

## From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,

On Sunday, April 4, we will gather together to proclaim once again that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Easter Sunday is the church's witness to God's triumph of life over the forces of sin and death through the raising of Jesus from the dead. Mat-



thew's Gospel proclaims the story with forceful energy. An earthquake marks the event. A magnificent angel descends

upon the tomb whose appearance was like "lightning". John's Gospel tells the story with a different emphasis. He subtly recounts the tender and hopeful words that the risen Christ shares with Mary Magdalene. But a resurrection account that perhaps resonates most with our own experience is found in Luke's Gospel.

The little-known town of Emmaus was about seven miles from Jerusalem. The two disciples of the story, one named Cleopas, the other unnamed, are slowly walking, carrying the weight of hard to swallow disappointment. It take two hours to walk seven miles, and that is how long they have to talk about the roller coaster events of the past three days. There was the trial, the crucifixion, the silent procession to the tomb, and then the women's vision of angels and the empty tomb. The underlying question for these two confused disciples was, "Where is our Lord?" The beauty of Jesus' appearance along Emmaus Road is that it reminds us that the Risen Christ is right there with us all along the way. The two disciples are talking things over when a stranger comes up behind



them and asks what they are talking about. They are glad for the stranger's company, and so they walk with him and tell him their story. Only when the stranger takes the bread and breaks it do they recognize the risen Lord who had been present with them on their journey.

This wonderful story about Cleopas and his friend on a trip to Emmaus shows us how the risen Christ is present in our everyday world. The death defeating God that displayed his power so dramatically through the empty tomb is the same God that who is quietly, tenderly present with us each day. As one of my professors used to say, "The great God of glory is the good God of grace."

I have been asked several times over the years about the same benediction that I deliver at the end of each Sunday worship service. The words are, "Friends, go into this new week trusting that Christ goes **before you** to prepare the way for you. He goes **behind you** to nudge you in the way of faith. And he goes **beside you** to befriend you and accompany you along life's way." This is my own shorter version of a Celtic blessing attributed to St. Patrick. In my mind it is a blessing that trusts in Easter's good news. Christ is risen, and he is with you, so much so that he is before, behind, beside, above, beneath, within, and without you. He is everywhere and everything to us.



(Willis, continued on page 2, column two)

## Easter Activity Update

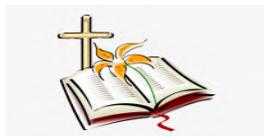
The Worship Committee has announced that there will not be any special services during Holy Week this year. The sanctuary will not be opened on Good Friday as in the past. There will be a cross in front of the church with a prayer basket available for anyone wishing to leave a prayer request and have a quiet moment of prayer.

No Easter breakfast will be held this year, but a Spring event for the congregation is in the planning stages when the weather will allow us to be together safely outside.



Holy Communion will be celebrated on Easter Sunday at our drive-in service. Communion elements will be distributed at the point of entry. Participants will then hold the elements until Rev. Willis indicates the time to partake.

### Lenten Readings



April 1-Maundy Thursday-John 17:1-26

April 2-Good Friday-John 13:36-38 ; John 19: 38-42

April 3-Holy Saturday-Romans 8:1-11

April 4-Easter Sunday-John 1:1-8; John 20:19-23

### One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Sunday, April 4. Please turn in your "fish banks" or checks in the morning offering. If paying by check, please add **OGHS** to the memo line.

*If we do a little, it adds up to a lot.*

(Willis continued from page one)

As we gather together this coming Easter, all of us bring our own personal cares, concerns, and worries. We also bring our hopes about our families, communities, and world. Hebron will gather with great hope and also with natural anxiety about making our way out of a pandemic. Yet we come together and gather around the table that reminds us of the enduring presence of the risen Christ. Let us bring all of who we are and all of our cares to be illuminated by the light of Easter. For the Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed!



Peace,

*Steve*

Rev. Steve Willis

### Scout Hut Rented

The Hebron Session voted on Sunday, March 14 to accept the conditions presented by the Kanawha Stone Corporation to rent the offices and kitchen facilities in the Scout Hut as an inspection site for engineers to use as the repairs are made on the bridge on Hewitt Road just west of Hebron. The rental agreement will span between six months to a year until the construction project is completed. The church will still maintain access to the large storage room on the east side of the building where many yard sale items are stored.



### Help Keep the Prayer List Updated

Please call the office with any updates or changes in our prayer list. Don't forget to let us know when people have improved enough to be removed.

If you add a name to the list and have not given us an update after six weeks, *we will do our best to contact you* to see if the person is improving or continues to need prayer. We all want the list to be up-to-date. We do care so please let us know how your family, friend, or neighbor is doing.



