

Hebron News

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Hebron Presbyterian Church, Manakin-Sabot, VA *Our Mission is to "Spread the Word of God".*

JANUARY, 2012

From a pastor's desk. . . .

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

As we know, the month of January is named after the pagan Roman god Janus. Janus was a two-headed god who looked backward and forward at the same time. For pagans only a mythological figure could look both ways simultaneously. For Christians, however, God is **in the past, in the present, and in the future**. We mortal humans, who have been created in the image of God, are time-conscious creatures--with limitations. We often look at what is squarely in front of us only to have painful or hurtful memories from the past intrude upon us, or we may have some dreadful fears about the future burst unbidden into our consciousness.

Sigmund Freud thought we carried **old** anxieties from our childhood around with us along with **real** anxiety about some present danger and **anticipatory** anxiety about some impending threat in the future. Clearly, Freud saw human beings as heavily-burdened creatures who were all, to various degrees, sick with anxiety. He thought the only way we could cope with such anxiety was either to deny our *angst* or to convert it into something more manageable such as a phobia or a neurosis. While Freud offered keen insight into the nature of what Christians call **sin**, he also postured, sadly, that we anxious human beings created a cosmic protective Father-figure whom we endowed with divine qualities of beneficence and care and called Him **God**. As with the many avowed and practicing atheists today, Freud called all religion "an illusion."

For a Christian, Freud's view becomes yet another attempt to "be like God," as Adam and Eve attempted in the Garden of Eden. The premise of their original sin, and of our own sin, is that if we can just know enough, we will not need God and can live freely independent of Him without anxiety or any consequence.

Fortunately, New Testament Christians affirm their faith in a God who has been **historically revealed**. He is the God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekkah, of Jacob and Rachel, and He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus. Far from an **illusion**, God is for each Christian **personally revealed**, and God continues to visit each of us with comfort and joy, with power and inner peace.

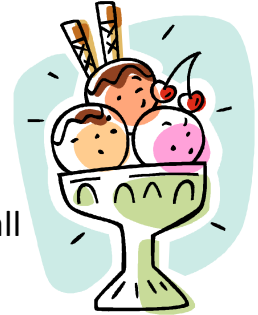
For Christians, God in Christ has redeemed human time by sending us an incarnate Savior, who Himself accepted the past, who was open to God's power in the present, and who was committed to God's kingdom in the future. Because of Christ's life, His ministry, His death, and His resurrection, we are free to let go of past regrets, free to seek and find God in our everyday lives, and free to commit to something in the future that is greater than our own self-concern. That something is the **Kingdom of God** promising love, justice, and mercy for all people everywhere.

In the new year of 2012, and **everyday of our lives as we go forward**, we have a choice between Janus and Jesus. Janus will most certainly bring us unbridled anxieties—about economic crisis, about political chaos, and about any number of things we humans are capable of fearing in the very real world of human insecurity. Jesus will most certainly bring each one of us acceptance of our past, guidance and comfort in our present, and hope and joy in our future. Because of the living God, we are able to choose to follow the Way of Christ and in so doing, we reaffirm our commitment to God's master possibility and to Christ's coming Kingdom. This is truly the Way of that peace that is promised to us that passes all understanding. May we daily seek God's help to face 2012 with courage and expectation.

Charlie Brown

Grades 7-12

HPC Youth



Sunday, January 1 - No Youth Activity. Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 8 - Youth Jam Session 6:00-7:30p.m. in Holman Hall

Sunday, January 15 - Youth Group 6:00-7:30p.m.

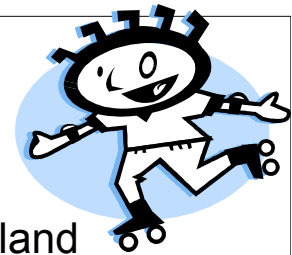
Sunday, January 22 - Sundae Sunday and Mission Trip Meeting 6:00-7:30p.m.

Important informational meeting - parents invited! We'll discuss plans for our 2012 mission trip to Huntington, West Virginia and create fabulous ice cream sundaes. Bring your parents and favorite ice cream topping.

Sunday, January 29 - Youth Group 6:00-7:30p.m.

