

The Pastor's Part



We are starting our Bible Study again- September 10 at 11:00. We studied Mark the last time- the first Gospel written. I was not sure what we were looking at next, and I got some ideas from the class. Then, it became clear to me that there is nothing like starting in the beginning. So, we will be studying the first five books of the Old Testament called the Pentateuch, the Books of Moses and the Torah. It is the foundation of all that comes later, the foundation of our faith.

I spoke to someone of a very different branch of Christianity recently and asked him to tell me a little about his beliefs. I must admit I was shocked when he said there are lessons to be learned in the Old Testament, but they would never preach from it, never put it on the same level at all of the New Testament. Wow! For most of Christianity, the entire Bible is the Canon, from the Greek meaning rule. It has always been wrong- one could say heretical- to have a Canon within a Canon and thus ignore major parts of what we call God's Word.



Thomas Jefferson took bits and pieces of the New Testament, the ones he thought were important or best to fit his theology, and discarded the rest!!! Certainly parts of scripture are not on the same level - after all the *Song of Songs* is simply a Jewish love poem- but to push the foundation of our faith aside is wrong.

It was through thought, prayer and interactions that led me to start in the beginning. I hope you will come and be part of not only the study but the

¹(Pastor continued in the second column)

Thank You, Hannah!

With close to 1,144 Wednesday night and Sunday morning rehearsals, anthem preparations for each of those weeks, numerous Easter and Christmas cantatas, hours choosing and ordering choral music, attending worship and music committee meetings, and in recent months, searching and contacting pianists and organists to provide accompaniment for worship services, M. Hannah Bush is retiring as choir director.

After a period of numerous directors in a very short time in the late 1990's, the Session accepted Hannah's offer to become the choir's leader in November, 2001, a position that she has held for twenty-two years and ten months. Hannah earned a degree in music at Mary Washington College (now University) in the late 1960's. She has been an integral member of Stonewall Brigade Band and other music groups, having played a variety of instruments.



Hannah, Hebron appreciates your many years of dedication and service to the Hebron congregation. Godspeed!

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:23

(Pastor continued from column one)

fun and fellowship. I can truthfully say that we all have enjoyed it, gotten to know not only the Bible better but each other. It is 45 minutes or so of learning and laughter. Don't miss out.

Peace.,

Preecha

Autopsy of a Deceased Church

Continued from August *Hebron Herald*

By M. Hannah Bush

“Slow Erosion of Churches”

Have we noticed “slow erosion” at Hebron? Certainly, it has been noticeable in the choir. At one time there were as many as sixteen or more in the choir; now we have six. These choir members have remained loyal throughout COVID and beyond. They enjoy singing but they also believe that music is a vital part of worshipping. Why else would they sit on hard wooden chairs away from their families? I once said we should not do an anthem unless there were at least six to eight singers. I have had to eat those words several times and we have even done anthems with only four singers.

The Men of the Church fizzled out. The Presbyterian Women at Hebron, once three circles, dwindled to one and now is no longer meeting. Our yard sales and Evening of Comfort and Joy were a hit with former members and our neighbors. Now both have died because those doing all the heavy work have aged and are unable to keep it up.

Our membership is older now, but not necessarily wiser. Members are not volunteering. It is not just because of age limitations. It is due to the thinking, “I’ve been doing that for so long, it’s time for me to step back and let someone else do it.” Who is this someone else? Jesus asked the disciples to volunteer; He did not ask them to volunteer someone else. Pastor Hank has spoken several times that we should work for the Lord all our lives if we are truly grateful for giving his son that we might live. There is no such thing as “been there and done that”.

“The Past is the Hero”

Hebron needs the community and the community needs Hebron. We still take food and supplies to

SACRA and Valley Mission. But the Hunger Offering has withered and died. We were joining Smokey Row Baptist, Middlebrook Church of God, Four Square Gospel, and Arbor Hill Church of the Brethren for Thanksgiving services. We dropped that joint activity after COVID hit.

There are other activities that have fallen by the wayside. Have we lost our Vision? Our Mission Statement: “As a historic church community we celebrate Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, grow in faith through worship, and serve our congregation and community with love.” Are we serving our community?

Look at our budgets. Most of our dollars go to take care of our own needs and wants. Are we a tithing church? In 2023 only 3% of our budget went to benevolences, both local and non-local. This action in that year mimics what the book states; that when receipts decline, budget cuts usually are made to programs and ministries outside the church.