## PW Word of the Month: Joy



There are countless accounts of **JOY** in the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. Probably the greatest one for me is the Easter story.

From the hymn *The Day of Resurrection*—

The Day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Now let the heavens be **JOYful**, Let earth her song begin;  
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord hath risen, Our **Joy** that hath no end.

One definition of **JOY** is happiness over an unanticipated or present good. **JOY** is a human emotion which makes a difference in our life and well being. **JOY** can be a new baby in the family; **JOY** is starting a new job or ending a bad one; **JOY** is waking up to bright sunshine in the morning; **JOY** is hearing good news happening to someone who deserves some good news.

**JOY** can be a lasting emotion or a fleeting one. So be aware of it when it comes to you and make the most of it whether it be in your spiritual or everyday life.

May the God of hope fill you with great **JOY**,  
Millie Ruleman

## Presbyterian Women Update

The Presbyterian Women of Hebron held its first meeting of 2021 on March 9, 2021. The highlights of the business meeting were:

- \* First and foremost: Joan Wright has graciously accepted the invitation to work with Sandy Showalter to provide leadership for the PW.
- \* The yard sale will not be held again this Spring due to COVID concerns. We are looking toward a late summer yard sale, dependent upon virus numbers at that time.
- \* For the 2021-2022 church year beginning with the September 2021 meeting, the PW will resume meeting nine times a year for a business meeting and Bible study (September through May). The Bible study booklets published by Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian church will be used.
- \* In lieu of “goodie boxes” this year, \$25 gift cards were mailed to four Hebron college students: Anna and Tara Cahill, Parker Turnage, and Brock Moore. This was done for COVID safety reasons. Hopefully next year, the “goodie boxes” can be continued.
- \* A vertical banner (2 1/2’ x 6’) has been ordered and will be installed in front of the church along the highway. The scripture on the banner is: “Be still and know that I am God”. Psalm 46:10
- \* The monthly “word” cards that have been distributed with the bulletins each Sunday will be discontinued May 1 by the PW. The cards were prepared for six months in an effort to provide encouragement, joy, hope, and reflection over the fall/winter months.
- \* The “Reverse Advent Food Box Project” will be repeated again this year. So, watch out for food sales and stock up so that you will have plenty to share later this year when collections begin. Gracious thanks go out to all those who helped to make the project so successful last year.

After the business meeting, Rev. Steve Willis led an informative and insightful discussion on the first four chapters of Harold Kushner’s book ***Why Bad Things happen to Good People.***

## John Blair : A Organizer Of Churches

John Craig, an “Old Side” Presbyterian minister arrived in Augusta County in the winter of 1739-40 to accept the call at Triple Forks of the Shenandoah later known as Tinkling Springs and Augusta Stone churches. He was also required by the Donegal Presbytery in Pennsylvania to attend to the people in the North Mountain Meeting House community one Sunday every two months and as many week-days as possible. But it was John Blair, a “New Side” minister who formally organized the North Mountain Meeting House into a church in 1746.

John Blair was born in Ireland in 1720. He immigrated to the colonies in his youth. He and his brother Samuel, a leader of the New Side movement, attended the Neshaminy Log College, a one room classroom in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Log College was the first theological seminary in North America serving Presbyterians and is now known as Princeton University in New Jersey. John was licensed to preach by the New Side Presbytery of New Castle and ordained in December, 1742 as pastor of two churches in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.



Blair made two evangelical tours to the west side of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia in 1746 to preach where many churches had failed to secure Old Side pastors. He had little trouble in turning groups toward the New Side. He avoided the formal Old Side congregations that Craig had organized, but considered the outlying frontier open territory.

The Donegal Presbytery of Pennsylvania had previously sent an Old Side minister to the North Mountain Meeting House who had accepted a call, but decided not to take up the work. It was Blair who then organized the meeting house into a New Side congregation.

In the history *The Lexington Presbytery Heritage*

written by Howard McKnight Wilson, a Major Brown and some others immediately withdrew from Blair’s Meeting House in 1746 in loyalty to the Old Side ministers and formed Brown’s North Mountain Meeting House, later known as Brown’s Meeting House and is now Hebron Those remaining with Blair at the North Mountain Meeting House later became known as Bethel. At the same time, Blair was responsible for organizing New Providence (NS) from Old Providence, Timber Ridge (NS) from Timber Grove (OS), New Monmouth, and Rocky Springs Meeting House in Deerfield. After forming these churches, Blair returned to the frontier of Pennsylvania.



Blair was considered a judicious and persuasive preacher who rarely wrote his sermons in full text but rather preached using a short outline. He was patient, placid, benevolent, cheerful, amiable, and too mild to indulge in bitterness.

