Youth Invite Congregation To Lunch On March 11

Remember the old saying, “There’s no such thing as a free lunch”? Well, it turns out that isn’t entirely true, because the Hebron Youth Group will sponsor a free lunch for the church on Sunday, March 11, immediately following morning worship!

The occasion is a Congregation Appreciation Luncheon, so the Hebron Youth Group can thank everyone for their support for the Youth Group and its programs.

“The people of Hebron have been so generous to our Youth whenever they have asked for help,” said Youth Group advisor Michael Ruleman. “Whether it was contributions to the CROP Walk, or the Souper Bowl of Caring, or establishing the Hebron Youth Scholarship last year, our congregation has always come through in support of its young people.

“This is just something the youth want to do as a way to say ‘Thank you,’ and to let the congregation know how much they appreciate all their support.

“Also, we are not asking anyone to contribute anything,” Ruleman said. “This is entirely for the Youth Group to give something back in appreciation for all the congregation has done for them.”

The meal will be soups, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages. Please plan to attend!

Season Of Lent Is A Time For Us To Renew Our Commitment To God

By Rev. Frank Wyche, Pastor

It is human nature to deal with change. All our lives, we grow and change. Even if one has the same job for many years as an adult, there always variations in the daily routine—changes in weather, family and co-workers, seasons and holidays, and so much more.

Because of how God made us, we cope and deal with and adjust to changes in our own lives, in our surroundings, and in the lives of those with whom we interact, in school, in family, with friends, at work, etc., etc.

While it is wonderful that we are made with this capacity to adjust, sometimes we adjust and adapt so well that we lose our focus. We spend so much time identifying and dealing with what is going on all around us, and what is changing all around us, that we sometimes forget to look at, and remember, what is always there.

The Bible tells us “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, (Continued On Page 3)

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.
The Session of Hebron Presbyterian Church held its stated monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 26. Minutes of the meeting were approved at the Feb. 23 Session meeting and are printed here:


The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was declared present. The Moderator had a brief devotion from Daily Guideposts based on Proverbs 3:5, that we should spend more time seeking direction, than giving directions.

Clerk’s Report: Session approved the minutes of the Dec. 15, 2011, Stated Session Meeting as presented. Session approved the minutes of the Jan. 8, 2012, Called Session Meeting as presented. Session approved 2011 Statistical Report. Session approved request from Robin Ruleman for the Beverley Manor Relay for Life Team to use the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall for a Sweetheart Dinner Feb. 11, 2012, with proceeds from the dinner to benefit Relay for Life.

Election of Treasurer: Session elected elder Michael Ruleman to serve as Treasurer for 2012.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Michael Ruleman presented a detailed Report of Fund Balances as of Dec. 15, 2011, and a Report of Receipts and Disbursements since the last meeting. The general fund continues in the red at ($11,158.79). The total in our checking and savings stands at $56,858.05. The Treasurer also distributed a Budget vs. Actual report which shows year-to-date actual income and expenses compared with what was budgeted for these accounts. Final 2011 financial results will be in the Annual Report. Session approved the report.

Presbytery Business: Elder Richard Rathburn was elected as Elder-Commissioner for the Feb. 11, 2012, Presbytery Meeting to be held at Mt. Olive Church in Hinton, Va. Elder Jon Arneson will serve as alternate.

Committee Reports

Congregation Ministries (Martie Sieck): No report.
Fellowship/Service: (Robin Moyer): No report.
Finance (Theresa Moore): 2012 Annual Budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012.
Personnel (Tom Cook, Theresa Moore, Hannah Bush): Evaluations were completed for Rev. Frank Wyche, secretary Tamme Flory, Minister of Music Ben Hizer, and sexton Jean Bottenfield.

Property (Richard Rathburn, Tom Cook, James McGavock): One tree was cut down in front of the Sunday School building at a cost of $1,500. There was no property damage. Two large logs were sold for approximately $427.


Cemetery: A dead tree was removed from the new cemetery.

Commitment/Witness: Martie handed out a written report on committee activities. Session approved two special offerings: The loose change on Scout Sunday will again be divided equally between the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts; an offering for Blankets+ Sunday will be collected on a date to be determined. Scouts had a successful Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser on January 15 after worship. David Obenschain gave update on activities and the relationship between Scouts and Hebron.