Hebron Kids For Christ

For all kids in grades 4-6



Roller Skating

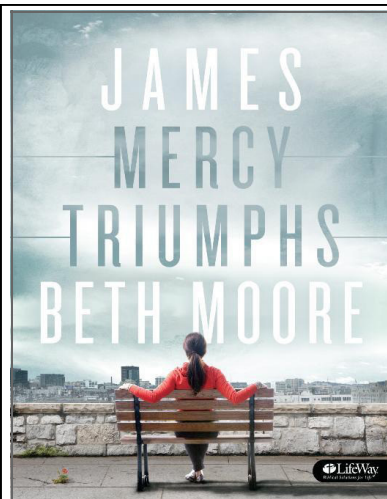
Sunday, January 15th at Ashland Skateland
2:00-4:30pm

Meet at Hebron at 1:30pm and return by 5:00pm.

Parent chaperones needed (one parent admitted free with paying child!)

Cost: \$4.50 plus \$2 skate rental

Contact Lori Alford for more information and to sign up:
784.0530 or hebrondce@comcast.net



Join us for Bible Study in 2012

The Tuesday morning women's Bible study group will begin a new study on Tuesday, January 10. Join us as we dive into the book of James with the new Beth Moore study *James: Mercy Triumphs*.

This eight-week study involves personal study time as well as group discussion and a weekly DVD session featuring nationally-known speaker, author and Bible teacher Beth Moore.

We will meet each Tuesday morning from 9:15-10:45am at the Parrish House. Cost of book: \$15. Contact Lori Alford for more information at 784.0530 or hebrondce@comcast.net.

Think Outside the Shoebox

Operation Christmas Child: A New Approach in 2012

Help send gifts to children around the world along with the eternal truth of God's love.
Join the excitement about our new approach to Operation Christmas Child this year!

1. Shop by categories. See the five gift categories and shop for items in each general category.
2. Give to the "Quarters for Christmas" offering to purchase plastic boxes. The box is another gift!
3. "Think Outside the Shoebox!" Consider basic needs for children in third-world countries.

Here are the five gift categories with some suggested items for each:

1. TOYS

Tennis balls
Stuffed animals
Matchbox cars
Dolls
Balls
Games
Beach balls
Soccer balls with pumps

2. TOILETRIES

Toothbrushes
Soap
Washcloths
Hairbows
Combs/Brushes

3. CLOTHING

T-Shirts
Socks
Hats
Gloves
Flip-Flops
Underwear
Bandanas

4. SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Crayons
Markers
Colored Pencils
Pencils
Pencil Sharpeners
Pens
Notebooks

5. EXTRAS

Cups
Bags/Purses
Bowls
Plastic Jewelry
Plastic containers
Sunglasses
Coloring Books

PLUS: Follow these helpful tips for collecting free and expensive gifts all year long:

- Ask your dentist for free toothbrushes.
- Collect free items from trade shows, sporting events, conferences and everywhere you go!
- Check your favorite stores for sale and clearance items.
- Not all of our boxes have to be packed with the same items, so bring in any great items you find.

Bring your gifts to Hebron throughout the year and place them in the red box outside Holman Hall.



Operation Christmas Child gift distribution in Mongolia - October 2011

Reflections on our Great Hymns

by Markus Compton

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

*Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born,
You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.*

~Psalm 90: 1-2

It has been wisely said that no thinking person ever regarded the beginning of a new year with indifference. Each of us faces many concerns and questions as we stand on the threshold of the unknown future.

The mystery of time is the subject of the hymn, ‘O God, Our Help in Ages Past’; it is a paraphrase of Psalm 90. The hymn is considered by many to be one of the finest ever written and perhaps the best know of the 600 hymns by Isaac Watts, often called the “father of English hymnody.”

At twenty-four, Watts preached his first sermon. This was the beginning of his prominence as a theologian. Not long into his career, he was invited to visit the estate of Sir Thomas and Lady Abney. This “visit” lengthened into thirty-six years. The Abney home was conveniently situated near the church where Watts preached.

It was during his stay with the Abneys that Watts wrote most of his hymns. They run the gamut of Christian experience—majestic, doctrinal, simple, sweet and appealing hymns.