In 1767 when the Log College was closed to become the New Jersey College, then Princeton, Blair was elected to a professorship of theology. He was also appointed as the college’s vice-president and became acting president until another arrived to assume administrative duties. As funds became inadequate to support a professor of theology and a president, Blair resigned his professorship and accepted a call to a Presbyterian church in Walhill, New York. He continued this call until his death in December, 1771 at the age of fifty-one years.

For about twenty years, Brown’s Meeting House was dependent upon itinerant preachers sent from the Donegal Presbytery for periods of eight weeks to six months. After several failed attempts in securing a full time pastor, records indicate the Rev. Charles Cummings accepted Brown’s first full time call as its pastor in 1766.

# Remembering Nancy Katharine Thompson Cook

October 15, 1928-January 8, 2021

*"She is cloaked with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."* Proverbs 31:25-31

On Friday, January 8, God called Nancy Katharine Thompson Cook home to join her husband Ed of 54 years, her parents William Brown and Katharine Bare Thompson, and her brother William B. Thompson, Jr. She was a life-long member of Hebron Presbyterian Church where she served as an Elder, Bible school teacher, a member of a pastor search committee, and member of the Presbyterian Women. Until her death, she was one of the last three members of the Sunbeams, an organization for young girls at Hebron. Her Thompson ancestors were early members of Brown's Meeting House and custodians of the Glebe Cemetery.



Nancy's passion in life was nursing. She received her RN degree from the Medical College of Virginia, and from there she had the opportunity to work in many places over the course of her fifty year career including Richmond, Virginia, Baytown, Texas, King's Daughters' Hospital in Staunton, and Augusta Health in Fishersville.

Nancy impacted the lives of many nurses as an LPN instructor at the Valley Vocational Technical Center in Fishersville. She was tough but always fair. She wanted to make sure her students had the skills to assess the patient and deliver the best care possible.

Nancy was also a nursing supervisor at Augusta Health in Fishersville. Not only did she assist and mentor nurses, but she also helped shape and guide

new physicians coming to the hospital such as her own physician Dr. Rob Marsh. At her memorial service, he spoke of his memories of her as a supervisor and giving him "the lay of the land" so to speak. Even in her days at Beulah Land, she continued to use her nursing skills to help others. She was the "eyes and ears" for Dr. Marsh, the nursing staff, and families of other residents. She would let them know when a client needed something. Families would often check in with her prior to visiting their loved ones as if to say, "Okay, Nancy. Tell me how Simon or Dad has been doing."

Nancy was full of life and fun. She found joy in simple things -riding in a convertible and watching the habits of birds. She even loved living on a dirt road and remarked that it made you appreciate the little things in life.



But most of all, Nancy loved her family-her three children- Tom, Nancy K., and Wendy; her three grandchildren- Katie, Jesse, and Sean; her three great-grandchildren-Gabriel, Elijah, and Crew. She knew that there would soon be a new great-grandchild Kainan although she did not have the opportunity to meet him. And when the time came, she opened her heart to new family members- Jan, Katie, Glenn, Thomas, and Michaela.

*"There are no words to express how much we appreciate your love and support in our loss of Nancy T. Cook. The support of the church with the memorial service meant so much to all us. She touched many lives at Hebron and as a nurse in this community, and we will all truly miss her. Your cards and words of support have truly helped us through this difficult time. Thanks you, and our love to all."*

The Cook Family-Tom, Nancy K., and Wendy



# April 2021

## Hebron Presbyterian

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Holy Thursday	2  GOOD FRIDAY	3
4 Drive-In Worship  Easter Sunday	5 Easter Monday Church Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 Drive-In Worship Session and CAT Meeting	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Drive-In Worship	19	20	21  Happy Administrative Professionals Day!	22	23	24
25 Drive-In Worship  Session Mtg. 12:00 P.M.	26	27	28	29	30  Arbor Day	

## HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Stated Session Meeting

February 25, 2021

**Present:** Elders Mike Fallin, Gail Mayer, Joyce Obenschain, Robert Christian, Tom Cook, Sandy Showalter, Anita Tuttle, Theresa Moore, Joan Wright, Larry Mayer (Clerk of Session)

**Excused:** Doug Trimble; **Guest:** Hannah Bush (Treasurer); **Moderator:** Rev. Steve Willis

A quorum was declared present. The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and a reading from "Bread and Wine, Readings for Lent and Easter".

#### Clerk's Report:

Session approved the minutes of the December 17, 2020 Stated Session Meeting and approved the agenda for this meeting.

