

Culture Says 'I' and 'Me' but Church Says 'Us' and 'We'

By Rev. Frank Wyche, Pastor

The Church of Jesus Christ is called to be faithful to God, and to be an example to the rest of the world of how God's people are called to live, while being in relationships with God and with others.

Unfortunately, too much of our nation, our culture, and our society promotes selfishness. Of course, no one will stand up and say, "We're in favor of selfishness!" but selfishness is the message we hear from so many people in so many places.

One of the worst examples is in politics – and get used to it, because you're going to hear it all year long in 2012!

When candidates and parties seek your vote, or when public issues and referenda are put on the ballot, you can be sure that the advertising will focus less on what is good for the community or the state or the nation as a whole, and will focus instead on how someone says it will affect you personally (especially in the wallet).

Politicians and candidates will try to appeal to you, individually, by talking about how *your* taxes will go up – even if it isn't very much – instead of what's good for the entire community. That is basically an appeal to individual selfishness, as opposed to doing anything for the common good. It isn't that we aren't entitled to consider how issues affect us personally; it's just that our decisions should include the larger community and the greater good *as well*.

What has happened in too much of our nation, our culture and our society, is that the common good is never considered at all, because everything is put in terms of individual, personal interests.

If Weather Cancels Church, Check Channel 3 or Call the Church Office

If winter weather is ever severe enough to make us need to cancel church, we will notify television station WHSV-TV3 in Harrisonburg to announce the cancellation.

Also, in the event that church is canceled because of severe winter weather, we

will put a message on the church answering machine, so you can call the church office at 885-1648. Ordinarily, we would make a decision to cancel church by 9:00 a.m.

In any case please use your common sense when we have

severe winter weather, even if you don't see an announcement on Channel 3!

Above all, *be safe!*

If your own walkway or driveway, street or road, is hazardous, please do not take any foolish or unnecessary risks.

January

Sunday, Jan. 1 – *New Year's Day*. *Epiphany* observed.

Monday, Jan. 2 – *Happy New Year!* Church office closed for New Year's holiday.

Friday, Jan. 6 – The day of *Epiphany*; end of the Christmas season on the Christian Calendar.

Saturday, Jan. 7 – New Officer Training, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Library.

Sunday, Jan. 8 – *Baptism of the Lord Sunday*; ordination and installation of new officers.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Circles 1 & 2 meet.

Sunday, Jan. 15 – Celebration of the Lord's Supper; Cub Scout Spaghetti Lunch after worship (cost is a free-will offering).

Thursday, Jan. 26 – Session meets, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 26 – PEP Club, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 29 – Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Hebron Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, Feb. 5 – *Boy Scout Sunday*.

I remember when I was a minister in Cincinnati, and one community voted against paying to keep a fire station open, which I thought was shocking! What happened was that the town council would not give that branch of the department more money to upgrade their equipment and to continue to keep the station at full staff, because they were more concerned about their re-

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Minutes For Regular Session Meeting Held Nov. 17

The Session of Hebron Presbyterian Church held its stated monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 7:00 p.m. Minutes of the meeting were approved at the Dec. 15 Session meeting and are printed here:

Present: Present: Elders Hannah Bush, Jim McGavock, David Obenschain, Theresa Moore, Joann Weikert, Richard Rathburn, Martha Sieck, and Robin Moyer; Moderator Rev. Frank Wyche; and Treasurer Michael Ruleman. **Excused:** Lorrie Dean, Lora Turnage, Jan Botkin, Frank Henderson, Alan Mayer, Tom Cook, and Eric Shiflet.

The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was declared present. The Moderator had a brief devotion prior to the business meeting about the importance of giving thanks to God.

Clerk's Report: Session approved the minutes of the Oct. 27, 2011, Stated Session Meeting as presented. Session directed the Clerk to record the baptism of Scott Michael Hickey as having taken place on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011, during the morning worship service.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michael Ruleman presented a detailed Report of Fund Balances as of Nov. 17, 2011, and a Report of Receipts and Disbursements since the last meeting. The general fund continues in the red but improved from (-\$8,097.98) to (-\$7,862.31). The total in our checking and savings stands at \$63,961.87. The Treasurer also distributed a Budget vs. Actual report which shows year-to-date actual income and expenses and what we budgeted for these accounts. Session approved the report.

