

The Pastor's Part



"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Most of us know this line from Ecclesiastes 3 and that it speaks about the rhythms of life. "A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to harvest; a time to kill and a time to heal."

We all live in the regularity of life, in fact we depend on it. We expect the sun to come up, the rains to come in its seasons, even the progression of the seasons. There can be great comfort in knowing that overall we can expect a certain flow of life. How frightening life would be without a large amount of dependability. Up must always be up and down must always be down.



We must trust that the majority of people are good, honest, and truthful, and that we can live in a well ordered society and not chaos. Think about the chaos in Ukraine and Gaza because of war brought on by groups or individuals whose sole purpose is lust for power and hate of others.

We are truly blessed to live in a land that, in spite of its flaws, is still a land of laws and our Constitution. Let us continue to pray for those lands and peoples who live in chaos, war, hunger, and hate each day. Let us pray for this nation that we will never descend into the hell of lawlessness and darkness and that God will always hold back the chaos.



Peace and blessing,

Preecha



Hebron will celebrate 278 years on Sunday, October 13, 2024 with a luncheon

to follow worship services!

The church will provide main courses and beverages.

Please bring side dishes and desserts.

So plan to attend and enjoy a festive meal with your Hebron family!

Questions: Call Theresa Moore at 540.448.0335

A Note of Appreciation

Dear Hebron Members,

I want to express my deepest appreciation to you for the warm welcome you have given me as your new organist and choir director. The luncheon was lovely, and it was nice to meet and visit with so many of you. I look forward to serve and work with the Hebron congregation!



Thank you again for your hospitality.

Sarah Grove-Humphries

Autopsy of a Deceased Church

Continued from September "Hebron Herald"

By M. Hannah Bush

"The Great Commission Becomes the Great Omission"

Dying churches often sit back and let the pastor or elders visit in the community or with members no longer attending. Where do we stand on this? Are we (or am I) contacting people about worship at Hebron?

Some of our best ideas have come at times when we had no pastor. Worshipping on the lawn during COVID was brilliant and an example for other churches with the Shenandoah Presbytery. We picked up new members who saw us together. Cooperative spirit and initiative was shown by all.

"The Preference Driven Church"

Many church goers or 'not goers' use the excuse that they don't like the hour of the service, or the music, or the pastor. These are just that—excuses. "We are to be servants. We are to be obedient. We are to put others first. We are to do whatever it takes to seek the best for others and the church." Decisions are by the majority, either in full or through the elected elders. They are not designed to match each one's personal preferences. So what if we do not like the way some things are done?

"Pastoral Tenure Decreases"

In a dying church, pastor turnover is rapid. The congregation awaits a new pastor who will make things better. But if the people are unwilling to make the changes recommended by the new pastor, the "honeymoon" phase is over and people start to notice that the new pastor is not perfect and look for reasons to complain. Whatever happened to Christian forgiveness, or any kind of forgiveness?

Ask yourself: Is it personal to me and my family? Did the new pastor not meet my personal expectations? Did he not come running when I called? Soon the new pastor becomes frustrated at the reluctance to change the old ways. So, the church is stuck in the past and discontent begins again.

Few people like change. But how does a church get out of the 'same ole' to try new things and adapt to the 21st Century, which is one fourth gone already? Do we need exactly one wreath on each door? Does the pulpit need to be covered in poinsettias or lilies? Could those donations be used to reach out to the community?

The point of the book, *Autopsy of a Dying Church* is that we must maintain our best energy and drive the church forward. Even though we have contributed our time, talents, and money all these years, we cannot stop now. Our work in God's name is not finished.

SACRA and Valley Mission News

As the air gets cooler and the days get shorter, our local service groups have more requests than ever before to help others in need. Hebron has been collecting non-perishable foods for SACRA for many years. Some members make monetary contributions through our church treasury. Valley Mission is always in need of cleaning and personal hygiene supplies for the homeless.

During the month of September, Hebron collected 65 items for SACRA. We thank you for those contributions. Valley Mission has a "wish list" available on Amazon the members can order needed items to send to the mission.

With the holidays approaching, please consider adding these agencies to your giving list.

The PW Annual Food Drive Returns For 2024

September 4, 2024

Today, the USDA released data showing that food insecurity in the United States increased by 6% in 2023. We must not accept that 47.4 million people—1 in 7 people, including 1 in 5 children—experience food insecurity in the wealthiest nation in the world. These numbers support what we have been seeing at food banks, pantries, and meal programs and what we have been hearing from people across the country who are confronted with the high prices of essentials like groceries and housing.