Deaths: Session approved removing Nancy T. Cook, Nancy B. Cline, and David R. Hickey from the rolls.

Session was informed that the clerk has submitted the 2020 Necrology Report and The 2020 Church Information Form. Session approved the 2020 Statistical Report having already been submitted by the deadline. The clerk noted an error in the Statistical Report that will be corrected in the 2021 Form.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Hannah Bush presented the following:

- ◇ Stewardship Committee report of 2/25/21 showing year-end 2020 net income of \$69,827.41
- ◇ 2020 Year-end Budget vs. Actual report
- ◇ Balance Sheet as of Jan 31, 2021 showing Operating Fund balance of \$55,298.61
- ◇ A proposed budget for 2021

**Old Business:** None

**Presbytery Report:** Presbytery will conduct a ZOOM meeting on Feb. 27, 2021. We are seeking a commissioner to this meeting.

#### Committee Reports:

- **CAT Committee (Anita Tuttle)** Forty CAT surveys were submitted from Hebron. When our consultant gets the results, she will share them with us.
- **Cemetery-(Tom Cook, Gail Mayer)** - Tom Cook reported that several burials were done in the cemetery since our last meeting.
- **Christian Ed.-**Joan Wright reported that she delivered 92 juice boxes and 115 children's masks were delivered to Valley Mission. Session reviewed the status of our youth scholarships (Scott Hickey and Hebron Youth) and determined that we have no students qualified this year.
- **Commitment/Witness-(Mike Fallin)** - One Great Hour of Sharing will be in March.
- **Congregational Ministries-** Treat jars were delivered to shut-ins. Valentines were mailed out. Plans are in the works for the coming holidays. (St. Patrick's Day and Easter). Birthday cards are being sent out by Mike Fallin.
- **Fellowship/Service-(Anita Tuttle)** – Session approved a BBQ picnic style event for Sunday, May 30.
- **Personnel-(Theresa Moore)** - A proposal for a new laptop computer for the Treasurer's use was presented. Session approved making this purchase from Amazon which will include an Amazon credit card for the church.
- **Property-(Tom Cook)-** The following issues were reported:
  - ◇ Manse painting was completed for \$4028.
  - ◇ Committee is trying to discover what company got the bridge repair contract so that we can approach them about renting the scout hut.
  - ◇ Some repairs have been made to the furnace. More repairs will be needed.
  - ◇ A leak in the lower floor bathroom will be repaired.
- **Stewardship/Finance-(Hannah Bush)** – See Treasurer report – 2021 Budget proposal.

(Session Minutes continued on page 8, column two)

# HEBRON HERALD

Hebron Presbyterian Church  
 423 Hebron Road  
 Staunton, VA 24401  
 Church Office: (540) 885-1648  
 E-mail: [myhebronpc@gmail.com](mailto:myhebronpc@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.hebronpc.com](http://www.hebronpc.com)  
 Ministries available to all ages  
 Sunday School 9:55 A.M.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.  
 Interim Pastor - Rev. Steve Willis  
 Editor of *Hebron Herald*—Joan Clemmer Wright





**Happy Birthday**

Patsy Shull	1	Jim Crawford	24
Ellen Johnson	3	Nicola Cahill	26
Millie Ruleman	3	Hilda Dundas	28
Dalton Moyer	6	Phil Carpenter	29
Bobby Crawford	16	Anita Tuttle	29
Jean Miller	17		



**April Anniversaries**

David and Joyce Obenschain	5
Philip and Maxine Carpenter	11

## Address Updates

Catherine S. McNeal	Janet Tuttle
287 Shuey Road	% Anita Tuttle
Swoope, VA 24479	1026 Lyndhurst Road
	Waynesboro, VA 22980

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- **Worship (Theresa Moore)** - We will not open the sanctuary on Good Friday but will place the cross and a prayer box outside the church. Session discussed more interaction during the drive-in services. The committee will try to arrange special music for Easter.
- **Website- (Doug Trimble)**- no report
- **Women of the Church (Sandy Showalter)** – Instead of sending goody boxes to college students, the committee will send a \$25 gift card with a note.
- **Moderator’s Report:** - Elder training is still scheduled for March 21. We will bring our own box lunches. Steve suggested that we all be thinking about a new and simpler committee structure which would be more in line with the current size of our session and congregation and hopefully eliminate committee overlap of activities.
- **New Business:** Session approved a \$50 gift card for Doug Riley in appreciation for the snow plowing done at the church and in the cemetery this winter. Session approved allowing Theresa Moore to borrow some safety signs for use at the middle school.

**Next Stated Session Meeting** – Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**Joys and Concerns:** 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 8:35 PM.