

JANUARY 2022

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Making New Friends

REV. MATT WINTERS

We sometimes get asked how the move to Harrisonburg was for our family. I suspect that many folks are surprised at how easily our family has adjusted to the area. We really love it here, and it's a perfect fit for our family. But, what may be most surprising to everyone is the ease in which our girls have been able to make friends and find their space. One of the girls' great gifts is their ability to meet others and make new friends. Even living in Harrisonburg for less than two years, they've had to adjust to two schools and two after-school programs. They've been able to meet others easily and strike up friendships. It's been such a relief to observe that process.

The girls are such an encouragement to me as I try to meet new folks and develop meaningful relationships, too. In fact, the church has had two neighbors reach out to us in the last month to explore partnerships. These networks help the church connect to the community and allows us to do ministry in meaningful ways—the very thing God has called us to. The first, Compass Counseling, works with families negotiating life with autism spectrum disorder, which became the impetus for the Special Needs Christmas Eve service. Secondly, Brookdale Assisted Living Home reached out for a

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Congratulations

TO OUR RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Nicholas Barnes graduated from JMU School of Art, Design, and Art History with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design.

Brenda Kasango graduated from EMU with a Bachelors in Accounting.

Skylar Wampler graduated from the University of Virginia in the dual majors of Poetry and Global Sustainability. Skylar is the daughter of Nathan Wampler and the granddaughter of Jim and Sharon Wampler.

Kendall Waters graduated from JMU School of Music with a Bachelors in Music with concentrations in piano performance and composition and a minor in jazz studies.

monthly worship service for their residents. They have a memory care unit, and the church has been praying through ways to give back to the families affected by Alzheimer's. So, one Wednesday per month, HBC will host a special worship time for the residents at Brookdale. Each of these opportunities invite us to cultivate relationships and offer the words of Christ—that of hope, peace, joy and love.

We'd love to have you walk with us as we meet new friends. Or, maybe you have another friend you'd like to introduce me to. Let's do this together.

~Pastor Matt

New Beginnings

MARY SMITH

We welcome Shirley Cobb, Phil Douglas, and Lyn Weaver as our new deacons and members of the Leadership Team. On Sunday January 9, we will ordain Lyn Weaver and install our new deacons.

For two years, we have been in the Word daily together. Reading through the One Year Bible in 2020 and the Chronological Bible in 2021 has been a blessing to me and deepened my Christian faith. I hope you've had a similar experience.

Scripture says that we are new creations in Christ as "the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). As we begin this New Year, let us continue to look to the Word of God for wisdom and confidence. Let each of us draw nearer to God with open hearts and renewed spirit. Let us be receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we shine God's light out in the world.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10



Family Fun Night!

JANUARY 14, 6-8PM

The Children's Committee is hosting a Church Family Fun Night on Friday, January 14 from 6 to 8 in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to bring a fun picnic dish to share with everyone! Drinks and dessert will be provided. You are also welcome to bring your family's favorite board game, card game, etc. to teach to others! We have missed this time of gathering and look forward to doing it once again. Remember, this is for all ages—so grab your family and friends and join us!

Founders' Day Service

JANUARY 23

On Sunday, January 23, we'll celebrate Founders' Day, which recalls the birth of HBC. On a cold January day 152 years ago, the church began meeting, and we're still going strong. We'll have the Rev. Mark Snipes as our guest pastor. Mark is coordinator with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia and will be helping the church host the Mission Madness weekend in April 2022. We look forward to a wonderful time of worship and reflection on Founders' Day!

Staff Recognition

SARAH NORTHEN

January 2022 marks the five-year anniversary for Sarah Northen in our Nursery. Sarah displays intense compassion and nurturance for our nursery families and has been at the core of the ministry to so many of our children for these five years. We are so thankful for her attentiveness and cooperation in balancing her home life, work life, and church life. Sarah, you are an inspiration to us, and we are so thankful for you and your ministry!

HAROLD BAILEY

We extend our grateful appreciation and congratulations to Harold, who has been HBC's pianist for two years as of January 5. We are blessed to have you on staff, Harold!



