

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

# HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter



## The Armentrout HVAC Story

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

Every place I've lived has been filled with surprises and histories of its own. When I arrived five years ago, the church's HVAC system was acting up, which had been a recurring theme. As the technician explained to me as we investigated the issues, we had a state-of-the-art pneumatic HVAC system...for the 1960s. Imagine that! As the scientists were trying to launch and land on the moon, we had our state of the art HVAC system installed. While it was advanced for its time, it wasn't timeless. As the moon landing faded into history, HVAC systems advanced beyond the pneumatic (air-based and the same term for the spirit in scripture—though both are unrelated to each other). Digital and electronic systems came of age! Well, that brings us to the present. It's time to replace our Baby Boomer HVAC with a new Gen Beta system.

What's amazing to me is that as I've watched the Finance Committee work, for five years they've been saving for such a day as this. What we've saved turns out to be a small portion of what was needed. In addition to saving, the church has been investing in mission work and loving our community around us. While we could have lived out of fear, I believe we've been living in faith trusting God to supply what we need when we need it. Enter the story of Becky Armentrout, who blessed the church after her death with an estate gift. Her generosity in her legacy has supplied exactly what the church

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needed to pay for the whole upgrade of our HVAC. Her blessing enables us to keep the mission of God's kingdom moving forward while replacing our moon-landing-style state-of-the-art HVAC.

I'm proud of Becky and thankful for generosity that leaves legacies. May we always trust God to supply our needs each and every day.

## Thoughts for the New Year

DONNA DOWNEY, DEACON

In trying to focus on the upcoming year and all the unexpected things that will happen, I have to reflect on those things of the recent past in my life. I look back at the last three and a half months of my life. It has been filled with many ups and downs. I have learned that God is by my side every day.

I also have learned how much a kind word and hug means to me. The kind words and expressions of concern and care that I have received have been a source of healing, love and support. I hope that I can carry this knowledge on to those of you who are in need of this care. God has shown His love through you my church family. I see Him in all of you. Sometimes we don't realize how much that the simple words and a hug mean.

I need to be aware of others need of God's love from me. Just a few words that I want to share with you, my dear friends.

## College & Young Adult Lunches

College and Young Adult lunches resumed on Sunday, January 26. We are looking for volunteers to provide simple lunches for our students each week, however on the first Sunday of each month this semester, we would especially like to invite church members to host meals in their home (as we did several years ago). Other meals will be held in the Fellowship Hall (with the exception of March 16 and 23 because of Spring Break).

If you would be willing to host a meal either in your home or at the church, please reach out to Mary Smith so she can let you know what dates are still available. You may want to consider teaming up with your small group or Sunday School class to provide a lunch. You are also invited to donate money toward a lunch if you are not able to provide a meal.


We appreciate your generosity! We also encourage you to spend some time with the students to help build and strengthen relationships within the church and community. They enjoy getting to know you! Happy Spring semester everyone!



## Mid-Winter Social

The Recreation Team invites you to "Stepping Out of Winter," HBC's mid-winter social to warm our spirits during the gray days of the season. Jim Kiser will teach and call a variety of dances to appeal to dancers of all ages and abilities. Some styles trace their roots to the 1600s, while others have a modern twist. Light refreshments will be provided. Ditch your snow boots and grab your dancing shoes to join us for lots of fun on Saturday, February 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.






# HYMN WRITING WORKSHOP

with a focus on  
**Caring for God's Creation**


**SPEAKERS Carolyn & Bruce Gillette**

**Free!** **Mar 1 - Workshop**  
10am - 4pm (Lunch Provided)  
**Register by Feb 24!**



Scan the code or visit  
[hbcalive.org/hymns](http://hbcalive.org/hymns)

**Mar 2 - Worship**  
10:30am Service featuring  
hymns and readings  
by Carolyn Gillette



Sponsored by The Augusta Baptist Association of Virginia, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia, and Harrisonburg Baptist Church

Do you love hymns? Have you ever wanted to try your hand at writing hymn texts? This is your chance to learn from the internationally known hymn writer, Carolyn Gillette! (Learn more about Carolyn at [carolynshymns.com](http://carolynshymns.com).) She will be joined by her husband, Bruce, a leader in the creation care movement, for a stimulating day of thinking about God's creation, our stewardship, and how we can use our own creativity to put into words our thoughts and feelings about the beautiful world God has entrusted us with. Carolyn will lead us step by step through the process of writing a hymn text, and fitting it to a familiar hymn tune, and you will leave with a verse or two of your own making and perhaps a deeper insight into the wonder of God's creation.

