quit reading. With the influence of Sharon and our Sunday School class, I’m still reading.

**Realization # 5**—Jesus’ birth, life, and sacrifice for our sins and our salvation (even for the Gentiles, which includes us), were in God’s plan from the beginning of time, as seen in His promise to Abraham, whose descendants would number as many as the stars in the sky. That promise was repeated and read to the people time and time again as they struggled to obey.

**Realization #6**—Most of what I know and believe is about Jesus. Our daily readings consisted of a bit of Old Testament, New Testament (a welcome relief), Psalm, and Proverbs. God’s love for us, His grace and forgiveness through Jesus, was a daily blessing and reassurance as I struggled in the book of Kings, where seemingly most of the reigning kings “did what was evil in the Lord’s sight.” God preserved a “remnant,” and provided kings who did what was “pleasing in the sight of the Lord.” That “remnant” survived, and God’s Son and our means of salvation was born.

**Realization #7**—After my stating in class one Sunday that there was little music in scripture, in every week following there was mention of musicians and singers—in the temple, and even leading armies to battle. I’ve been excited to find that the songs we sing today are rooted in scripture, many in the Psalms, but others in unlikely places. Sacred music has been in the center of my life in church choirs, community choirs, and even meeting my wife in high school chorus.

**Realization #8**—I plan to finish reading the entire Bible this year. I can’t pronounce many of the names or remember what happened, but I see very clearly God’s hand caring for his people even as we move away and back to Him, ultimately sending his Son to earth to make the sacrifice for our sin. It seems that human nature hasn’t changed all that much. The world has changed with modern technology etc. but we as humans still need God, just as we have needed Him throughout history. The Bible gives us a clear picture of God’s unfailing love for His children and our assurance of eternity with Him.

**Realization #9**—I need to read today’s scripture!

## Looking Ahead...

to

## Christmas!



Christmas may seem like a long way off, but it will be upon us before we know it! We likely will not be able to do a Cantata or Kids Christmas Program this year, so we would like to try something different—a Drive-Thru Live Nativity of sorts! We are excited to see what God will do with this project. It can be a beautiful way to reach out to our community and share the story of Jesus’ birth.

We will need a lot of help from YOU to make this happen. If you are willing to help with this endeavor, please contact Pastor Eli.

## THANK YOU...

HEIDI RUIZ

As the school year draws near, my Summer Internship here at HBC is unfortunately coming to an end. I have gained so much from this role and am truly sad it is over. Throughout the past few months I’ve been blessed to be mentored and guided by members of the church staff and also to receive such an outpouring of support and encouragement from so many other people. I would like to extend my most heartfelt thank you for such a marvelous opportunity to everyone that played a part in making my summer experience so great! Thanks for all you do!

“My CPE Experience” cont’d from pg. 3  
minister. I want to thank you for making this opportunity available to me. I am grateful to the Personnel Committee for so completely embracing this idea, as well as Pastor Matt and the staff who tolerated my sometimes distractedness and supported me through the summer so well. I am grateful to all of Harrisonburg Baptist Church for your encouragement and cheering me along the way. It is finished!!! And now, it’s time to get back to this work. Thank you! It is a joy to be in the work of serving our God and neighbors with you.



# MY STORY OF HAVING COVID-19

PATTI GOOD

In the beginning came the worry of having to close my business for what we thought would be only two weeks. Turns out it was three- and one-half months that we were closed.

My assistant has been with me for 32 years and is like a daughter to me. Her father became extremely ill and after a few weeks of back and forth to hospitals and nursing homes, he passed away. It is very confusing and stressful to decide how to conduct a funeral during a pandemic. I suggested that they have a graveside service and delay the memorial service, but she wanted to get it all over with. A man whose wife had the virus attended the funeral, even though he should have been quarantined. Two days later, that man tested positive for the virus. Three days later, my assistant took a good friend of hers to UVA and the friend was diagnosed with the virus. Three days after that, my assistant became extremely sick with it. I thought I was safe because I had not gone to the funeral, but my assistant had come to the studio to get some paperwork before we were quarantined. She was in the studio no longer than 15 minutes. Five days later I tested positive.

I first became nauseated and very weak. A friend took me to the hospital, and they gave me lots of tests, of which one was the virus test. When I got home, the Health Department in Richmond called to hear about my symptoms and the people that I had been around. It was that quick that I knew that I was positive for the virus.

The symptoms proceeded to get worse. I never had a fever and never had an infection, but I did have a complete loss of appetite and extreme fatigue. I became very weak and short of breath and found it difficult to walk. My body ached all over and I was in so much pain that I could not sleep. I lost 12 pounds.