January Youth Events

- JAN 1-4
Passion Conference in Atlanta
- JAN 2
No youth meeting
- JAN 9
9:15am Sunday School
5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study
- JAN 12
5:45-7:45pm Clothes Closet
- JAN 16
9:15am Sunday School
5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study
- JAN 23
9:15am Sunday School
5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study
- JAN 29
9-11am Community Bag Lunch
- JAN 30
9:15am Sunday School
5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

Youth Christmas Party!

The youth hosted their annual Christmas Party on December 12. They enjoyed reusing decorations from Winter Wonderfest and playing Christmas-themed team games. They also decorated their own stockings to hang up in the youth room. Thank you so much to Jeff and Faye Obenschain for providing a delicious homemade Christmas dinner that was devoured by all. They ended the night with a White Elephant gift exchange and everyone seemed satisfied with the gag gifts they ended up with!





Come and See

JOYCE DEEVERS, DEACON

As we approach the new year we should take the time to observe our surroundings and listen to God. He loves us and He speaks to us every day. All we have to do is to pause and set our minds in the right direction to understand what He is showing and telling us.

Let's consider the scripture in John 1:45-51. It begins with Philip sharing a story with Nathanael about a man from Nazareth.

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the man that Moses wrote about in the law, and the prophets also wrote about him. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to Philip, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip answered, "Come and see." As Jesus saw Nathaniel coming toward him, he said, "Here is truly an Israelite. There is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree, before Philip told you about me." Then Nathanael said to Jesus, "Teacher, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus said to Nathanael, "Do you believe simply because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than that." And Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and 'angels of God going up and coming down' on the Son of Man."

Max Lucado, in his book *A Gentle Thunder: Hearing God through the Storm*, provides us with a poetic way of expressing this idea:

When Nathanael doubted that anything good could come out of Nazareth, Philip's response was simply, "Come and see." Nathanael's question remains; "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Have two thousand years of Christianity changed this world? Is the life of the young Nazarene carpenter really worth considering?

The question still lingers.

And the answer of Philip still suffices.
Come and see.

Come and see the rock that withstood
the winds of time. Hear his voice.

The truth undaunted,
grace unspotted,
loyalty undeterred.

Come and see the flame that tyrants
and despots have not extinguished.

Come and see the passion that
oppression has not squelched.

Come and see the hospitals and
orphanages rising beside the crumbling
ruins of humanism and atheism. Come
and see what Christ has done.

Come and see the great drama
threading through twenty centuries of
history and art.

Handel weeping as he composes
The Messiah.



Da Vinci sighing as he portrays the
Last Supper.

Michelangelo stepping back from
the rock-carved David and bidding
the stone to speak.

Can anything good come out of
Nazareth? Come and see.

See Wilberforce fighting to free slaves in
England — because he believed.

See Washington at prayer in Valley
Forge — because he believed.

See Lincoln alone with a dog-eared
Bible — because he believed.

Can anything good come out of
Nazareth? Come and see.

Come and see the changed lives:
 the alcoholic now dry,
 the embittered now joyful,
 the shamed now forgiven.

Come and see the marriages now
rebuilt, the orphans embraced, the
imprisoned inspired.

Journey into the jungles and hear the
drums beating in praise.

Sneak into the corners of communism
and find believers worshiping under
threat of death.

Walk on death row and witness the
prisoner condemned by man yet
liberated by God.

Venture into the gulags and dungeons
of the world and hear the songs of the

saved refusing to be silent.

Can anything good come out of
Nazareth?

Come and see the pierced hand of God
touch the most common heart, wipe
the tear from the wrinkled face, and
forgive the ugliest sin.

Come and see.

Come and see the tomb. The tomb
once occupied, now vacant; the grave
once sealed, now empty. Cynics have
raised their theories, doubters have
raised their questions. But their
musings continue to melt in the bright
light of Easter morning.

Come and see. He avoids no seeker. He
ignores no probe. He fears no search.
Come and see. Nathanael came. And
Nathanael saw. And Nathanael
discovered, "Teacher, you are the Son of
God, you are the King of Israel."

We should all follow the example of
Nathanael so that we can see the power of
Jesus Christ. Nathanael had an open mind
and he accepted Jesus immediately.
Wouldn't it be incredible if all of us had open
minds and could see fully the truth and
power of God and his son, Jesus Christ and
would use them as models to live our lives?
Open our eyes that we may 'Come and See'
the magnificent truth and the wonderful
world of our living God.