Presbytery Business: Elder Martha Sieck presented a report of the November 8, 2011, Presbytery Meeting at Opequon Church, Winchester, VA.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee Chair Hannah Bush reported that a slate of elder nominees for the Class of 2014 had been secured and requested Session to call a meeting of the congregation to elect new officers. Session voted to hold a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011. The committee will place the following members in nomination: Jon Arneson, Emily Breeden, Nicola Cahill, Robert Christian, Shirley Fallin, Michael Ruleman, and Noah Turnage. The Session also expressed thanks to Jan Botkin, Lorrie Dean, Frank Henderson, Larry Mayer and Lora Turnage, who will rotate off the Session when members of the Class of 2014 are ordained and/or installed.

Commitment/Witness (Martha Sieck, David Obenschain) – Activities include the following: Blanket Project through Church World Service, SACRA, Peace-making Offering, CROP Walk, Habitat for Humanity



project, ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Dec. 2 and 3, Christmas Card project, Christmas Joy Offering, communication with missionary Mark Hare, Valley Mission, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, Children's Thanksgiving Offering, Operation Christmas Child, and a collection for Zacchaeus' Kitchen.

Christian Education (Lora Turnage, Eric Shiflet): 50 people attended the Family Fun Night hosted by the Hebron Youth Group. The church Christmas Fellowship Dinner will be Dec. 10, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.

Congregational Ministries (Lorrie Dean, Martha Sieck): No report.

Fellowship (Lorrie Dean, Robin Moyer): No report.

Finance (Theresa Moore, Larry Mayer): Session approved the written report of the financial review of the church records for 2009 completed by Hannah Bush. The report concluded that the financial records are in good order and reconciled to the bank statements. After discussion of the issues surrounding the budget for 2012, Session was asked to pray about it and to be ready to adopt a budget at the December 2011 Stated Session Meeting.

Personnel (Tom Cook, Theresa Moore, Hannah Bush): No report.

Property (Richard Rathburn, Tom Cook, Frank Henderson, Jim McGavock): At a joint meeting with the Cemetery Committee on Nov. 2, 2011, a decision was made to evaluate two of the three trees in question for possible pruning rather than taking them down. The third tree will need to be removed. Digging under the sanctuary was completed in order to repair a steam valve. The boiler has been serviced. Dec. 3, 2011, has been set to clean up leaves on the church grounds.

Worship (Jan Botkin, Hannah Bush, Joann Wiekert): Preparation for Advent is under way. 212 people attended Ben Heizer's Conducting Recital. The Hebron Youth served as ushers. Thanks were given to all who helped or participated in the recital.

Cemetery (Larry Mayer, Jan Botkin): No report.

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Christmas Cards



*Holiday greetings to you and your loved ones from your Hebron family.
May you each treasure God's blessings throughout the New Year!*

*Donna and Keyser Kirtley
Phil and Maxine Carpenter
Patsy and Raymond Shull
Jon and Meredith Arneson
Peggy and Junior Hewitt
Dick and Jean Miller*

*Nancy Cook
Wilda Shover
Hilda Dundas
Nan Brown
Mildred Brown
Jake and Betty Ott
The Cahill Family*

*Charles and Vicki Drumheller
Haskins and Joyce Coleman
Martha and Philip Sieck
Rachel and Linda Brown
Lenwood and Helen Shiflet
The Wyche Family*

Each year, Hebron has a Community Christmas Card posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway outside of the office. Members can sign the card and then contribute money to the church that would have been spent sending cards to other members of the church.

The money received goes to support mission pro-

jects of the church. This year, \$520 was received in this project.

You can still contribute to this important ministry by marking your donations "Christmas Card."

Thank you for supporting this and so many other worthy charities and missions of the church!

Session Minutes for Nov. 17

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Pastor's Report: The Pastor will be off Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011, in order to visit family in Pittsburgh at Thanksgiving. The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25, for Thanksgiving. The Community Thanksgiving Service will be Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the Arbor Hill Church of the Brethren. Work continues on the newsletter next week so that it can be distributed Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011. The next round of home communion will begin the first week of December. Pastor Frank continues to serve as moderator of Buffalo Gap and Craigsville churches at the request of Presbytery while they are without a pastor.

New Business: A plaque for donors to the Organ Fund was discussed; the pastor will appoint a commit-

Shull Marriage Announced

Patsy and Raymond Shull announce the marriage of their son, Timothy Ray Shull, to Laurie Antoinette Ianamico on Saturday, September 10, 2011.

tee to work on this.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

The blessings and prayer concerns of the congregation, friends, and relatives were shared by the moderator and Session for corporate and individual prayer.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator at 8.38 p.m.

Flower Committee

Thanks All Donors

Our thanks to all the folks who provided flowers for the worship service this past year!

The flower calendar is located on the bulletin board near the church office for any who wish to give flowers a certain Sunday. (The cost is \$30 and up for each arrangement).