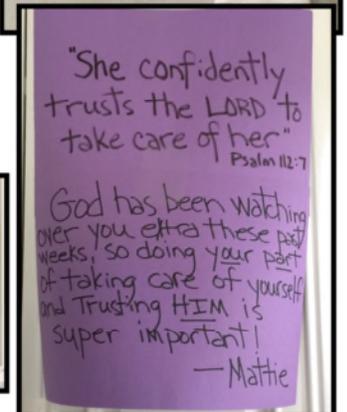
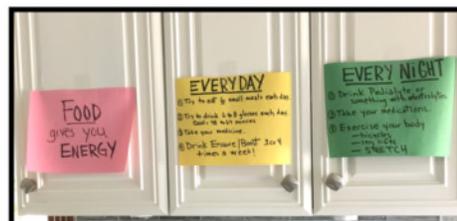
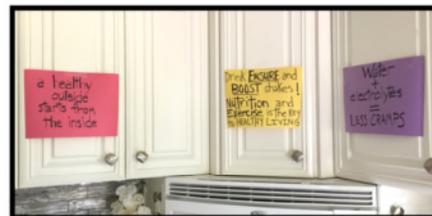
My assistant's friend was in the hospital for seven days with profoundly serious heart and lung conditions. She says the worst part for her was the feeling of not being able to breathe. My assistant had lung infections which lingered for a long time. She lost her sense of taste and smell.

My daughter Stephanie came from Indiana to stay with me during my illness. I did not want her to come because I worried that she would get the virus and possibly even take it home to her family. But, as you can see by the pictures below, she came well-prepared. There are also some pictures of notes from my grandchildren, giving me advice and wishing me well. Stephanie secretly posted them on my kitchen and bathroom cabinets, and I was surprised to see them after she left to go back home.

Thank you to my friends and church family from the Baptist Church for all the cards and prayers.

Please do not become lax in how you take care of yourself. Wear a mask, stand six feet away from others and stay home as much as possible. It can still affect anyone. It is not over. Do not panic, but take this virus seriously.

Have faith, hope and love. Know that God is with you always!



## PRAYER CONCERNS



### Members:

Jimmy & Nancy Russell, Karen & Kerry Potter,  
Judy Miller, Jane Bowers, Dennis Greene,  
Don Embrey, Chris Ellis, Randy Shank

### Extended Family:

Aubrey Spears—Pastor of Church of the Incarnation  
Margaret Straw—Mother of Courtney Shiffer  
Jimmy Cottle—Rosemary Lonberger's cousin  
Karen Farrier—Jessica Winters' mother  
Our Church, community and the world as we work  
through COVID-19



## SYMPATHY

We express Christian sympathy to  
- Myrtle Faulconer's family upon her death.

- Vickie Westlake upon the death of her brother-in-law, Jim Sebourn.
- Julie Aittama and family upon the death of her mother, Sabinia Flournoy.
- Kevin Kern and family upon the death of his mother, Wilma Kern.



Dear Harrisonburg Baptist  
Church Youth—

Thank you for the blessing that  
you gave to Cub Run Elementary

School this summer to come & pull weeds and help with beautification of our campus landscaping! In the middle of an historic time when there's uncertainty about what will happen in the future—both soon & far off—you demonstrated the bonds of friendship and fellowship as you gave back to your community. All of you got to experience the searing heat of that summer day—and the drenching rains later in the afternoon. And through it all, you had smiles on your faces—and love in your hearts! I appreciate the joy & the happiness that you shared with Sub Run that day. May God continue to bless your ministry as you seek ways to serve Him and others & to lift each other up. Thank you for standing tall & being SUNFLOWERS for others!

Sincerely,

Kenny Boyers  
Cub Run E.S.



HBC Family,

Thank you everyone for the outpouring of cards, prayers, emails and well wishes for the loss of my sister. It was very much appreciated. I would ask that you keep her four children in prayer as they navigate all the changes. Thank you.

God Bless,

Kimberly Bruce

**DID YOU KNOW** you can still make a payment to the Liberty Street Properties Mortgage to help retire the debt by the end of 2020? Approximately \$20,000 is needed to make this happen. Perhaps you have saved some money during the Coronavirus shutdown by spending less on eating out, gas, trips to Walmart, clothes shopping, vacations/hotels, or other things that you might think of. If this is the case, prayerfully consider applying some of those savings to this worthy cause. Once these properties are debt-free, the dreaming and planning can begin as to their best use for furthering God's kingdom in this community.

## BUDGET UPDATE

2021 Budget request forms are due! If you are responsible for submitting a budget request form and have not done so, please get those forms to the Financial Secretary ASAP. You can do this by mail, drop off, or email at [susan@hbcalive.org](mailto:susan@hbcalive.org). Your attention to this important request is greatly appreciated!!

