

What Is In The Future For Hebron Presbyterian Church?

By Rev. Frank Wyche, Pastor

Hebron's attendance and financial contributions have gone down. As our congregation ages, with many of our faithful members experiencing declining health or even having died, we must face the question: What is Hebron's future?

The answer for the church is the same as the answer for any individual: Our well-being depends upon our relationship with God. If we are fully committed to God and God's will, we will be fine (whether "we" means us as Hebron Presbyterian Church, or us as individuals). But if we are not fully committed to God and God's will, we cannot expect things to go well.

Think of a person who is sick with a cold. The person may have a fever, cough, congestion, headache and/or body aches, or other ill effects from the cold. But all of those uncomfortable manifestations are only symptoms – the real problem is the cold virus. The symptoms are easily seen on the outside, but the real problem is inside the system.

Imagine that the cold turns into pneumonia. Reducing the fever will not cure the pneumonia. Stopping the cough will not cure the pneumonia. Drying up the congestion will not cure the pneumonia. Easing the aches will not cure the pneumonia. Treating the symptoms visible on the outside will not cure the disease on the inside.

In the same way, looking at the outside of a church, we can see symptoms that something isn't healthy, such as declining membership, lower worship attendance, and less money received. But membership, attendance and money are not the real problem; they are

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. The decision to cancel church will be made by 9:00 a.m., so check after 9 o'clock to be sure.

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.



Wednesday, Jan. 1 – *Happy New Year!* Church office closed for New Year's holiday

Sunday, Jan. 5 – *Epiphany* observed; the Lord's Supper during worship

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

Sunday, Jan. 12 – *Baptism of the Lord Sunday*; ordination and installation of new officers

Tuesday, Jan. 14 – Circles 1 & 2 meet

Sunday, Jan. 19 – *2nd Sunday, Ordinary Time*

Thursday, Jan. 23 – Session meets, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 26 – *3rd Sunday, Ordinary Time*

Wednesday, Jan. 29 – PEP Club, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 2 – *Boy Scout Sunday*

only the symptoms that something is wrong.

Visible concerns such as membership, attendance and money are only the symptoms of a spiritual disease. It is when a church is off course spiritually, inside its very being, that visible symptoms begin to appear on the outside.

Churches are like people: When they are healthy, they will grow and thrive; when they are unhealthy, they will begin to show symptoms that they are unwell.

When people are sick, we are told not only to address the immediate problem, *but we are also told to pursue wellness*. It is not enough to endure the cold or cure the pneumonia; we must also engage in healthy behaviors

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Minutes For Regular Session Meeting Held Nov. 21

The Session of Hebron Presbyterian Church held its stated monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7:00 p.m. Minutes of the meeting were approved at the Dec. 15 Session meeting and are printed here:

Present: Elders Jon Arneson, Hannah Bush, Nicola Cahill, Robert Christian, Tom Cook, James McGavock, David Obenschain, Richard Rathburn, Michael Ruleman, Doug Trimble, Noah Turnage, Joann Weikert, and Moderator Rev. Frank Wyche. **Excused:** Elders Lorrie Dean and Clerk of Session Robin Moyer. **Absent:** Elder Eric Shiflet.

A quorum being present, the Moderator opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. with prayer and devotions from Romans 9 on the Sovereignty of God.

Clerk's Report: Minutes were approved for the Oct. 24 Stated Session Meeting, the Nov. 3 Called Session Meeting, and the Nov. 17 Congregational Meeting. A motion passed to remove Gene Tuttle from the church roll following his death on Nov. 8, 2013.

Treasurer's Report: A handout was provided by Treasurer Michael Ruleman with a detailed Report of Fund Balances as of Nov. 21, 2013, including a Budget vs. Actual Report. The general fund continues in the red at (-\$15,903.63). The total in our checking and savings stands at \$75,390.17.

Presbytery Matters: Elder Commissioner David Obenschain and Rev. Wyche reported on the Nov. 12 meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery, held at Mt. Horeb church. Minutes of the meeting are available at the presbytery's website at: <http://shenpres.org/meeting-documents/>

Committee Reports:

Congregational Ministries (Jon Arneson, Lorrie Dean, Joann Weikert): Home Communion and pastoral visitations are ongoing.

Fellowship/Service (Lorrie Dean and Doug Trimble): No report.

Finance (Robin Moyer, Michael Ruleman): A proposed 2014 General Fund Budget was distributed for prayerful study. Session will adopt a budget at its December meeting.

Personnel (Hannah Bush, Richard Rathburn): It was noted that the proposed 2014 budget includes a 2% raise in salaries for all church staff.