As soon as you know what Sunday you would like to provide flowers in memory of, for birthdays, anniversaries, etc., please sign up on the calendar.



A New Year... A Time for a New Beginning

From the Hebron Session's Stewardship and Finance Committee

Over the last several months we've studied and discussed the current financial situation at Hebron Church. We've talked about how expenses have exceeded receipts for the last several years, with the deficit balance in the general fund growing and the church's benevolent giving ability declining.

We've explained how this situation is forcing us to make some hard decisions about the operation and mission of Hebron Presbyterian Church. This month we'll recap the 2011 financial year, go into detail about the 2012 church budget and offer a plan to correct this disturbing trend and bring our church back to financial health it so richly deserves.

On January 1, 2011, the general fund had a balance of -\$1,133.92. Our 2011 general fund budget anticipated income of \$136,250 with expenses estimated at \$168,355 with a resulting budget deficit of \$32,105. In other words, we anticipated, if everything went according to the budget, that we would spend \$32,105 more than we took in.

The actual general fund income for 2011 was \$139,757. With everyone in the church working together to keep expenses down, the actual general fund expenses for 2011 were \$154,325. We spent \$14,568 more than we took in. This is a significant improvement over what we anticipated, but still going in the wrong direction. The general fund balance on January 1, 2012, is -\$16,831.87. Not a very good place to start, is it? (The discrepancy between the actual deficit amount and the general fund balance lies in payroll tax accrual.)

A church with the long history and heritage of Hebron Presbyterian Church should not be facing such a potentially debilitating financial situation. We are all aware that there are abundant financial resources in the membership and congregation of our church. More than a few could write one check to correct this negative balance and put us back on the positive side. That is one possible solution, and would be appreciated, but would only serve as a short term fix or band aid for a larger or longer term problem. No, the solution lies with all of us. We jointly have helped to create this situation, and we jointly will work together to correct and rectify it.

The problem is that we are not receiving enough contributions to fully fund the work and mission of Hebron Presbyterian Church.

Most people's first response to hearing this is to say,

"Just cut your expenses."

This year, in working on the 2012 general fund budget, the finance committee did just that. We worked up one proposed budget with all current programs still intact, and then prepared another proposed budget that cut out all programs or expenses not vital to the daily operation of the church.



In this draft budget proposal, expenses or programs cut included:

- No raises for any personnel.
- No Fellowship Committee budget.
- No church web site.
- No Christian Education Committee budget (including no Vacation Bible School).
- Church equipment expense budget cut 80%.
- Church repair expense budget cut 50%.
- No drinking water in hallway.
- Manse equipment and repair expense budget cut 50%.
- No music department expense except salary.
- Office equipment and repair expense budget cut 61%.
- No Scout Hut expense budget (meaning Scouts would have to become fully self-sufficient, with no heat, electricity or building repairs from the church).
- Worship aids expense budget cut 50%.

This "bare bones" budget left us with Sunday morning worship and not much else. It would have barely kept the doors open.

Here's the scary part: *With all these important programs and expenses cut and with receipts based on 2011 budgeted levels, we still anticipated a deficit of -\$15,804.*

Even cutting out all the above listed items, we still would not take in enough to pay the bills. So the standard comment, "just cut expenses," doesn't begin to solve the problem either. The fact of the matter is we need more contributions to be a fully functioning church, spreading the Word and love of Jesus Christ in the community and world as we are called to do.

The 2012 expense budget, as approved by the Session

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A New Year... A Time for a New Beginning

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in December, estimates expenses of \$171,151. This number was derived after much discussion and forecasting by the finance committee. All of the above listed programs or expenses are included in this amount. The amounts listed in the budget are as realistic as can be projected. Using 2011 general fund budgeted income of \$136,250, this would result in a projected 2012 budget deficit of -\$34,901. The church does not have reserves to support this budget. Something has to change.

In an earlier article, we asked the members and friends of Hebron to prayerfully consider what we give back to God through our contributions and gifts. Many of us are not regular givers to the church. We asked you to be more regular in your gifts to God and many of you have responded. Many are contributing at the same level they did five, six, seven or eight years ago.

We asked you to consider increasing the amount you

give and many of you have responded. Your increased support has been noted and is greatly appreciated. You have responded positively without any formal or official request from the church.

We now would like each contributor to prayerfully consider increasing their support to Hebron Presbyterian Church by 20%.

