

# HBC ALIVE

A Publication of Harrisonburg Baptist Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia

January 2021

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## PASTOR'S PEN

DR. MATT WINTERS

As we close 2020 and look forward to 2021, we have a lot of reasons for optimism. While 2020 began with the vaguest of ideas as to what Covid-19 was, it has been a part of our daily walk. It has been relentless and impacted every single relationship, movement, activity and thought (at least most of them). Now, it looks like a functional and effective vaccine is on the horizon. Some healthcare practitioners have even begun to get them. This vaccine offers a bit of hope and reminds us of the promises of God—he will not abandon us. God still has victory and remains in control.

We are so thankful for God's provision throughout this year. Not only has God seen the church through a tenuous stretch of pandemic response, but we have grown in our breadths of ministry quicker than we could have. We are online now—once a long-term goal. Instead of hosting VBS inside, we took it to our neighbors next door. That ministry will continue next summer as we'll host at least one more backyard Bible club off-campus. Instead of the youth group going to summer camp, they ministered throughout our city in tangible ways (despite the rain). While we haven't been able to do traditional ministry expressions such as fellowship dinners and socials, we've found different ways of expressing God's love.

While you're not reading this until after Christmas, we took one last opportunity to shine God's light from the darkness of 2020. At dusk on Christmas Eve, we turned on every light in each room with a window in order to shine forth God's light into the city. If you saw it, you saw the light from inside the church shining out to the darkened world. Is there a better image for 2020 than this reminder to shine our light into the dark places? If you can imagine a better image, please share it! I look forward to 2021 and I'm sure you do too.

-Pastor Matt

# TO GOD BE THE GLORY

JOYCE DEEVERS, LEADERSHIP TEAM

The year 2020 has come and gone. What a most difficult and different year it has been for all of us. As I have thought and reflected on all that has happened this past year, I have also had to pause and reflect on what a wonderful and gracious God that we serve, the one who has loved and protected us through all of these unusually trying times. While I was trying to stay safe and isolated much of the time I knew that I was never really alone. God was with me. I always knew that I had Him to go to and to pour out my anxiety and frustrations and to ask for His strength and guidance. He would, in a still, small voice, remind me that He never leaves or forsakes his children. (John 16:33, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.")

The year is behind us now, and as we are beginning a new year, I pray we will continue to know that He is still with us and will continue to love and protect us. May we know that He is our God, our Father, our Everything and we can trust Him completely. May we know that He is still on His throne and is in control of all that is around us. (Psalm 24:1 "The Earth is the Lord's and everything that is in it, the world and all who live in it.") May we strive to stay faithful and firm in our walk with Him.

May we pray and listen to His voice as we try to make a difference in everything we do and in any way that we can in this sometimes difficult world; to especially share the great love that God has for all people. Help us to share His greatest gift of all; the gift of His one and only son, Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Changing the way we live because of the coronavirus has been hard in so many ways. One of the most difficult, for me, has been not having

personal contact with fellow congregation members. I give credit to the Leadership of HBC who has done an outstanding job of bringing members together virtually and creating an atmosphere as close to worshipping physically together as is possible. HBC has also been extremely blessed to have a church body that has worked so well in committees and individually to deal with problems brought on by the pandemic. This commitment has shown our real Christian faith and dedication to our Church. Our prayerful hope is that during 2021 we will all feel safe to once again become a full Christian body worshipping physically together and continuing with the Lord's work as we have done throughout the 150-year history of HBC.

May we let our Light so shine that others will see Christ in us and glorify our Father in heaven.

## SUPPORT HBC WHILE YOU SHOP WITH AMAZONSMILE!

Support HBC programs every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile has the exact same prices and selection as Amazon.com, but has the added benefit of donating 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the non-profit of your choice.

To get started with AmazonSmile, click on the graphic below or go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-6020701>. Or activate donations to HBC in the Amazon

Shopping app on your phone by going to Settings in the app and tapping on 'Amazon Smile' (search for Harrisonburg Baptist Church).

Questions? Call the church office at 433-2456.





## NOTICE

### JANUARY GATHER SERVICE POSTPONED

There will not be a Gather Service in January. However, we do plan to gather again in February.