Many dying churches let their physical facilities erode. To Hebron’s credit and with the hard work of the Property Committee and many others, Hebron has taken excellent care of its property—both buildings and grounds. Old buildings require money to maintain but we have been willing to do the work and provide the funding.

(To be concluded next month...Hannah Bush)

September Elder of the Month

Glenn Mader will serve as Elder of the Month for September. If the church office is closed, you may contact Glenn at 540-255-7869.



We thank Sandy Showalter for serving as the EOM for August.

Hebron Health: Vaccine Tips for Seniors

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and US Department of Health and Human Services recommend certain vaccines for adults 50 and over. Below is a guide to show you which vaccines you should consider and discuss with your health care provider.

Older adults need to get vaccines (shots) to prevent serious diseases. Protect your health by getting all your vaccines on schedule.

If you are age 50 years or older:

- Get a shingles vaccine. Shingles causes a painful rash that can last for months.

If you are age 60 years or older:

- Talk to your doctor about getting an RSV vaccine. RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) infections are usually mild but can be serious for some people.

If you are age 65 years or older:

- Get a pneumococcal vaccine. Pneumococcal disease can include pneumonia, meningitis, and blood infections.

It is also important for all adults to:

- Get a flu vaccine every year. The seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and others from the flu.
- Get the Tdap vaccine to protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (pertussis). Everyone needs to get the Tdap vaccine at least once.
- After you get a Tdap vaccine, get a Td vaccine every 10 years to keep you protected from tetanus and diphtheria.
- Get a COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Community Immunity

Did you know that when you get vaccinated, you are protecting yourself and your community?

This concept is called community immunity, or herd immunity. And it is an important reason for you and your family to get vaccinated — so you can help keep yourselves and your community healthy.

How does this work?

Germs can travel quickly through a community and make a lot of people sick. If enough people get sick, it can lead to an outbreak. But when enough people are vaccinated against a certain



disease, the germs cannot travel as easily from person to person — and the entire community is less likely to get the disease.

That means even people who cannot get vaccinated will have some protection from getting sick. And if a person does get sick, there is less chance of an outbreak because it is harder for the disease to spread. Eventually, the disease becomes rare — and sometimes, it is wiped out altogether.

Who does it protect?

Community immunity protects everyone. But it is especially important because some people cannot get vaccinated for certain diseases — such as people with some serious allergies and those with weakened or failing immune systems (like people who have cancer, HIV/AIDS, type 1 diabetes, or other health conditions).

Community immunity is also important for the very small group of people who do not have a strong immune response from vaccines.

Janice Kitts-Cook Augusta Health

DNP RN, NE-BC, CHC, CHRC

Policy and process Manager, Compliance

The Reverend Donald John Barbour

For almost three years, the Rev. Thomas Lane and the Rev. Charles Reller served as interim pastors before the Pastor Nominating Committee unanimously presented the Rev. Donald John Barbour as the nominee for the pastor of Hebron Presbyterian Church in a congregational meeting held on April 12, 1998. The committee had studied over 200 information forms and traveled over 6,000 miles in the search for a minister. On April 25, Rev. Barbour was examined by Presbytery and was welcomed into Hebron Church on July 5, 1998.

Rev. Barbour was born in Mississippi on June 28, 1973, to Donald S. and Katherine Barbour. When John was six months old, the family moved to Orlando, Florida. John attended Rollins College in Winter Park and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and religion in 1976 and a Master of Business Administration degree in 1980. He was employed by Southland Corporation for two years and as a project director for Barbour and Monroe Marketing Research until 1987.



John entered Columbia Theological Seminary in 1984 and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1988. He was ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Memphis, Tennessee, and spent a period of time working as a youth pastor in Mississippi, Florida, and Georgia.. From 1990-93, Rev. Barbour served as the solo minister in Louisa and Mineral, Virginia.

While at Columbia, John met and married Laurie Lee, a music education major from Kansas, who also received a Master of Divinity degree. The Barbours were the parents of Andrew, 6, and Hannah, 4, when they moved to the manse at Hebron. Laurie directed Hebron's choir from October, 1999, to February, 2001.

During Rev. Barbour's tenure at Hebron, the

church made many changes and improvements. The congregation accepted a unicameral form of government which combined the board of deacons with the ruling elders. The New Century Campaign Fund enabled the church to update and improve the physical buildings such as provide a new copper roof to replace the sanctuary's slate one, air condition the manse and provide a new roof, and replaced the furnace in the church complex. The Christian Education committee started the Logos program for youth during fall and spring sessions. The Session voted to celebrate Homecoming every five years with Heritage Sunday being observed during the years in between. The Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the rebuilding of the sanctuary and the fiftieth anniversary of the Educational Building. New hymnals replaced the old red ones and a pictorial directory of church members was created.