Property (Hannah Bush, Robert Christian, Tom Cook, Jim McGavock, David Obenschain, Doug Trimble, Noah Turnage): The committee reminded everyone of the Fall Cleanup Day, including raking leaves, to be held Saturday, Nov. 23. Work and planning continue with several ongoing projects.

Worship (Joanne Weikert, Hannah Bush): Plans have



been completed for Advent worship services and the decoration of the sanctuary. The next service of the Lord's Supper will be Nov. 24, which is Christ the King Sunday.

Cemetery (Tom Cook, Noah Turnage): No report.

Commitment/Witness (David Obenschain, Mike Ruleman): Minutes of the November meeting will be emailed to all Session members.

Christian Ed (Nicola Cahill, Eric Shiflet): Family Fun Night/Fall Festival held Saturday, Nov. 9, was a success with approximately 40 people attending. The Fellowship Christmas Dinner will be held Sunday, Dec. 15, as a covered-dish luncheon following morning worship. The Hebron Youth Group will take over providing gifts for needy families at Beverley Manor Elementary School (BMES). The Youth Group will continue packing bags for the Meal-in-a-Bag program at BMES. This year, the Youth Group will put up and decorate the Chrismon Tree on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 5:30 p.m., with everyone in the congregation (especially younger children) invited to help with the project, after which a meal will be provided for all participants. The Children's Sunday School classes will present a Christmas Program during morning worship on Dec. 22.

Pastor's Report: Bible Study has been moved from Sunday nights to Wednesday mornings for the convenience of participants, and with the hope of increased participation. The latest round of home Communion and pastoral visits is under way following celebration of the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday on Oct. 6. We plan to finish the November newsletter tomorrow so that it will be available at the Oct. 27 worship service.

Session voted to hold the next Stated Session Meeting on Dec. 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was moved one week earlier from Dec. 26 due to Christmas. The blessings and prayer concerns of the congregation, friends, and relatives were shared by Session for corporate and individual prayer. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator at 7:48 p.m.



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

*Jon and Meredith Arneson
Nancy and Tom Cook
Peggy & Junior Hewitt
Martha and Philip Sieck
Joann Weikert*

*Nan Brown
Nancy K. Cook
Jean & Dick Miller
Robin Ruleman*

*Phil & Maxine Carpenter
Hilda Dundas
Patsy Shull and Family
Elva Tuttle
Frank & Elaine Wyche*

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 go to support mission pro-

jects of the church. 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!

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that will maintain our wellness and thus prevent future sickness. Even after we are over the cold or pneumonia, we still need plenty of fluids, a healthy diet exercise and adequate rest.

What is recommended as part of the cure (fluids, healthy diet, exercise, rest) is also part of maintaining health in the future.

In the same way, when a church is showing symptoms that it is not well, it needs to correct itself by returning to those healthy behaviors and practices that made it grow and thrive in the first place.

That means returning to a singular focus on God. That means that each member of the church must recommit themselves to loving and serving God, more than we are committed to anything else. That means having a stronger personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That means a stronger and deeper spiritual life through Bible study and prayer.

We as individuals are part of the body that makes up Hebron Presbyterian Church. When each one of us is healthier spiritually, our church will be healthier spiritually. When we are all more in line with God's will,

our church will be more in line with God's will.

God's will, will be done. The question about Hebron's future is: Are we committed to what God wants Hebron to be and do, or are we only committed to what we want Hebron to be and do?

As we begin a new year, may we begin a recommitment to God. May we be more committed to reading and studying the Bible, and to prayer, so that we may see and follow God's will.

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. The Church is called to be faithful to God, more than to be successful in earthly terms.

And what about our concerns over membership, attendance and money? The answer is what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." It is by committing ourselves to God's kingdom and God's righteousness that God's blessings are achieved, when it is God's will to give them.

Pastor Frank

6 *Flower Committee Thanks all Donors*

The Flower Committee greatly appreciates ALL who helped provide flowers for the Sunday morning worship service during the past year, either from their gardens or by purchasing them (\$30 & up for each arrangement).

Flowers may be given in honor of, in memory of, for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Call Hilda Dundas at 886-0059 if you have flowers from your garden.

The Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board near the church office, and as soon as you realize you would like to provide flowers for a certain Sunday, please sign, using the special pen provided. If you have any questions, or suggestions, again, call Hilda.



New Officers Elected

New Officers were elected at a congregational meeting in November. The five elders to serve as the Class of 2016 are Jan Botkin, Allen Martin, Jim McGavock, Ross Shull, and Joann Weikert. Many thanks to them for agreeing to serve, to Mike Fallin and Sean Ratliff for also agreeing to be nominated, and to the Church Nominating Committee for bringing the slate of seven nominees before the congregation.