Reading the Word of God is a privilege that gives us encouragement and guidance in our day to day living. Keep praying and reading God's Word.

*Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

## FOUNDERS DAY SERVICE

### JANUARY 17

GARY RITCHER

Following the completion of our recent 150th Anniversary celebration, the Leadership Team resolved to revive the tradition of observing Founders Day each year on the Sunday closest to the date of our founding. This year it is January 17, the actual day when HBC was established 151 years ago.

Because of our unique circumstances this year, we will not have a guest speaker but we will celebrate our rich legacy and affirm our commitment to discern and follow God's will for HBC in the future. HBC Historian Cathy Baugh is preparing a written report on the past year at HBC and will present a short summary at the service.

## WINTER SMALL GROUPS

PASTOR ELI

Some of the small groups that began in the fall are continuing through the winter. We will begin Winter/Spring small groups in mid-February. More information will be available in the February newsletter.

Thank you to Pastor Matt, Karen Folsom, Nancy Shomo, Chris and Katelyn Belcher, Phil and Deb Douglas and Kathy Ritcher who have all been leading small groups. We are grateful for the time and energy you have put into your small groups and we are grateful for your love of God and your commitment to God's people. We appreciate you!

## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

DEB DOUGLAS, LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR

The Leadership Team has continued to meet monthly, moving from Zoom to the Fellowship Hall where physical distancing guidelines are followed.

Pastor Matt has implemented a time of Deacon training at the beginning of each meeting to enable the diaconate to be better prepared to serve and assist in the church body. This includes getting to know our assigned deacon families better.

The Deacon Nominating Committee was able to find two individuals, Karen Burke and Dennis Simmons, who agreed to serve on the Leadership Team and were voted on by the church body in November. Per the church constitution, once the business meeting is past, the Leadership Team is responsible to fill any open positions. The Deacon Nominating Committee presented Jeannie Petit and Don Aittama to the Leadership Team later in November, and they have been approved to serve as Deacons. The term of service for the four new Deacons will begin May 2021 and continue through April 2024. The bios for Don and Jeannie are included on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter.

We pray you have enjoyed reading through the Bible in 2020 and that you will continue this practice in 2021. The Chronological Bible has been chosen for reading in 2021 and there are copies of this Bible in church foyer for you to pick up.

# MINISTRY UPDATES

## Blessing Box Ministry

CINDY SKELLEY

The Bible gives us much guidance about helping those in need, but I love the following passage from Proverbs 22:9 as it reminds me that we can help others and also be so blessed when giving.

*The generous will themselves be blessed,  
for they share their food with the poor.*

The blessing box has been sharing with others since it was installed on Sept 17, 2019. Eight church teams have been monitoring the blessing box routinely on a weekly basis. Community members almost weekly also leave items in the blessing box. We are blessed to be a part of a giving community.

In this new year the Missions Committee would like to ask if there are others in the church who would be interested in joining this monitoring of the blessing box. HBC has been quite generous, and supplies are maintained and can be used to stock the blessing box or you can provide your own items during your monitoring week. During this difficult time we have been stopping by and filling daily as needed. If you are interested in adding your name to the monitoring group, please contact Cindy Skelley (preferably at email [scvaconn@aol.com](mailto:scvaconn@aol.com)) or call the church office.

In order to maintain supplies for the blessing box please also prayerfully consider adding a few items to your shopping list as you do your regular grocery shopping. You can place these items in the parlor on the floor by the cabinet in the corner that is behind the door. Example of items that move quickly from the blessing box are:

- bottles of water
- individual size fruit drinks
- small plastic jars of peanut butter
- ready to eat foods such as vienna sausages, beans, mac & cheese, tuna, chicken, fruit



(Please—only easy-open cans with pull rings or easy open pouches!)



- individually wrapped packages of crackers, fruits (raisins), trail mix, snack or cereal bars
- Individual cereals
- Plastic utensils
- Gloves/Mittens
- Hats
- Small Blanket
- Toilet paper
- Small packages of tissues
- Baby wipes
- Small soaps
- Hand sanitizer
- Small notepads
- Daily Scriptures
- Notes of Encouragement/Notes with Bible Verses
- Slim Jims
- Hand warmers
- Scarves
- Socks
- Toothbrush/paste
- Paper towels
- Diapers
- Handwipes
- Band aids
- Pens/Pencils
- Bible Devotions
- Jesus Calling

Thank you for sharing your blessings with others.