In March, 2001, the church approved the purchase of a Taylor Boody organ, Opus 46, to be delivered sometime during the fall of 2005 at a price of \$320,000 plus escalation fees. Sanctuary renovations began to accommodate this purchase including changes in the sanctuary floor, choir loft, walls, and ceiling.



Unfortunately, Rev. Barbour's time at Hebron was marred by discord and conflict between the pastor and pastor's family, some church members, and the choir. There were concerns regarding his leadership, performance, administration, and interpersonal skills to resolve personal differences. The Session sent letters to the congregation asking members to give input regarding support or conflict in writing or in person. The Session held multiple meetings with Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Church membership fell from 339 to 259, and attendance dropped from (Barbour continued on page five column one)

(Barbour continued from page four column two)

an average high of 181 to 118 during Rev. Barbour's 5 1/2 years at Hebron. Many members requested to transfer membership to neighboring churches as well as some church officers resigned their positions. Throughout this time, the Session affirmed support to the minister.

The Committee on Ministry presented the Session with five possible solutions. On November 11, 2003, Rev. Barbour requested to dissolve relations with Hebron Church. On June, 13, 2004, the congregation met to formalize that request as Rev. Barbour had accepted a position as Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Boone, North Carolina. There he served until his recent retirement.



Valley Mission Wish List

Valley Mission at 1513 West Beverley Street in Staunton is requesting items to aid its clients. At this time, the mission is in need of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and laundry soap. You may also find a more extensive list on amazon.com.

Items may be placed in the Educational Building in a clear box marked "Valley Mission". The mission is open Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. if you wish to drop supplies at their office area.



Baja Mission 2024 Recap

Dear Shenandoah Presbytery,

A spiritual journey like a mission trip begins with a sacred pause, a centering in God that overtime becomes a constant and ceaseless prayer which connects servants to the Holly One and awakens us to our true self.

On Sunday morning, July 7, our Baja mission team of twenty-eight members formed a circle around our hotel's third floor garage surrounded by San Diego's tall buildings and spectacular boats. We reflected on God's provisions over the past year, listened for the winds of the Spirit, exchanged remembrance gems with our prayer partners, and prayed for God's guidance for our trip ahead.

Fast forward nine hours, our mission team arrived in Vicente Guerrero and unpacked our suitcases at the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Base. Then, we continued the tradition of eating our first meal in Mexico at Pap Reuben's. Every morning we were nourished in body, mind, and spirit through a great breakfast in the dining hall and morning worship around the fire pit.

At the build sites, we began our days by greeting Aurora's and Macrina's families, and praying as a build team together. During the sunny days with soft breezes, along with a high UV index between 9-12 and 72 degrees temperatures, our team members organized wood, cut boards, painted trim boards, raised roofs, assembled walls, installed doors, framed counter-tops, trimmed windows, painted signs, and decorated.

During our mission week, we not only built during the day and shopped for furniture and groceries, but also we served in the community at night. On Monday, we visited a senior center where we sang songs in English and Spanish with a local church, played Mexican Bingo with large cards and Legos, and ended the night with dancing and prayer. On Tuesday, we went to a local (Baja continued on page eight column two)

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STATED SESSION MEETING

(Draft)

July 21, 2024

12:15 PM

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

Moyer

Guest: Treasurer Hannah Bush

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Henry D. Scoggins

The meeting was called to order at 12:20pm. A quorum was declared present. The moderator opened the meeting with a devotional reading from Psalm 12 and prayer.

Clerk's Report:

- The Session approved the agenda for this meeting.
- Session approved the minutes from the Stated Session Meeting June 9, 2024, Email poll June 19, 2024, and Congregational Meeting June 30, 2024.
- Wedding request from Anna Cahill and Parker Turnage for January 25, 2025. Motion was made and seconded to approve request. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Hannah Bush handed out a Balance Sheet and a Budget vs. Actual income-expense report. Net income as of July 19, 2024, is -\$48,675.56. Additional reports on the status of the other investments and cash flow were also distributed. After discussion on the reports, the treasurer's reports were accepted as presented.

Presbytery Meeting: No meeting was held.

Old Business:

- Larry Mayer and Rev. Scoggins met with Stephen Strosnider to submit paperwork for incorporation.
- Officer Nominating Committee was approved at a Congregational Meeting on June 30, 2024. The Congregation representatives will be Hannah Bush and Mike Fallin. Liz Brown will be the Session representative.