Now before you immediately exclaim that you can't do that, consider the following: A 20% increase to the \$25 per week giver is only an additional \$5 per week. A 20% increase to the \$100 per week or month is only an additional \$20 per gift. A 20% increase to the \$500 per month giver is only an extra \$100 per month. If everyone could increase their gifts by 20%, the church would receive an additional \$27,200 per year.

A 20% increase would go a long way toward getting our general fund account balance back on the positive side and providing reserves for future needs. If 20% is

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This Year, Think of 'Us' and 'We,' Not 'I' and 'Me'

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-election; they were more worried about being accused of "increasing government spending" than they were concerned about the well-being of the community that had elected them. So supporters had a referendum put on the ballot to raise enough money for better equipment and hiring enough firefighters for full staff.

As I recall the cost was less than \$10 per household per year (not even a dollar a month), but the referendum failed because no one would vote for more taxes, even when it meant hurting the community's fire safety, and having to depend upon fire stations farther away within the community.

Do you remember the old saying about "Cutting off your nose to spite your face"? That's what we can do when we only think about ourselves, instead of the common good.

Americans used to care about the common good, going in together to build communities, roads, schools, hospitals, and so much more.

Today, instead of the community, it's "Me first!"

Even our best-known commercials have changed over the years. Remember the old Coca-Cola ads over the years? They might describe the product, such as, "It's the real thing," or they might appeal to everyone, such as "I'd like to teach the world to sing..."

Today, commercials appeal to self-interest. McDonald's famously said, "You deserve a break today." Ads encourage you to "Treat yourself" or even "Spoil your-

self," saying, "You deserve it."

Our culture and society say "Everybody needs to take care of themselves, and if they don't have a job or don't take care of themselves, that's not my responsibility."

God's agenda is different. God says, "Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others as better than yourself. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

God says the church is one body, so that "the members may have the same care for one another" (1 Corinthians 12:24-25).

God says that we do not labor for ourselves alone, but so that we "may be able to give to those in need" (Ephesians 4:28).

God says "If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother or sister in need, yet he closes his heart against them, how does God's love abide in him?" (1 John 3:17).

Over and over, God tells us to love others, and to care for those in need. We are not on our own, because God loves us and cares for us, and has given us Himself in Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, who gave his life for us on the cross to accomplish forgiveness of our sins, and who rose from the grave on Easter to assure us of eternal life.

As God's people, the church, we are called to combine our resources, our love, and our prayers to help everyone, just as God has helped us all.

Pastor Frank

6 *Presbyterian Women's News*

Hilda Dundas opened the Dec. 13 meeting of Circles 1 & 2 with prayer.

The Ladies voted to pay for gifts for the needy families, if needed.

The Ladies agreed to reimburse the church \$247.96 for printing the Celebration of Life programs. (There will be a little more as additional programs were printed after the statement was sent.)

Thanks to E. Anne Willard and Jean Miller for decorating Hebron's tree for Hospice of the Shenandoah, which sold for \$220 at the Festival of Trees.

The silent auction raised \$1,337 and the quilt raffle/sale raised \$884 at our Evening of Comfort and Joy, and a great deal of non-perishable foods were delivered to SACRA. When David and Joyce Obenschain delivered the food, SACRA was so happy to see them as "their shelves were empty."

Martha Sieck announced we will be having Blanket Sunday in early 2012. Also, we will collect "slightly used" and new sheets, blankets, comforters, etc. - anything to keep SACRA's clients warm.

Our sick were remembered and ways to help them were discussed.

Patsy Shull led us in an inspirational Bible study on Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Patsy also closed our meeting with prayer.

Church Stewardship Update

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more than you can do right now, please consider a 15% increase.

With actual expenses usually averaging about 91.5% of budgeted expenses and a 15% increase in general fund giving, we could possibly have a balanced budget in 2012.

2012 budgeted expenses \$171,201 x 91.5% = 156,649

2012 budgeted income \$136,250 x 115% = \$156,688

Wouldn't that be great! *By everyone working together and sharing the burden of increased giving, Hebron can, in only one year, achieve a balanced budget and reverse a trend that has plagued us for several years.*

We know that it can be done. We did it before and we will do it again. Any increase in giving would go a long way to helping us eliminate this deficit spending.

Many of you have already increased your giving amount and frequency of giving. Please know and understand that we in no way wish to imply that Hebron's

January Birthdays And Anniversaries

January birthdays are:

Martha Moore	1		
Tara Ratliff	1		
John Bratton	4		
Sara Elizabeth Carpenter	7		
Stephen Knight	9		
Gary P. Hickman	10		
Megan Riley	16	Nancy K. Cook	25
Linda Hildebrand	18	Frank Henderson	26
David Moore	18	Elizabeth Harris	27
Guy Wright	19	Linda Hickey	28
Amelia Mader	20	Bill Sellers	29
Steve Carpenter	22	Hannah Bush	30
E. Anne Willard	23	Betty Hastings	30
Randy Moyer	23	Matthew Hickey	31



Very special birthday wishes to Amelia Mader who will be 84 on Jan. 20; and to Betty Hastings who will be 84 on Jan. 30.