## Children's Ministry

HEIDI RUIZ

Over the past several weeks, the Children's ministry at HBC has enlisted the help of two world-renowned scientists to create videos that keep our families with children connected and engaged, despite being unable to meet in person. Dr. Matt and Prof. Heidi, along with several other special guests, have used science, music, and wit to illustrate biblical topics and principles for Kids Alive: Monday School! Visit [www.hbcalive.org/kidsalive](http://www.hbcalive.org/kidsalive) to watch!

## Cheese Ministry

PASTOR MATT

On Tuesday, December 8, the Cheese Ministry Partnership received another shipment of cheese. As you know, this partnership buys milk from local dairy farmers and distributes the resultant cheese to the community at no cost. About \$300,000 retail value worth of cheese has been delivered to the community so far this year. This 10,000 pounds (5 tons) of cheese went to various organizations around Harrisonburg. HBC was able to distribute 2,800 pounds through its ministry branches and partners. What an exciting effort was made by so many people in order to share this massive blessing.

To complete our cheese distribution, we are slicing the remaining pounds of cheese and will be sharing them individually within the community. If you have a family whom you would like to bless with a pound of delicious mozzarella, just let us know.

## Dementia Ministry

GARY RITCHER

You are invited to join a study of the book "Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia through a Spiritual Lens" by Kenneth Carder. Dr. Carder is a retired Methodist bishop who wrote the book after a 10 year journey caring for his wife, Linda, who suffered from dementia.

We are planning a series of 3 meetings beginning in mid-January before the 2021 small groups get underway. The church has copies of the book or you can obtain one online. The book is touching personal story, a serious examination of spiritual issues related to dementia, and provides direction for churches who are interested in ministry to those who have dementia and their care givers. Please contact Gary Ritcher by January 1 if you are interested. We will set a time and method of meeting when we know who wants to be involved.

Later this spring we will be inviting a speaker from the area to help us understand dementia and how we can most effectively minister in this area.

## Missions Committee

MARY SMITH

Thank you, HBC congregation, for your continued generosity and devotion to helping those in need during the Christmas season. Many people and families were helped by your gifts, food and monetary donations. The missions committee looks forward to a new year and seeing how God uses HBC to show His love to others.

### MEALS NEEDED!

CINDY SKELLEY



You may have noticed college students are involved at HBC, and we are so happy to have them! In fact we have students from both JMU and Bridgewater regularly attending.

During these unusual times we have continued to offer the college students a lunch after Sunday morning worship services. The meals are more limited than in years past, but we still have opportunities for fellowship and gathering. We meet in the fellowship hall or in the gazebo, weather permitting. Pastors Matt and Eli, college committee representative Shirley Cobb, and Heidi Ruiz meet regularly with the students at these lunches.

We need your help this Spring Semester 2021 to continue offering meals. A meal comprised of soup, muffins, a fruit, and cookies, for example, has worked well during the cold months. We need easy-to-serve food with minimal contact and sufficient quantity for about 12-16 servings starting January 24 and continuing through May 2.

Please contact Cindy Skelley if you are interested in providing a meal. We can work out serving the food if that is a concern for you. The best way to contact Cindy is email: [sevaconn@aol.com](mailto:sevaconn@aol.com). Thank you for prayerfully considering involvement in this important ministry.

## NEW DEACON TESTIMONIES



**DON  
AITTAMA**  
2021-2024

I was born and raised in the Detroit area in Michigan. As I was growing up my family vacationed frequently in the upper

peninsula of Michigan. I attended college at Central Michigan University between 1971 through 1975, earning a degree in Music. After graduation I entered the U.S. Marine Corps and served as an artillery officer. While in the Marine Corps I met my wife Julie and we got married in May 1976. I left the Marine Corps in 1979 and went back to school at the University of Virginia, graduating 4 years later with a Master of Science in Accounting. I passed the CPA exam and worked for 10 years in public accounting, working primarily as an auditor. In 1993 I left public accounting and worked as an accountant in 3 separate manufacturing plants over a 22 year period of time. The last one was at the plastics plant in Grottoes where I worked between 2003 and 2015. I retired in 2015 and still work there part time as a consultant.