Claire Babineaux-Fonlenet

CEO of Feeding America

We are living in tough times. The price of everything has escalated— food, gas, insurance, housing, utilities. And the Hebron membership has felt the pinch. However, the Presbyterian Women made a decision at a recent meeting to try their best to collect food to distribute to families in need in our community. In 2023 with the help of the congregation, the women packed thirty-seven boxes and bags for eleven families that fed fifty-eight people in the Reverse Advent Food Box initiative. This year could be a real challenge, but the ladies felt the project is worth a try so please consider donating to the cause. Please be reminded that expiration dates should be 2025 or beyond on all food items. Millie Ruleman will be collecting monetary donations as well if you feel you are unable to do the shopping for the project. Last year, Millie did a great job watching local grocery ads and shopping at discount grocers.

In addition to the food drive, Larry Mayer is donating a bowl he has turned from oak trees cut on Hebron’s property. In the past, Maxine Carpenter has donated quilts she constructed to use to raise additional funds for the PW. Maxine has agreed to collect \$5 donations for a chance to win Larry’s hand-turned bowl.



In the past, these funds were used to support WRE at Riveheads and Churchville Elementary Schools as well as donations to New Directions and Links of Love.

The following is a list of items the PW will be collecting:

Reverse Advent Food Boxes

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Canned corn | 13. Jelly |
| 2. Baked Beans (Bush’s) | 14. Green beans |
| 3. Canned Tomatoes | 15. Canned fruit |
| 4. Spaghetti Sauce | 16. Canned carrots |
| 5. Pasta | 17. Tomato Soup |
| 6. Crackers | 18. Chicken Noodle Soup |
| 7. Oatmeal in packets | 19. Instant potatoes |
| 8. Cereal | 20. Albacore Tuna |
| 9. Applesauce | 21. Canned Chicken |
| 10. Rice | 22. Canned Mixed Veggies |
| 11. Stuffing | 23. Macaroni & Cheese |
| 12. Peanut Butter | 24. Brownie/Dessert Mix |



Last year, we were able to add items such as salt, pepper, muffin/cornbread mixes, pudding cups, and Vienna sausages to our boxes. Other possibilities might include cooking oil, sugar, flour, beef/chicken broth, granola bars, canned ham, or canned salmon. We will find a place for anything you may donate!

Collection boxes for the PW items will be located in the church vestibules. The donation box for SACRA items is located in the Educational Building.

Thank you for your help!

“Little by little, a little means a lot.”

Tanzanian proverb

The Rev. Frank Hunter Wyche

For almost three years the Rev. William Everhart served as an interim pastor to Hebron after the resignation of Rev. John Barbour in June, 2004. Finally, a Pastor Nominating Committee formed in 2006 and the hunt for a new pastor to serve the congregation began. After reviewing 350 Pastor Information Forms, the PNC believed they had found a candidate who was a strong worship leader, teacher administrator, and valued visitation of the church membership. The PNC then introduced the Rev. Frank Hunter Wyche for consideration. The Committee on Ministry examined Rev. Wyche on March 8, 2007, and he preached his first sermon to the Hebron congregation on May 6, 2007, with a welcoming luncheon following.

Rev. Wyche was born November 10, 1955, the son of Dr. Joseph T. and Elizabeth Calder Wyche. He earned an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For



twelve years, he was a newspaper editor-reporter-photographer for a bi-weekly newspaper. He also served eight years as a community relations-community education liaison

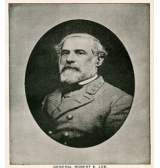
with a public school system. He was commissioned as a lay preacher in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, preaching up to thirty weeks a year. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in May, 1998, with a Master of Divinity degree and thus began his second career as a Presbyterian minister.

The Presbytery of Cincinnati ordained him a minister of the PCUSA in July, 1998. He was called as the pastor of the Sharonville Presbyterian Church for more than three years and was designate pastor of White Oak Presbyterian Church for four years. He served as an interim pastor of Reading Lockland Presbyterian church, the vice-moderator of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, and the moderator of the Committee on Ministries. He considered preaching,

teaching, leadership, and pastoral care his strengths.

Frank married his high school “sweetheart” Elaine Britt, a life long educator. They are the parents of four children, Bob, Beth, Brittany, and Andrew and seven grandchildren.