Bible Study Sunday School Class

DEBBIE DOUGLAS

The Bible Study Class began a couple of years ago when the church decided to read the One Year Bible together. When the year 2020 brought social distancing, we met in the Gazebo and then through Zoom as we focused on the Word of God until we were able to get back inside the church. This year the class continued on as the church was encouraged to read the Chronological Bible. In keeping with staying in the Word, we have decided to study the book of John starting in January. We will be using the book *Be Alive (Getting to Know the Living Savior)* by Warren Wiersbe and study a chapter of John each week. This book covers John Chapters 1 - 12 (this will be a 12-week study). We welcome anyone who would like to join us. We meet in room B1 at the bottom of the stairs. Let us know if you have any questions or would like a book. You can contact us at dad5775@gmail.com.

What's Up With the Birds & Bees...

AND BATS AND BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS IN HARRISONBURG?

Come find out on Wednesday, January 12 at 11:00am, when Jeremy Harold, Greenspace Manager for the City of Harrisonburg, comes to talk with us about pollinator beds. Come hear what's happening in our fair city and possibly on our church grounds. Let's meet in the gazebo if the weather is inviting, otherwise indoors location TBA. To learn more about the city's pollinator bed project, check out www.harrisonburgva.gov/pollinators.

You're invited to join the HBC Creation Care Team for this special event! For more info, contact Kathy Ritcher at (540) 908-0699.

*For everything that was written in the past
was written to teach us, so that
through endurance taught in the scriptures
and the encouragement they provide
we might have hope.*

ROMANS 15:4



Missions Committee Update

MARY SMITH

The Missions Committee wishes to express our deep appreciation to our congregation for their generosity over the past year. Your donations of money, time and prayers have allowed us to assist many people and organizations in 2021. Harrisonburg Baptist Church is known as a church of action with people who have compassion for others. Please read the message we received from Angie Adamek, Spotswood Elementary School Counselor:

I just wanted to say thanks again for all that you and our friends at HBC do to support Spotswood and our families. Your generosity and kindness are greatly appreciated by all of us. Please let the HBC community know how much we appreciate them. Merry Christmas!

Nasaruni Academy - HBC donated \$500 to the Nasaruni Academy for food to help feed the community.

Cheese and Beef Ministry Helping Kentucky - A monetary donation was given at the end of December to help bring food and water to the victims of the Tornadoes in Kentucky.

As we begin a new year, we want to thank Julie Aittama and Cindy Skelley for co-chairing the committee this past year. They have done a wonderful job, and we are deeply

appreciative of their dedication and support. We would like to thank Carl Crocker for his years of commitment to the Missions Committee. Don Cude, who also has been a devoted worker, will remain on the committee for another term. We welcome Kathy Ritcher as our newest member.

The 2022 Missions Committee members are Julie Aittama, Don Cude, Pat Dickens, Kathy Ritcher, and Cindy Skelley and Mary Smith.

College Ministry Update & Request for College Lunches

We hope you have noticed the number of students attending HBC and participating in our worship services and programs! We have had the joy of seeing several students graduate who have spent their college time attending HBC. Two active participants in the college ministry graduated in December 2021: Kendall Waters and Nicholas Barnes. Kendall provided keyboard, piano and guitar accompaniment and solos on many occasions, and Nick provided readings and led in prayers on several occasions. We say goodbye to them and wish them much success in the future. Relationship building has been key to their continued participation, and we want to continue building strong relationships with our many other students



who call HBC their church home. To support that effort, part of the College Ministry is feeding the students most Sundays when school is in session. Anyone who would like to provide a meal(s) is encouraged to sign up at the information desk. There is a list of dates when meals are needed as well as an estimated number of people who may attend. Please contact Cindy Skelley at (540)421-3273 or by email at scvaconn@aol.com if you need additional information about the lunches. We greatly appreciate the church's assistance with meals and relationship building. The students remark that they love the fellowship AND the food that HBC provides on Sundays.

Inclement Weather Policy

If weather conditions favor snow or ice, check our 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.

Address Change

Tom Smith
1187 Port Republic Rd
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...