In 2005 I became interested in professional photography. I worked as a wedding photographer for over 10 years and have since retired from that as well. I still compete in International Print Competition at the professional level and have won several awards for my photography. My wife Julie and I

currently enjoy hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains where I always have my photography gear with me. My biggest interest now is photographing the many waterfalls that exist along the Blue Ridge Mountains.

I was raised in a Presbyterian church and after marrying Julie was baptized into a Baptist church in Ruckersville. When we moved to the Shenandoah Valley we became members of Westside Baptist Church where I was ordained as a deacon in the church in 1987. In 2008 we became interested in HBC and transferred our membership to HBC after being inactive in church for several years. While sitting in church I began to become very driven to become involved in serious Bible Study. I felt like I wanted more than what I was getting in Sunday School and through Sunday morning Sermons. In 2009 I met Buddy Walker and Paul Douglas who sat next to me in choir practice and they introduced me to the Bible Study Fellowship. I stayed in BSF for over 6 years. I also joined Paul Douglas' Sunday School class which does a comprehensive study of the complete Bible over an 8 year period and when Paul left HBC in 2010 I became the Sunday School Teacher. I have taught that Sunday School class every year since then.

I enjoy Bible Study. I took up Debbie Douglas' challenge last year to read the whole Bible in one year and have now read through the complete Bible in the past year for the first time in my life. I look forward to continuing my Bible study in the future. My favorite quote from the Bible is: "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart" Proverbs 27:19. It is a constant challenge to me about what does my life reveal about what is in my heart and how does God view it?



**JEANNIE PETIT**  
2021-2024

I was ordained and served on the diaconate back in the 90s and I am honored once again to be asked to serve. I was born into Harrisonburg Baptist Church and was baptized when I was

8 years old, in 1979. I have been here ever since—it is home to me. My parents, grandparents, aunt, uncle, and cousins have all been members of HBC through the years. I met my husband Kevin when at an HBC youth event we were 15 and we were married here in 1989. We have two boys, Ted and Jake, and a daughter-in-law, Chelsi.

HBC helped shape me into a Christian from a very young age and I am eternally grateful. HBC has been a part of every single significant thing in my life—my marriage, the birth and upbringing of my two boys, the funerals of my grandparents and my mom.

I am so grateful for the love and support that I have experienced at HBC over the years. One thing is for sure, the older I get, the more I need Jesus. I have come to know Him and still feel Him here at HBC.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER

If weather conditions favor snow or ice, check our website, Facebook page, WSVA 550 AM or WHSV-TV3 for up-to-date cancellations and changes to scheduled events. A decision to delay or cancel Sunday morning services will be made no later than 7 am.

On weekdays, the church office will be closed if Harrisonburg City Schools are closed. If the office is closed on a Wednesday, all evening activities on that day will be automatically cancelled.



## CONGRATULATIONS

to our recent college graduates!

**Kimberly Bernales** graduated from James Madison University College of Education with a Bachelor's of Science in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies with teacher licensure in elementary education. She plans to pursue her Master's degree in education.

**Harold Bailey** graduated from James Madison University's College of Visual and Performing Arts with a Master's in Music.

*God bless you both in your future endeavors!*



## STAFF CORNER

We at HBC extend our grateful appreciation and congratulations to...

... **Sarah Northen** and **Chloe Simmons**, who both have worked in HBC's nursery for 4 years as of January 1st. Thank you, Sarah and Chloe, for your diligent care of our youngest family members over the past four years.