Pastor’s Report: The latest round of home communication began this week. The Pastor and Tamme have been busy working in the Annual Report this week and will be busy working on the newsletter next week. The Pastor was off Jan. 22, 2012, but did not take off a week as planned since Fred Smiley continues in the ICU at Augusta Health; time off will be taken later. The Pastor continues to serve as moderator of the Buffalo Gap and Craigsville churches at the request of Presbytery.

New Business: Session approved for a letter of appreciation to be sent to Larry Mayer for service as Clerk of Session.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, at 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 8:47 p.m.
Presbyterian Women’s News

The afternoon Circles met February 14. Joyce Coleman opened the meeting with the Least Coin Prayer. The offering and least coin offering were received.

All business was dispensed with in order that there would be time to prepare the goodie boxes to be sent to Hebron’s college students.

Jean Miller taught an inspirational Bible study on the sixth beatitude. The key idea was that Jesus upholds those who, with genuine hearts, wrestle with God, are changed, and live in a way that strengthens the whole people of God.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. The ladies then prepared six large boxes of goodies for our college students.

Ladies, you came through again! So many nice things were brought by many who did not attend the circle meeting. Thanks to all who contributed!

Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet March 17

The Cub Scouts will be hold their Blue & Gold Banquet on Saturday, March 17, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. To attend, call Mike Fallin at 337-9277, so the Scouts can have an accurate count.

Lent: Time For Recommitment

(Continued From Page 1)

today, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8); and, “Our ancestors trusted in you; they trusted, and you delivered them. They cried to you, and they were saved; they trusted in you, and they were not disappointed” (Psalm 22:4-5); and, “The works of his [God’s] hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy” (Psalm 111:7).

The point is that while humans are adaptable and changeable, the Bible tells us that God is unchanging.

This is important, because that lets us know that God’s promises are true and trustworthy. God does not offer grace, and then refuse to give it; God does not forgive us, and then take it back.

As Numbers 23:19 tells us, “God is not a human, that he should lie, nor the child of a human, that he should change his mind. What has God ever said, and not done it? Or what has God ever spoken, and not fulfilled it?”

But, as humans, we stray from God. Other interests entice us, or other responsibilities overwhelm us.

Lent, the season of preparation before Easter, is a time to take stock of ourselves, our lives, our activities, and our busy-ness, and then to set aside time to turn back to God, who is unchanging, who is always ready to welcome us back.

Whenever we are separated from God, it is because we have strayed or changed – not God.

Pastor Frank
Handbell Rehearsal Schedule
Hebron’s Handbell Choir will rehearse on the following dates:
Sunday, March 4, immediately following worship.
Wednesday, March 14, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Sunday, March 18, immediately following worship.
Sunday, March 25, immediately following worship.
If you are interested in participating in the Handbell Choir, please contact Minister of Music Ben Heizer any Sunday after worship.

Minutes of Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Hebron Presbyterian Church was held Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012, immediately following morning worship.

Rev. Frank H. Wyche, Moderator, called the annual congregational meeting to order at 12 noon and opened the meeting with prayer. Without objection, Robin Moyer, Clerk of Session, was named recording secretary for the meeting. A quorum was declared present.

There were three items of business for this meeting: distribution of the 2011 Annual Report; presentation of the 2012 budget adopted by the Session in December; and action on a proposed 2% increase in the pastor’s terms of call.

Copies of the Annual Report were distributed.

Copies of the 2012 church budget having previously been made available to the Congregation, the Moderator opened the floor for discussion or questions. There being no questions or comments, the meeting continued.

The Session recommended a 2.0% cost-of-living increase to the pastor’s cash salary. After allowing time for questions and discussion, the congregation voted to approve the recommendation. The pastor’s compensation is reflected in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>36,118</td>
<td>36,840</td>
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<td>Social Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pension/Major</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Insurance</td>
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<td>Continuing Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Equity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cell Phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Phone</td>
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<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Total Compensation</td>
<td>63,486</td>
<td>64,208</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 12:08 p.m.

March Birthdays
March birthdays are:
Jordon Shull 6
Ross Shull 6
Dwight Wood 6
Marian Mader 7
Joseph Martin 7
Joseph Marino 10
Eric Waller 10
Elva Tuttle 15
Janet Tuttle 16 Parker Turnage 26
Karen Marino 17 Phil Adams 27
Bob Moody 17 Brittany Wyche 28
Wendy Kennedy 22 Raylee Shull 31
Lynne Moore 22 Lora Turnage 31

Very special birthday wishes to Elva Tuttle who will be 85 on March 15.
If you know of someone who should be included, please call the church at 886-1648.