... to all who served as the hands, feet and heart of Jesus as we shared food with neighbors during the month of December. Many generous folks (including friends at Emmanuel Episcopal) made it possible for us to provide meals at the Open Doors shelter Dec. 16-19. Other warm-hearted volunteers pitched in to help with the community meal served at HBC on Christmas Day, through Saturday Bag Lunch Ministry. HBC'ers and others cooked and baked, shopped, donated food, stuffed bags, served plates, poured drinks and shared Jesus' love with friends experiencing life crisis. Special thanks to our bag lunch team led by Kirt and Becky Ritchie who prepared the scrumptious Christmas dinner! Glory to God in the highest heaven!

... to all who joined us for Christmas Caroling on December 15. It was a good time of sharing fellowship and Christmas joy with folks we don't get to see as often as we'd like to. Thanks to all carolers, those who opened their doors, and to the Grahams for treating us to goodies and hot drinks afterwards.

... to all who contributed to the Staff Christmas Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Becky Armentrout
 Barbara Betts
 Robby Burke
 Diane Gray
 Dennis Greene
 Wayne & Sally Hannah
 Judy Miller
 Sherry Miller
 Bill & Barbara Pond
 Karen & Kerry Potter
 Jimmy & Nancy Russell
 Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Robert "Pedro" Sutherland
 (Tracie Ward's brother)
 Virginia Ruth Davis & Beth Howard
 (friends of Sara Kate Moore)
 Roger Baker (former member)
 Kati Honeycutt
 (Don & Julie Aittama's daughter)
 Martha Jane Burke
 (Robby Burke's mother)
 Tom Kuster & family
 (Jackie Leonard's friend)
 Becky Morris (Ellen Shomo's friend)
 Dorothy Shenk
 (Randy Shenk's mother)

SYMPATHY

Bill and Joan Sanger upon the death
 of their son, Daniel Sanger.

November Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs to date	\$ 501,360.00
Budget receipts to date	\$ 456,342.59

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Love Fund \$205.00
- Staff Christmas Fund \$2,050.00
- Lottie Moon Missions \$150.00
- World Hunger \$25.00
- Trustees Fund \$5,000.00

December Stewardship Snapshot

As of December 12, 2021

Budget needs	\$ 522,250.00
Budget receipts	\$ 495,823.41

Financial Dates To Remember

2022 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 – 2021 Year-end stock and other donations to the church must be in the church office by December 31st or postmarked by December 31st.

January 10 – All 2021 invoices or requests for reimbursement must be dated by December 31st and delivered to the church office by January 10, 2022. Any 2021 items received after January 10 will be posted to the 2022 budget.

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day Youth - Passion Conference Jan 1-4
2	3 Office Closed 4pm Missions Committee Mtg (Parlor)	4 6:00 Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	5	6	7	8
9 Deacon Ordination & Installation Service 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	10 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (FH)	11	12 11am - Pollinator Beds Project Presentation 5:45-7:45 pm Youth - Clothes Closet	13	14 6-8pm Family Fun Night (FH)	15
16 5:00 Creation Care Team Mtg (parlor) 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	17	18	19	20 February Newsletter Articles Due	21	22
23 Founders' Day - Mark Snipes, Guest Speaker 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	31 6:30pm Scouts Pack 42 (FH)					

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

SUNDAY

10:30am Community Worship

MONDAY

6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast
10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201)
1:00pm Staff Meeting (Parlor)
6:30pm Scouts

TUESDAY

11:00am Tuesdays Together (FH)
6:00pm Jubellation Practice

WEDNESDAY

10:00am Ladies Prayer Group (B4)
10:00am Skyline Literacy (Rm 201)
6:30pm Choir Practice

SATURDAY

10:00am Community Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Jan 2 — David Downey

Jan 9 — Phil Douglas

Jan 16 — Mary Smith

Jan 23 — Nico Nguimbi

Jan 30 — Mark Griffin

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Jan 1 — Cindy & Doug Skelley

Jan 8 — Heidi Ruiz

Jan 15 — Jeannie Petit

Jan 22 — Faye & Jeff Obenschain

Jan 29 — Youth/Katelyn Belcher

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

HBC ALIVE!

A publication of

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Winters, Senior Pastor

Rev. Eli Withers, Associate Pastor

Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Minister of Youth

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship

Leah Tripp, Praise Team Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Chris Belcher, Facilities Manager

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JANUARY 20, 2022

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