Although Isaac Watts was frail in health during much of his life, he was a scholarly genius in many different fields. His writings include essays, discussions on psychology, three volumes of sermons, catechisms, textbooks on logic and a variety of other works. All of these works had a powerful influence upon the thinking of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

Isaac Watts died in 1748 at the age of seventy-four. His monument was placed in Westminster Abbey, the highest honor that any Englishman can have. Other hymns we often sing by Watts include ‘I Sing the Mighty Power of God,’ ‘Jesus Shall Reign,’ ‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,’ and ‘Joy to the World!’

Music Committee Meeting, Sunday, January 8th!!

Come join the choir!!

*Choir Rehearsals begin Wednesday, January 4th, 6:45-8:15. Come make a joyful noise!
Please, consider joining us, we are always interested in new singers!! Contact Markus
Compton for more information, (804) 784-4018, or markuscompton@aol.*

SESSION REPORT

At its regular meeting Thursday, December 15, the Session:

Welcomed members of the Board of Deacons to participate in its discussions.

Considered a communication from a church member regarding the Confessing Church paragraph in the bulletin insert. After affirming its desire to have bulletin items be welcoming to all and also its desire to say clearly what the church believes, the council voted to remove an internet link in the statement and suggested that further consideration might be given to a new statement when the church is doing its self-study prior to beginning the search for a new pastor.

Accepted Madison Long's resignation as an active Deacon. He will continue to serve on the board of the Day School and as a trustee of the Hebron Cemetery.

Heard that persons elected to office by the congregation are nearing the end of their training and set a special meeting of the Session for Thursday, January 5 at 7:00 pm to examine candidates for ordination. Sunday, January 8 was set as the date to ordain and install Elders and Deacons.

Heard that giving continues strong but expenses are exceeding income by an amount roughly equal to unbudgeted expenses.

Heard that so far the stewardship campaign has resulted in 36 pledges for 2012 for a total of approximately \$185,000. Elders and Deacons accepted assignments to contact members who have not responded to the stewardship campaign.

Received a report from the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee. It indicated that Presbytery will allow continuation of the present temporary supply covenants with periodic evaluations of the progress being made on interim tasks. The plan would call for another evaluation in late April.

Heard from Personnel committee that it has completed its organization, has begun year-end evaluations of pastors and staff. It recommended the approval of new temporary supply covenants with Charlie Brown and Walter Mann. The covenants were approved, with the same terms as previous covenants and have been forwarded to Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for its approval.

Approved, on recommendation of Personnel Committee Christmas gifts for the three permanent staff members.

Approved curriculum for the Women's Bible Study Group.

SESSION REPORT (CON'T)

Approved cooperative youth programing with Providence Church.

Considered an advertising plan presented through the Presbytery office and decided that if funds are available, Hebron would resume its individual advertising in the Times Dispatch rather than participate the new plan.

Approved Fellowship Committee's proposal to reduce the number of after-church socials and to schedule the ones that would be held in conjunction with special events in the life of the church.

**Hebron Day School News
January, 2012**

Hebron Day School celebrated on Wednesday, December 14, with a school Christmas party planned and organized by the parents in the 4-day class. We are very grateful for their support. We are also grateful to Matthew Roth, father to one of our former students, who served as our most "special visitor". Matt visited with each child, listened patiently to their Christmas wishes, and handed out candy canes and books.

On Wednesday evening, Hebron Day School held our annual Christmas program and activity. All the preschool children participated, and the Fellowship Hall was filled to overflowing with parents, grandparents and guests. We would like to thank those of you in the Hebron congregation who joined us, especially Dr. Walter Mann for providing our welcome and Christmas prayer. Also, we would like to especially thank Markus Compton for providing the beautiful music prior to our program, and Madison and Trudie Long who came to serve punch and cookies.

Hebron Day School reopens on Tuesday, January 3. We have a few special events planned for the month, including Pajama Day on Wednesday, January 11, and Father's Night on Wednesday, January 18. Registration for the 2012-2013 school year also begins in January. Current students, their siblings and Hebron church members will have first priority. If you have preschool children or know of a family who might be interested in our program, please let us know so we can send them an Application Packet.