PEP Club Will Meet March 28
The PEP Club (People Enjoying People) will hold its monthly covered-dish luncheon on Wednesday, March 28, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Debbie Winters, from the Ride with Pride program.

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

Lenten Concert Series
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church began its annual Lenten Concert Series on Friday, March 2, with Bob Moody presenting an organ recital.

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted at the door.

Remaining concerts are:
March 9, Rafael Scarfully plays the classical guitar.
March 23, the singing group MIRA will perform.
March 30, Dr. Larry Taylor plays the organ.

For more information, contact Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church at 885-4843, 2807 N. Augusta St. in Staunton.

Nuts! Hebron’s Acorn Report
The Virginia Dept. of Forestry reported that in the fall they collected 1,440 pounds of white oak acorns from Hebron Property, which, at 30 acorns-per-pound, if they all grow, would result in 43,200 trees!

Store your Bible in your heart, not on a shelf
Now when the Pharisees gathered together to Jesus, with some of the scribes, who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, observing the tradition of the elders; and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they purify themselves; and there are many other traditions which they observe, the washing of cups and pots and vessels of bronze.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with hands defiled?” And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’ You leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men!” And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God, in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him surely die’; but you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, What you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God), then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition which you hand on. And many such things you do.” ~ Mark 7:1-13

I was speaking with someone the other day who used to take part in Bible studies. Although she did not tell me exactly why she is not presently involved in a Bible study, she did share with me an observation that I knew was at the root of her issue.

She commented that people act a certain way in church but a different way outside of it. Obviously, she was bothered by the Christian’s hypocritical behavior. Many of us look really good on the outside but are falling apart on the inside. In other words, we put on a good show.

The problem is when we try to put on an act before the Lord. We honor Him with our lips but our hearts are far from Him. Jesus wants the truth of what is in our hearts, not how we portray ourselves on the outside, for clearly He sees the thoughts and intents of our hearts.

The Pharisees kept the law and man’s traditions to the strictest of standards. Their hands were ceremonially cleansed before they touched any bread to eat. Even their utensils were cleansed with the same ceremony. Their outside looked spotless to the point that they believed themselves to be more spiritual and pure than those who did not perform these rituals.

The same is true for people in the church today. Many Christians work hard at being righteous and look the part to those around them, but God knows what is in their hearts. If our activities are whitewashed by man's traditions, then the fruit of that will be seen in our behaviors. There will be a lack of sincerity and realness with people. Not only does the Lord see through it, but so do others.

Where is your heart today? Are you worshiping with your lips or with sincerity in your heart? Do not just keep going through the motions, whether in your ministry services, church activities or daily checklist of religious do's and don'ts. Get real with the Lord today. Be careful in following the traditions of man to the extent that the Lord is far from your heart. Pray that your outside will match your inside and ask the Lord to remove your fears about how real that might look. If we all would commit to this process, we might just see a lot more people in Bible studies and church.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

Hebron will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering on Easter Sunday, April 8. This interdenominational offering goes to fight hunger and poverty in the U.S. and throughout the world. Presbyterian gifts to OGHS support the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. Look for more details in Sunday bulletins.
Looking Ahead: Hebron Women’s Yard Sale April 20-21

Hebron’s annual Yard, Bake and Jelly Sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday and Saturday, April 20-21, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. both days. There will be a food booth, so come for lunch.

Please look twice at anything you might throw away in spring cleaning, and consider putting it aside and keeping it just a little bit longer, in order to help the church!

The Presbyterian Women hope to have a large variety of items to sell such as antiques, glassware, household items, linens, jewelry, small pieces of furniture, yard/garden tools (yes, we do have men shoppers!), perennials, toys, knickknacks, etc.

Please save these dates, and look for more information in the Sunday worship bulletins. Contact Betty Piner at 337-2212 for more details, or to offer help.

In order to have time to price and display items nicely, all donations must be received by Monday night, April 16, at 8:00 p.m. Many workers will be needed the week of April 16 to unpack, display, price and sell.

However, it is important that you do not bring any items to the church until after Easter Sunday, April 8, because the Fellowship Hall will be needed for Easter events.

We also hope everyone will make at least one item for the baked goods to be sold.

We will be advertising when we get closer to the date, but we will need everyone to help “spread the word” before then. Posters will be available in the vestibules for you to take your place of business, etc.

All profits will go to the Staunton/Beverly Manor Weekday Religious Education program. Everyone’s help and donations are needed to make this another successful event!