Among the highlights of Rev. Wyche’s tenure during his Hebron years, the church hosted the Shenandoah Presbytery in 2008, the Session agreed to sell the Robert E. Lee letter, and the cemetery received a grant from the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution as a result of six Revolutionary War soldiers who were buried in the old cemetery.



New board fencing, metal fencing, and numerous tree removals improved Hebron’s historic cemeteries. Electrical and heating upgrades in the sanctuary and educational building as well as lighting the back parking lot were completed. The kitchen received a makeover with new flooring, stainless steel islands, and a new ice maker. Events such as fire pit concerts and picnics, Family Fun Nights, and TOY meals enhanced fellowship among the members. A new piano was purchased for the sanctuary and an 8 foot organ stop was added to *Opus 46*.

The congregation made decisions to reduce the size of the Session from fifteen to twelve members as well as to dissolve the Scout troop that had been in existence since 1955. Church membership fell from 243 to 137 and average attendance decreased from 121 to 64.



In December, 2018, Rev. Wyche asked the congregation to dissolve his relationship with Hebron in order to accept a call to the Sparta Presbyterian church in Sparta, **(Wyche continued on page five, column one)**



The Session of Hebron Presbyterian Church resolves by unanimous acclamation at its August 25, 2024 stated meeting to commend and recognize M. Hannah Bush for her faithful service of over 20 years as the Choir Director. Moreover, the Session recognizes that Hannah conducted these duties pro bono for a majority of the years she served.



World Communion Sunday Is October 6

Hebron will join with churches around the world to celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 6. Each year on this day, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation.



The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected on this date. This offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by spreading the Word to others and to promote peacemaking and justice here and abroad. Seventy-five percent of the offering goes to the Presbyterian Church USA for national and international distribution while twenty-five percent is retained by the congregation for peace and witness efforts in our local community. This year, the congregation's portion



of the offering will be donated to **Camp Light** in Waynesboro. Remember every gift makes a difference in the life of someone who needs God's love and support.

(**Wyche** continued from page four)

North Carolina., at the center of the Blue Ridge Parkway. He preached his last sermon on November 24, after which a luncheon was held to honor his eleven years as minister to the Hebron congregation.

After twenty-five years in the ministry, Rev. Wyche retired from the ministry on August 15, 2023. He and Elaine moved to Candler, North Carolina, southwest of Asheville to be closer to his children residing in the area.

Hebron Presbyterian Church

Congregational Meeting

September 8, 2024

Following the morning worship service on September 8, 2024, Rev. Hank D. Scoggins, Moderator, called the Congregational Meeting to order at 12:01pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. A quorum was declared present and by common consent, Robin Moyer, Clerk of Session, was appointed to serve as recording secretary of the meeting.

There was one item of business for this meeting, to elect the elders to the Class of 2027.

Liz Brown, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of nominees for the Class of 2027:

- Glenn Mader
- Randy Moyer
- David Obenschain

The Moderator opened the floor for further nominations.

There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. The Congregation approved the three nominees by acclamation. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator at 12:03pm.

Rev. Henry D. Scoggins, Moderator

Robin Moyer, Clerk of Session

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STATED SESSION MEETING

August 25, 2024

12:15 PM

Present: Elders Glenn Mader, Larry Mayer, Lina Smith, Anita Tuttle, Mike Dundas, Liz Brown, Robert Christian, Sandy Showalter, and Clerk of Session Robin Moyer

Excused: Randy Moyer, Tracy Mayer

Guest: Treasurer Hannah Bush

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Henry D. Scoggins

The meeting was called to order at 12:35pm. A quorum was declared present. The moderator opened the meeting with a devotional reading from Psalm 117 and prayer.

Clerk's Report:

- The Session approved the agenda for this meeting.
- Session approved the minutes from the Stated Session Meeting July 21, 2024, the Email poll August 6, 2024, by common consent.

Communion was served August 4, 2024.

Treasurer's Report: Hannah Bush previously emailed members a Balance Sheet and a Budget vs. Actual income-expense report. Net income as of August 15, 2024, is -870.80. After reviewing the reports, the treasurer's reports were accepted as presented.

Presbytery Meeting: Next meeting scheduled on September 14, 2024, 9:30am, at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA.

Old Business:

- Officer Nominating Committee Chair Liz Brown brought forth three names to be nominated for the Class of 2027, Glenn Mader, Randy Moyer, and David Obenschain. There was discussion on the difficulty of getting members for the Session. A motion was made to decrease the number of Session members from 12 to 9. The motion was seconded and approved by Session unanimously.