Congratulations to Bill and Elva Tuttle who will be married 65 years on January 13.

Reminder: If you have been omitted from our birthday list, or if you know of someone who should be included, please call the church at 885-1648 with the information, as we don't want to miss anyone.

PEP Club Will Resume Meeting Jan. 25

The PEP Club (People Enjoying People) will resume their monthly covered-dish luncheons on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012, at 1:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Also, Mike Fallin has agreed to be chairman for another year.

Please bring a covered dish and join us for a great time of food and fellowship!

members and friends have not been supporting our church. You have, and we sincerely appreciate it. It's just that a lot of our financial focus in the last ten years has been for specific projects (Organ, New Century Fund, Sanctuary, etc.). We now need to concentrate on getting the church's financial health back where it needs and deserves to be.

We need to ask ourselves, are we giving all to God what is rightfully His? We have all received God's grace and blessings beyond anything that we deserve. We ask that you prayerfully consider increasing your gifts to God through Hebron Presbyterian Church. With your help and God's guidance, we will do this. Over the next several months, we will continue to provide information and updates as to our progress. May God continue to bless us all.

MONTHLY
CALENDAR
INSERT

HEBRON HERALD

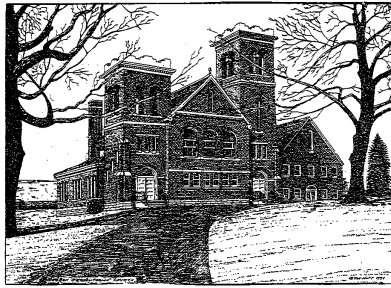
Hebron Presbyterian Church
423 Hebron Road, Staunton, VA 24401

Church Office: (540) 885-1648

Church FAX: (540) 885-9512

E-mail: hebronchurch@msn.com

Website: www.hebronpc.com



Hebron Presbyterian Church

Rev. Frank H. Wyche, Pastor
Ben Heizer, Minister of Music
Ministries available to all ages

Sunday Services:

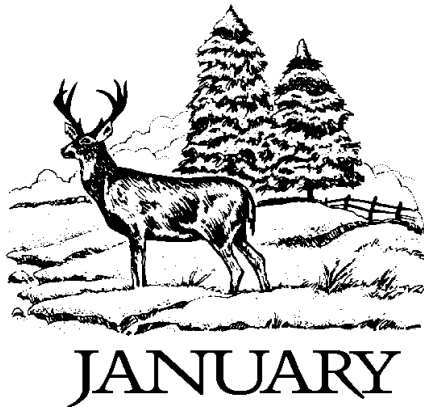
Sunday School, 9:55 A.M.

Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M.

Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Bible Study, 7:00-8:00 P.M.

January 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Cub Scout Spaghetti Fund-Raiser Will Be January 15

A Cub Scout fund-raiser is scheduled after worship on Sunday, Jan. 15, in the church Fellowship Hall. It will be a spaghetti dinner with salad, coffee or tea (unsweetened). It will be freshly prepared using the church kitchen. A free-will offering will be taken. Everyone is encouraged to come.

The needs of our Scout programs continue. Please consider serving the Troop or Pack. You are needed on either committee or serving the youth. Please consider being a Merit Badge counselor not only for our Troop but perhaps for the Valley District as well. Yes, money contributions are welcome, but “no one ever stands so tall as when they stoop to help a child.”

The differences between church member participation vs. Scout parent participation are: 1) longevity, that is, the Church member is likely to carry forward the knowledge gained from Scout training for a position instead letting that position’s knowledge expire when a Scout parent moves through the program with the boy; and, 2) leadership training, that is, the church member

gains training which can improve the quality of member service to the larger Church. The parent may or may not obtain Scout training except sporadically. Scout training equips the church member with tools to deal with youth of all ages, as well as personal stewardship.



The units are re-chartering this month. The re-charter cycle is Feb. 1 of the current year to Jan. 31 of the next year.

Upcoming February events include Scout Sunday and the Cub Scouts’ Pinewood Derby. Let us pray the weather will support the Scouts in their efforts.

For more information about Scouting at Hebron, or to volunteer to help the Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts, please contact Mike Fallin, Hebron’s Chartering Organization Representative.