In addition to the Hymn Writing Workshop on Saturday, March 1, there will be service of hymns and readings by Carolyn Gillette on Sunday morning, March 2 at 10:30: "In the Beginning: Genesis in Scripture, Prayer and Song."

Kindly pre-register by February 24 using this link: [hbcalive.org/hymns](http://hbcalive.org/hymns) so that we have an accurate count for lunch and workshop supplies. There is no charge for the workshop. This event is being generously sponsored by the Augusta Baptist Association, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia and Harrisonburg Baptist Church.





## Upcoming Senior Adult Events

### VALENTINE LUNCHEON

*Thursday, February 6, 12pm*



*Ashley Carr, Director of Women's Ministry at New Beginnings Church*

All are welcomed to join us for a Valentine luncheon in the fellowship hall on Thursday, Feb. 6th at 12:00 pm. Chicken Pot Pie will be the main dish. Please sign up on the sheet at the information desk. We ask you bring a side dish or a dessert to share. Our guest speaker

will be Ashley Carr. Ashley is no stranger to HBC. She is the daughter of Vickie and the late David Westlake and grew up in our church.

Born in Arkansas in 1980, Ashley spent the Reagan years bouncing between Arkansas, West Virginia and the Valley where her family settled permanently. She graduated from Turner Ashby High School and continued the trend of being a local by achieving her undergraduate degree in Biology from Bridgewater College. She now resides in Hinton with her husband and 4 children. Ashley has spent the past 5 years teaching Biblical Truth weekly at Bible Study Fellowship and received a master's in Biblical Expository from Liberty University. An avid artist she loves to inspire others to explore

their creative side including hosting Bob Ross paint nights. She has been involved with the New Beginnings Worship Team for 19 years and just finished up one year leading Middle School Youth. Now she is director of women's ministry at New Beginnings Church. She has an overwhelming passion for God's word and sharing it with others.

You will absolutely want to come and hear what Ashley has to share with us.

### PHONE & INTERNET SECURITY FOR SENIORS: GUEST SPEAKER AND DESSERT

*Thursday, March 6, 2pm*

All are welcome to join us for an information session provided by one of our local law enforcement agencies concerning common scams, phishing attempts and other threats to our phone and computer use. Dessert will be provided by the Senior Adult Ministry.

### GAME AND CRAFT EVENT

*Thursday, April 3, 2pm*

Bring your favorite game and join us for an afternoon of games, crafts and fellowship. Mary Laughland will be available to help you make an Easter card. A "Fellowship Table" will be available for those who just wish to sit and talk together. Snacks will be provided by the Senior Adult Ministry team.

### PICNIC AT HILLANDALE PARK

*Thursday, May 1, 12pm*

Bring your lunch and plan to join us for an afternoon at Hillandale Park. Homemade ice cream and dessert will be provided by the Senior Adult Ministry Team.





## February Youth Events

FEB 2

9:15am Sunday School

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

FEB 9

9:15am Sunday School

No evening activities

FEB 12

6-8pm Clothes Closet

FEB 16

9:15am Sunday School

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

FEB 23

9:15am Sunday School

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

## March Youth Events

MAR 2

9:15am Sunday School

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

MAR 9

9:15am Sunday School

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

MAR 12

6-8pm Clothes Closet

MAR 16

9:15am Sunday School

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

MAR 23

9:15am Sunday School

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

MAR 30

9:15am Sunday School

No evening activities

## Youth Update: Winter Activities

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group has remained active during the winter months. In addition to their regular Sunday School and Sunday night Bible Study meetings, they also had excellent attendance during their fall Lock In at the end of November. It was a fantastic night of fellowship that included activities, such as: roller skating, narrowly completing an escape room designed by Pastor Matt, making their own pizzas at midnight, and playing seemingly endless games until early Saturday morning. Almost the entire group stayed awake the whole time—a first for us! The lock in was a great opportunity to invite new friends to experience our youth group in a low-pressure atmosphere. Another bonus was that their cell phones stayed packed up because they were having too much fun enjoying human interaction!

The youth group also had a great time at their Christmas Party on December 22. They appreciated doing a Christmas painting craft project while listening to Christmas music. Brittany Bowman made a delicious meal for the youth group. They also played charades and ended the night with a White Elephant gift exchange. Some of the “unique” gifts included fake eyelashes, creepy dolls, and a very strange vanity mirror. It was certainly a night of enjoyment as we celebrated Jesus’s birth together!









## Missions Minute

JULIE AITTAMA

The Missions Committee and others from HBC that work alongside us were very busy in 2024. We will be continuing the programs and outreach that we had in 2024.