- Larry Mayer gave an update on the incorporation progress. He said the last changes had been made to

the paperwork and we are waiting for the attorney to file.

- Larry is also looking into updates that may need to be made to the insurance policy with the new organist teaching a class in the Fellowship Hall.

Committee Reports:

- **Administrative Committee:** Ellen Desper and Sandy Showalter asked committee chairs to review the manual on committees and update duties if needed. Committee chairs can email Joann in the church office for a copy.
- **Christian Outreach Committee:** Chair Randy Moyer presented Tara Cahill her scholarship checks during worship service on July 28, 2024.
- **Congregational Life Committee:** No report.
- **Property:** Chair Robert Christian reported installation of the air conditioning came in under budget. Budget was \$28,000 plus \$2000-\$3000 for electrical expenses. The cost was approximately \$28,600. The second phase is on hold for the time being due to the first phase working very efficiently. The month of July showed approximately only a \$44 increase on the electricity bill, and \$64 increase for the month of August.
- **Worship:** Mark Wilson will cover for Rev. Scoggins on the Sunday in September while he is on vacation.

Moderator's Report:

- There was discussion on approving groups to use the church facilities. If it is a known group, it can be approved by the property committee, or the clerk and Pastor. Then it will be relayed to the Session members. A motion was made to require new outside community groups to request the use of the building and/or facilities and grounds, at least 30 days prior to an event. The motion was seconded and there was no more discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Session passed unanimously a resolution to recognize Hannah Bush for her 23 years of service as choir director. The resolution reads as follows:

(Session continued on page eight, column two)

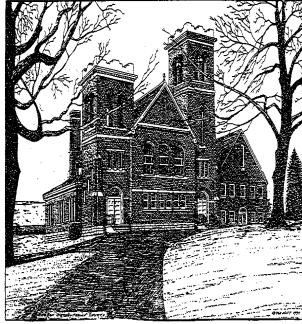


October 2024
Hebron Presbyterian
Church
Sunday School 9:55 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bible Study 11:00 A.M.	2	3	4 Smile Day 	5
6 World Communion Sunday Worship 11:00 A.M.	7	8 Bible Study 11:00 A.M.	9	10	11	12 Farmer's Day 
13 Heritage Sunday Worship 11:00 A.M. Luncheon	14	15 Bible Study 11:00 A.M.	16	17	18	19 Sweetest Day 
20 Worship 11:00 A.M.	21	22 Bible Study 11:00 A.M.	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 11:00 A.M. Session Mtg.	28	29 Bible Study 11:00 A.M.	30	31 Halloween 		

HEBRON HERALD

Hebron Presbyterian Church
423 Hebron Road
Staunton, VA 24401
Church Office: (540) 885-1648
E-mail: myhebronpc@gmail.com
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/HebronPCUSA
YouTube:
www.youtube.com/HebronChurch-Staunton
Website: www.hebronpres-stauntonva.org
Ministries available to all ages
Sunday School 9:55 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Supply Pastor - Dr. Henry Scoggins
Editors of *Hebron Herald* for October Joan Clemmer Wright
and Joann Weikert



October Birthdays

- 1 Mike Dundas
- 2 Brenda Smiley
- 3 E.M. (Junior) Hewitt
- 5 Mason Brown
- 13 Joan Wright
- 19 Keyser Kirtley
- 19 Mike Fallin

Elder of the Month of October

Randy Moyer will serve as the Elder of the Month of October. If the church office is closed or in case of an emergency, you may reach Randy at 540.649.3823 for assistance.

Thanks to Glenn Mader who served as the EOM of September.

(Session continued from page six)

“The Session of Hebron Presbyterian Church resolves by unanimous acclamation at its August 25, 2024, Stated meeting to commend and recognize M. Hannah Bush for her faithful service of over 20 years as the Choir Director. Moreover, the Session recognizes that Hannah conducted these duties pro bono for a majority of the years she served.”

Flowers will also be put in the sanctuary on September 1, 2024.

New Business:

- There was discussion starting a new Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Liz Brown brought forth a suggestion to look into Strategic Renewal, a program to grow membership in the congregation.
- Motion was made to have a Congregational meeting on September 8, 2024, to elect the Class of 2027 to Session. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Closing and Adjournment:

___The meeting was adjourned with prayer from the Moderator at 1:54pm.

Our next Stated Session Meeting will be September 22, 2024, at 12:15pm.

Robin Moyer
Clerk of Session