... **Harold Bailey**, who has been HBC's pianist for one year as of January 5th. Thank you, Harold, for sharing your impressive musical talents with us.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Members:

Julie Aittama, Jane Bowers,  
David Downey, Dennis Greene,  
Wayne & Sally Hannah, Judy Miller,  
Karen & Kerry Potter, Jimmy & Nancy Russell,  
Daniel Sanger, Constance Via



### Extended Family:

Susan Douma—Sherri Chapman's cousin  
Megan & Craig Johnson—Jessica Winters'  
sister & brother-in-law  
Doris Jean Shifflett—Joyce Deavers' friend  
Charles Cavallo—Noelle Carroll's friend  
Becky Morris—Ellen Shomo's friend  
Sue Mason—Julie Aittama's friend  
Nikki—Lyn Weaver's niece  
Dorothy Shenk—Randy Shenk's mother  
Linda Moore—Cathy Lawrence's cousin  
Margaret Straw—Courtney Shiffer's mother  
Karen Farrier—Jessica Winters' mother



## SYMPATHY

We express Christian sympathy to

- Bryan Acker and Annette & Frank Sprinkel, upon the death of Bryan and Annette's mother, Betty Acker
- Linda & Paul H. Steagall, III, upon the death of Linda's mother, Charlotte Kibler
- Karen Folsom on the death of her aunt, Jenny Litman
- Amie O'Dell on the death of her father
- Shirley Cobb on the death of her cousin, Clinton Jones
- Neil Showalter on the death of his brother
- Chris Belcher on the death of his grandmother



We at Kingsway really appreciate your donation for toothpaste. With your support, we are able to let the inmates know they are not forgotten.

God Bless,

Kingsway Prison & Family Outreach  
& Volunteers

A hearty thank you to all who contributed to the Staff Christmas Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

-HBC Staff

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

AS OF 12/20/2020

Prorated Budget needs to date	\$488,812.56
Budget Receipts to date	\$465,369.87
Budget Expenses paid to date	\$374,062.53

The Big Payoff \$15,396.00

## FINANCIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

2021 offering envelope sets are available in the church foyer. Offering envelopes for those unable to pick them up will be mailed or delivered by our Visitation Team.

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

**January 6** – All 2020 invoices or requests for reimbursement must be dated by December 31, 2020, and delivered to the church office by January 6. Any 2020 items received after January 6 will be posted to the 2021 budget.

# JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed 	2 10am Community Lunch (Ritcher Team)
3 10:30am Community Worship 2pm Fellowship Hall Reserved 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	4 1:30pm Staff Mtg 2:00pm Missions Committee Mtg (FH) 6:30pm Scouts	5 10am Tuesdays Together (FH)	6 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 7pm Choir Practice	7	8	9 10am Community Lunch (Skelley Team)
10 10:30am Community Worship 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	11 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	12 10am Tuesdays Together (FH) 6pm Finance Committee Mtg (FH)	13 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 7pm Choir Practice	14	15	16 10am Community Lunch (Ruiz Team)
17 Founders Day 10:30am Community Worship 2pm Kachin Baptist Church 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	18 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts	19 10am Tuesdays Together (FH)	20 February NL Articles Due 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 7pm Choir Practice	21	22	23 10am Community Lunch (Petit Team)
24 10:30am Community Worship 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	25 3:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts	26 10am Tuesdays Together (FH)	27 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 7pm Choir Practice	28	29	30 10am Community Lunch (B'water Methodist Youth Team)
31 10:30am Community Worship 6pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study						

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

Jan. 3 — Laura Fly  
 Jan. 10 — Jeff Obenschain  
 Jan. 17 — Karen Folsom  
 Jan. 24 — Joyce Deavers  
 Jan. 31 — David Downey



2 Katelyn Belcher	18 Sharon Clark
4 Genny Kline Deb Propst	Andree Griffin Carol Morrow
7 Char Turner	20 Jean Gevy Jean Leger
12 Quinn Belcher	22 Caroline Hayes
13 David Downey	29 Tammy Mathews
15 Kent Folsom	30 Jackie Leonard
16 Matthew Mozingo	Samantha Winters



## ADDRESS CHANGES

Patrick & Laura Fly 351 Robin Roost Ct Broadway, VA 22815	Lee & Sherri Chapman 26 Sarah Jayne Ct. Waynesboro, VA 22980
Tom Smith 671 N Liberty St, Rm 4 Harrisonburg, VA 22802	

# Harrisonburg Baptist Church

501 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

## "HBC Alive"

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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 Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

**February Newsletter Deadline: January 20, 2020**

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