We would like to wish our Hebron church family and friends a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Shirley Bonovitch
Director

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 1
 Family Worship Service 10:00am
 Communion

Tuesday, January 3
 Day School reopens

Wednesday, January 4
 Choir Rehearsal 6:45-8:15pm

Thursday, January 5
 Men of Hebron 6:45-7:30am
 Special Session Meeting 7:00pm

Sunday, January 8
 Ordination and Installation of Elders &
 Deacons 11:00am
 Music Committee Meeting 12:10pm
 Youth Jam Session 6:00-7:30pm in Holman Hall

Tuesday, January 10
 Women's Bible Study 9:15-10:45am

Wednesday, January 11
 Day School Pajama Day
 Choir Rehearsal 6:45-8:15pm

Thursday, January 12
 Men of Hebron 6:45-7:30am

Sunday, January 15
 Tweens Roller Skating Party 2:00-4:30pm
 Meet at church at 1:30pm, return by 5:00pm
 POJ Listening Sessions 3:00-5:00pm
 Youth 6:00-7:30pm

Tuesday, January 17
 Women's Bible Study 9:15-10:45am

Wednesday, January 18
 Day School Father's Night 6:30-8:00pm
 Choir Rehearsal 6:45-8:15pm

Thursday, January 18
 Men of Hebron 6:45-7:30am
 Session 7:00pm

Sunday, January 22
 Sundae Sunday & Mission Trip Meeting 6:00-7:30pm

Tuesday, January 24
 Women's Bible Study 9:15-10:45am

Wednesday, January 25
 Newsletter Deadline
 Choir Rehearsal 6:45-8:15pm

Thursday, January 26
 Men of Hebron 6:45-7:30am
 Deacons 7:00pm

Sunday, January, 29
 Youth Group 6:00-7:30pm

Tuesday, January 31
 Women's Bible Study 9:15-10:45am

PRAYER LIST

Deborah Pitts, *Ronnie Thornton's friend*
 Catherine Baldwin, *Peggy Henley's sister*
 Derek McConnell, *soldier, wounded*
in Afghanistan

Ellen Burnop, *Carol Mittendorff's cousin*
 Joan Fogg, *Carla Yuen's mother*
 Sarah Wood, *daughter of David and Jennifer Wood*
 Bette Binns, *friend of the Brights*
 George Taylor, *relative of Sandra Parrish &*
Tracy Vance

Mike Roberts, *Carla Yuen's son-in-law*
 Karen Zbinden
 Danny Mizelle and Our Military Personnel
 Alice Goodman

**Please call the office if there are any changes to
 be made to the Prayer List.*

The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry
 will be at Hebron on Sunday, January 15, to
 conduct final Listening Sessions with those
 church officers, staff members and members
 of the congregation who wish to be heard re-
 garding events leading to the resignation of
 the pastor. The team will arrive at 3:00pm
 and divide into interview teams and meet
 with individuals. Those who wish to be heard
 should call the church office to arrange for a
 time to meet with the team.

Men of Hebron

The Men of Hebron meet each Thursday
 morning from 6:45-7:30am in the
 Fellowship Hall. We are studying
"Allah: A Christian Response"
 by Miroslav Volf.
 We always have coffee, doughnuts and
 good discussions. Please join us!

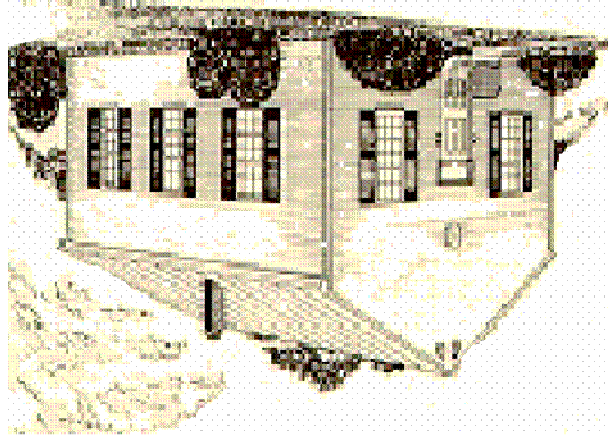
If you would like to receive your
 newsletter by email, please send your
 request to
hebronpresbyterian@comcast.net

Hebron Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ, Reformed in theology and Presbyterian by way of organization. It is related to the Presbytery of the James, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Our Mission is to Spread the Word of God

“A Historic Church with a Living Mission”

Hebron Presbyterian Church
Founded 1843



HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1040 SHALLOW WELL ROAD
MANAKIN-SABOT, VIRGINIA 23103
(804) 784-4018

You are invited to join us for our
Sunday Services
8:45am Worship Service
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship Service

Happy New Year