The Blessing Box will continue with Sue Mason checking in with the monitors of the box from time to time. If you would like to be a part of the Blessing Box team, please let us know.

Don Cude and Julie Aittama keep the committee and HBC updated with the happenings at Nasaruni Academy for Maasai Girls. 2024 marked the first graduating class of the academy!! For 2025 the Missions Committee elected to help fund a new program at Nasaruni. Girls that are at risk for abuse or hunger can now stay during breaks. A paid staff member will supervise and teach skills to this small group of girls.

The Farm Ministry keeps expanding under the guidance of Keith Turner. He is not an official member of the Missions Committee, but we work alongside him as much as possible. Beef and cheese continue to aid the community and church food pantries.

Pastor Todd of McDowell, WV expressed a great need for the children of that area. Coats, socks and underwear were sent to Pastor Todd to distribute to the needy children.

Bag Lunch and Beyond! and the Missions Committee is in need of new or gently used blankets and socks (for men and women). The community in which we serve has expressed this need. Socks are needed all year long, but especially during the cold and rain. Donations can be left on the clothing rack near the Liberty Street door.

Trips to the flood area of Southwestern Virginia and areas of West Virginia were made in 2024. More trips are planned for 2025. If you are interested in going, there is a trip planned for March to return to Damascus, Virginia.

We have other programs in the community and beyond. May God continue to lead and guide us.

## Possible Disaster Relief Trip

Last year HBC sent a team of workers to Damascus, VA, for post-Hurricane Helene flood recovery. Some of the BCM students went back in early January. We are exploring sending another team to Damascus to work with other Augusta Baptist Association churches the week of March 3-7. If you're interested in going, please let Pastor Matt know.









## SAVE THE DATE! Bag Lunch Workshop

**Who:** Bag Lunch Servers  
(team leaders and members, substitutes,  
others interested in bag lunch ministry)

**When:** Sat. April 5, 9am-12noon

**Where:** HBC Fellowship Hall

**What:** Workshop

Sessions will include:

- mental health matters (led by Shirley Cobb)
- practical matters
- relationship matters

Drinks and Snacks provided!

**Why:** Let's work together to sharpen our ministry of feeding neighbors in Jesus' name!

Expect to gain insights, enjoy fun and fellowship, and become better equipped to serve our neighbors!

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*"As iron sharpens iron,  
so one person  
sharpens another."*

Proverbs 27:17

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## Rescheduled Sabbatical Report

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 6PM

Due to winter weather in January, we have rescheduled Pastor Eli's Sabbatical report to Wednesday, March 5. We invite you to join us for a soup and salad bar meal. We trust the weather will cooperate this time! March 5 is also Ash Wednesday, so as a part of Pastor Eli's report we'll have an art project that will recognize Ash Wednesday. Stay tuned for more information.

## Passportkids!

Our children grades 3 through 6 are heading to Eagle Eyrie for Passportkids! this summer (Wednesday, June 11 through Saturday, June 14). If your child would like to attend, a **deposit of \$75 per student is past due** (but reach out to Pastor Eli if your child would still like to attend) and the balance (depending on fundraising efforts but will be no more than \$100) will be **due by Sunday, April 27**. If you are interested in chaperoning this trip or if you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Eli.

## Thank you!

The pastors and staff at HBC wish to thank you all for your generous contributions to the Staff Christmas Fund. We are honored to serve with you and are greatly blessed by your kindness!





## Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 12/31/24     \$ 623,934.00  
Budget receipts as of 12/31/24     \$ 586,412.86

### Non-Budget Designated Funds

- Lottie Moon                             \$2,175.00
- Alma Hunt/VA State Missions     \$100.00
- World Hunger                         \$100.00
- Global Missions                       \$150.00
- Habitat for Humanity                 \$1,592.00
- Community Bag Lunch               \$470.00
- Love Fund                               \$1,577.72
- Staff Christmas Fund                 \$3,435.00
- Van Fund                                 \$5,000.00

## Staff Recognition

Many thanks to our dedicated staff who are celebrating a work anniversary soon!