Committee Reports:

- **Administrative Committee:** Chair of Committee, Sandy Showalter, brought a recommendation from the Finance Committee, approved by the Administration Committee, to close Building/Property account of \$5,621, close the General Endowment Fund of \$7,224, and take \$51,155 from the Giles B. Trimble Endowment Fund to cover the \$64,000 need to finish paying

capital improvement bills incurred for painting, air conditioning and the new roof. Motion was seconded. During discussion, Session by common consent approved some additional painting done on the railings and stairs, and some power washing while major painting was being done. Following discussion, Session approved the motion on the accounts unanimously.

- Lina Smith has agreed to work with Joan Wright as webmaster.
- Sandy asked everyone to review the Certificate of Deposit report that was distributed.
- **Christian Outreach Committee:** Chair Randy Moyer and committee recommends the approval of scholarships for Tara Cahill. The Hebron Youth Scholarship of \$1000 and the Scott Hickey Endowment Fund of \$3000. Session approved unanimously.
- 7 participated in the 4th of July parade in Gypsy Hill Park.
- The committee is asking for ideas or suggestions for the Celebration of Lights also in the park. Applications are due by Nov. 1 and set up will be Nov. 20, 2024.
- **Congregational Life Committee:** No report.
- **Property:** Robert Christian reported the tree was taken down in the old cemetery.
- The water in the tankless water heater is not getting hot.
- **Worship:** Communion will be served August 4, 2024.






Moderator's Report:

- Rev. Scoggins reported on the organist/choir director. Session discussed the salary of \$13,000 and six weeks of vacation, and additional request if possible. Session voted unanimously to hire Sarah Grove-Humphries as organist/choir director.
- Liz Brown thanked Hannah Bush for her years of dedication as choir director and finding substitute organist and pianist for worship services.
- Robert Christian reported Randy Moyer and Mason Brown will be helping with the streaming of services on Sunday morning.
- Session then moved to the sanctuary to hear Sarah play the organ and piano.

(Session continued on page 8)



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 11:00 A.M. Reception	2 	3	4	5	6 Read a Book Day 	7
8 Worship 11:00 A.M. Congregational Mtg.	9	10 Bible Study 11: 00 A.M.	11 Patriot Day 	12	13	14
15 Worship 11:00 A.M.	16	17 Bible Study 11:00 A.M.	18	19 Talk Like a Pirate Day 	20	21
22 Worship 11:00 A.M. Session Mtg. 12:00 Noon Fall Begins	23	24 Bible Study 11:00 A.M.	25	26	27 Day of Forgiveness 	28
29 Worship 11:00 A.M.	31					

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 September: Joan Clemmer Wright
and Joann Weikert



- 1 Dana Christian
- 2 Betty Piner
- 8 John Puffenberger
- 9 Betty Whitmore
- 22 Maxine Carpenter

News From SACRA

SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) supplies critical nutrition to hungry residents in our immediate area. Hebron has been supporting SACRA's food pantry on New Street for a number of years. In addition to helping with food needs, SACRA also provides financial aid to qualifying persons.

During the month of August, Hebron contributed 56 food items to the pantry. David and Joyce Obenschain transport items monthly to SACRA's facility. If you wish to donate items, a collection bin is located inside the Educational Building.



(Session continued from page 6)

Closing and Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with prayer from the Moderator at 1:27pm.

Our next Stated Session Meeting will be August 25, 2024, at 12:15pm.

Clerk of Session

Robin Moyer

(Baja continued from page 5)

cemetery and learned from Pastor Bernardo about burial customs. On Wednesday, we worshiped at Iglesia Rey de Reyes and on Thursday we led house dedication services with our two families. Our week ended on Friday with a celebration dinner followed by worship and communion on the beach.

Along the Pacific Coast, we embraced many sacred pauses with God from hearing our Mexican friends' testimonies to bearing witness to our Lord's astounding grace. Thank you for your faithful support of the Baja Mission Trip. We are beyond grateful for every prayer lifted and dollar given that provided homes for two very special families.

In Christ's Love,

2024 Baja Mission Team: Laura Barmore, Jim Carpenter, Kelley, James, and Ezra Carter, Reed, April, River, and Haven Cranford, Stan and Candace Farthing, Donald, Laura, Riley, and Allison Floyd, Keith Folsom, Makenzy Grimm, Reice Hogge, Howard Kilgore, Jessica and Nora Little, Bob Olson, Mike Swize, Lee, Marina, and Miley Thomas, Ashlyn Via, and Dan Woodworth