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

AS OF 8/23/2020

Prorated Budget needs to date	\$325,875.04
Budget Receipts to date	\$312,563.02
Budget Expenses paid to date	\$225,130.06
The Big Payoff	\$23,200.00

The Executive Director and Treasurer of the Baptist General Association of Virginia have expressed appreciation to the churches of Virginia for their generous support of Cooperative Missions Giving for the first six months of 2020. **HBC ranked second highest in giving among the fourteen churches in the Augusta Baptist Association.**





# SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7pm Choir Practice	3	4	5 10am Community Lunch (Team Skelley)
6 9:30am Worship on the Lawn* 2pm Kachin Baptist Church	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 7:30pm Finance Committee Mtg (FH)	9 7pm Choir Practice	10 7pm Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	11	12 10am Community Lunch (Team Ruiz)
13 9:30am Worship on the Lawn*	14	15	16 7pm Choir Practice	17	18 October NL Articles Due	19 10am Community Lunch (Team Petit)
20 9:30am Worship on the Lawn* 2pm Kachin Baptist Church	21 World Alzheimer's Day	22	23 7pm Choir Practice	24	25	26 10am Community Lunch (Team Obenschain)
27 9:30am Worship on the Lawn*	28	29	30 7pm Choir Practice	<b>Staff Out of Office</b> Susan—Aug. 31-Sept. 3		

\*Please Note: Worship on the Lawn occurs as weather permits. In case of rain, we welcome you to watch the live-streamed service on HBC's Facebook page at 9:30am.

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

Sept. 6 — Nico Nguimbi  
 Sept. 13 — Mark Griffin  
 Sept. 20 — Bill Lee  
 Sept. 27 — Nancy Shomo



## ADDRESS CHANGES

Laura Logan and  
 Clint & Chloe Logan Simmons  
 2648 Greenport Drive  
 Rockingham, VA 22801

Heidi Ruiz  
 1759 Ashford Ct.  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Mark & Kelsey Logan Miner  
 419 E. Jefferson Street  
 Falls Church, VA 22046

Eli Withers  
 102 East College Ave  
 Bridgewater, VA 22812



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

1 Kathy Ritcher	15 Tuka Nguimbi
3 George Bowers, Jr. Melinda Rose	16 Rosemary Lonberger
5 Jeff Obenschain	22 Nathan Wampler
6 Betty Acker	23 Mark Griffin Douglas Ritcher
8 Carson Lohr	24 Lola McBride
9 Doug Mathews	27 Ron Smith
10 Gary Ritcher Tracie Ward	28 Jane Shifflett
11 Noelle Carroll	29 Sengko Phaga
12 Christian Hayes	30 Regina Ingram Judy Miller
13 Faye Obenschain	



# Harrisonburg Baptist Church

501 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801



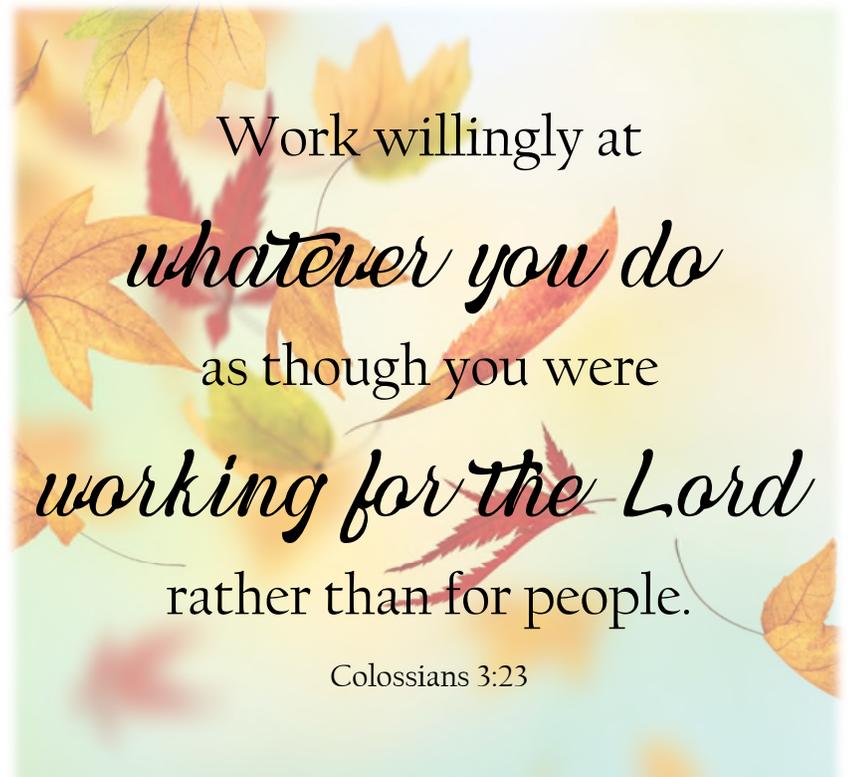
## "HBC Alive"

A Publication of Harrisonburg Baptist Church  
501 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
(540) 433-2456 [www.hbcalive.org](http://www.hbcalive.org)

Dr. Matthew L. Winters, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Eli Withers, Minister of Spiritual Formation  
Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Minister of Youth  
Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship Ministries  
Ebony Cleveland, Praise Band Worship Leader  
Rosemary Lonberger, Organist  
Harold Bailey, Pianist  
Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant  
Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

**October Newsletter Deadline: September 18, 2020**

Please submit articles to  
Kim Brubaker at [kim@hbcalive.org](mailto:kim@hbcalive.org)



Work willingly at

*whatever you do*

as though you were

*working for the Lord*

rather than for people.

Colossians 3:23