**Susan Kiser** has been our financial ministry assistant for 7 years as of February 12.

**Rosemary Lonberger** has served as our organist for 18 years as of March 1.

**Erin Waddell** has served as Praise Team Leader for 2 years as of March 12.

**Pastor Matt Winters** has served as Senior Pastor for 5 years as of March 15.

**Pastor Eli Withers** has served as Associate Pastor for 9 years as of March 27.

## Address Change

**Steve & Pattie Alvis**  
304 Two Creek Dr  
Lynchburg, VA 24502

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### HBC FAMILY

- David Downey
- Carl Herring
- Judi Fields
- Faye Bland
- Dale Wright
- Terry Hughey
- Debbie Snyder
- Edy Cupp
- Diane Gray
- Sandy Cude
- Nancy Russell

### NURSING CARE/HOMEBOUND

- Bryan Acker
- Chris Gamble
- Dennis Greene
- Wayne Hannah
- Sue Jones
- Constance Via

### EXTENDED FAMILY

- Cynthia Shifflett  
(Joyce Deavers' daughter)
- Anne Kendrick (Judy Simmons' sister)
- Sandra Mace (Julia Aittama's friend)
- Jeff Garber (Liz Garber's son)
- Grace Kaleda (Julia Aittama's cousin)

### SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of members and former members who have passed away recently:

- Ron Lyle (1/3/2025)
- Jeff Weaver (11/25/2024)
- Wayne Robertson (11/24/2024)



# FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Staff Out of Office</b> Matt: Jan 27-Feb3						1  2-5pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
2  2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	3	4	5	6  12pm Senior Adult Valentine Lunch	7	8
9  5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	10  6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)	11  2pm Bag Lunch & Beyond Mtg (B4)	12  6-8pm Youth - Clothes Closet	13  1pm Sewing Circle (B4)	14  	15
16  2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	17	18  6pm Wonder Women (B4)	19	20	21	22  6:30pm Mid-Winter Social (FH)
23	24	25	26	27  11:30am Brookdale 1pm Sewing Circle (B4)	28	29

## FEB BIRTHDAYS

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

## WEEKLY REOCCURRING 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 (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 (111, 201, 203)
- FRIDAY**
  - Office Closed
- SATURDAY**
  - 10:30am Community Bag Lunch

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

- Feb 2 — Laura Fly
- Feb 9 — Nico Nguimbi
- Feb 16 — Donna Downey
- Feb 23 — Karen Folsom

## COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

- Feb 1 — Skelley & Wright
- Feb 8 — Jeff Obenschain
- Feb 15 — Heidi Ruiz
- Feb 22 — Dayton & B'water  
Methodist Youth



# MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10am-4pm Hymn Writing Workshop with Carolyn & Bruce Gillette
2 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	3	4 5:30pm Finance Cmte Mtg (B4)	5 6pm Ash Wednesday Dinner & Pastor Eli's sabbatical presentation	6 2pm Senior Adult Seminar & Dessert: Phone & Internet Security	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Begins 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	10 6:30pm Deacon Mtg (B4)	11 2pm Bag Lunch & Beyond! Mtg (B4)	12 6-8pm Youth - Clothes Closet	13	14	15
16 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	17	18 6pm Wonder Women (B4)	19	20 Apr/May Newsletter Articles Due	21	22
23 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	24 6pm Scouts (Sanctuary & FH)	25	26	27 11:30am Brookdale	28	29
30	31	Staff Out of Office Kim: Mar 3-10 Matt: Mar 10-11 Eli: Mar 10-11				

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- 4pm Jubellation Practice

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

- 10am Skyline Literacy (111, 201, 203)

### FRIDAY

- Office Closed

### SATURDAY

- 10:30am Community Bag Lunch

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

- Mar 2 — Mark Griffin
- Mar 9 — Dustyn Miller
- Mar 16 — Jeff Obenschain
- Mar 23 — Cathy Lawrence
- Mar 30 — Randy Dail

## COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

- Mar 1 — Emmanuel Episc
- Mar 8 — Sharon Miller
- Mar 15 — Mike Clark
- Mar 22 — Cindy Mandigo
- Mar 29 — Kathy Ritcher

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gilbert Dara
- 2 Louise Johnson
- 5 Jake Petit
- 6 Elise Ritchie
- 7 Ethann Anye
- 7 Jim Kiser
- 8 Pattie Alvis
- 8 Janet Smith
- 10 Dennis Simmons
- 11 Susan Yazdani
- 12 Zeke Belcher
- 14 Cathy Baugh
- 14 Katie Mazingo
- 16 Gary Lohr
- 17 Austin Harper
- 18 Will Simmons
- 19 David Hayes
- 20 Betsy Fly
- 23 Betty Ecklund
- 27 Cindy Skelley
- 28 Chris Belcher
- 28 Leah Tripp
- 29 Kevin Petit
- 31 Angela Hayes



## 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)

#### 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

APR/MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

MAR 20, 2025

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at [kim@hbcalive.org](mailto:kim@hbcalive.org)

LOVE THE LORD  
WITH ALL YOUR  
heart  
WITH ALL YOUR  
soul AND  
WITH ALL YOUR  
strength  
Deuteronomy  
10:5