Evening of Comfort and Joy

Thanks to the help and support of so many people, the Presbyterian Women raised \$1,563.50 to help SACRA, Valley Mission and the Verona Food Pantry! Admission for the Dec. 3 event was a donation of at least \$5, or at least \$5 worth of non-perishable food for SACRA. Admission raised \$242 for SACRA, along with many grocery bags filled with food. The Silent Auction raised \$791.50, and the raffle for Maxine Carpenter's quilt raised \$530, for a total of \$1,121.50 to be divided between Valley Mission and the Verona Food Pantry. Event coordinator Donna Kirtley thanks everyone who attended and contributed, as well as those who provided food for the dinner and items to be auctioned. Thanks to all who participated in any way!

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
David Moore	18	Frank Henderson	26
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 85 on Jan. 20; and to Betty Hastings who will be 85 on Jan. 30.

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 Meetings Resume Jan. 29

We hope you've had enough turkey, ham and other holiday food to last a while, but if you haven't, save up your leftovers bring them to the January meeting of the PEP Club on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (provided we don't get 3-6 inches of snow on or immediately before that date).

We are planning a program of musical variety with Luis González. Joy Coleman will be our hostess. The point is to come and enjoy the fellowship and friendship. More programs are in the plans for 2014 and I hope you will join us. We charge no dues except a dish of your choosing. We always seem to have enough for everyone who attends and enough to share with our special people.

The PEP Club (People Enjoying People) meets on the last Wednesday of each month except November and December. The group eats at a restaurant in June and October. All other months, please bring a covered dish and join us for a great time of food and fellowship!



January 2014

Hebron Presbyterian Church

Sunday School 9:55 A.M./Worship 11 A.M.

Sun.	Mon.	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> New Year's Day ~ Church Office Closed	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Epiphany Observed – The Lord's Supper Youth Group 6:30 p.m.	<i>6</i> Epiphany – Christ revealed to Gentiles; end of Christmas season	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice 7:30 pm	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> Baptism of the Lord; Install/Ordain New Officers Christian Ed. Cmte., 6 pm Youth Group 6:30 p.m.	<i>13</i> Commitment/Witness, 6:15 p.m.	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice 7:30 pm	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> Youth Group 6:30 p.m.	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice 7:30 pm	<i>23</i> Session Meets, 7:00 p.m.	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> Youth Group 6:30 p.m.	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> PEP Club, 1:00 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice 7:30 pm	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

HEBRON HERALD

Hebron Presbyterian Church
423 Hebron Road, Staunton, VA 24401

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Church FAX: (540) 885-9512

E-mail: hebronchurch@msn.com

Website: www.hebronpc.com

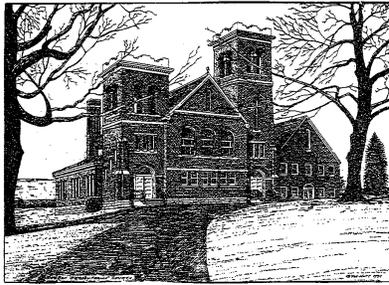
Rev. Frank H. Wyche, Pastor
Hannah Bush, Music Director
Ministries available to all ages

Sunday Services:

Sunday School, 9:55 A.M.

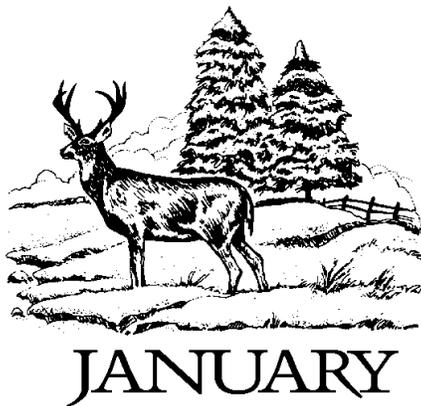
Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M.

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



Hebron Presbyterian Church

January 2014						
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	



What Is My Responsibility to My Church?

This is a story about four brothers named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry with that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done. In Baptism, a person is sealed by the Holy Spirit, given identity as a member of the church, welcomed to the Lord's Table, and set apart for a life of Christian service. When persons become active members (join the church), they are examined by the session and presented to the congregation during a service of public worship. The church shall reaffirm the vows taken at Baptism: a) to profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior b) to renounce evil and affirm reliance on God's

grace c) to declare intention to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church. Please consider actively participating in one of the church's committees.

Committees of Session

Committees play a very important role in the work of Hebron. With the start of a new year, now is a good time for you to become part of one or more of these committees. Committees are not just for elders, anyone can serve this vital role!

- * **Christian Education**
- * **Commitment/Witness**
- * **Congregational Ministries**
- * **Fellowship**
- * **Finance**
- * **Personnel**
- * **Property**
- * **Worship**