

Hebron News

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

February, 2019

You Are What You Love

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be, also."
Matthew 6:21, NRSV*

As I write this, I'm in the midst of doctoral classes at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. One of our assigned readings for this term is a book by James K.A. Smith called, You Are What You Love. Perhaps you've read this book, or at least heard of it. Smith is a philosophy professor at Calvin College in Michigan. He has authored a series of books about Christians in culture, but this particular book is about the power of habit in shaping what we love. A basic premise of Smith's book is that our rituals – our habits – both shape, and reflect, what is most important to us. Smith's simple assertion is that if we examine what we aim for in life, and how we spend our time, we might realize that we don't actually love what we think we love.

Smith's book got me to thinking about what I'll call "essential relationships." By that I mean the relationships you or I might identify as most important in our lives. If I were to ask you what are your most important relationships, what would you say? You might say it is with your parents or your children, or with your spouse or your siblings. If you're a person of Christian faith, you'd probably say that your relationship with God is your most important relationship. If pressed a little further, you might even say that your relationship with a favorite household pet (or horse!) is among your most important.

Nobody is going to argue with you about the primacy of these relationships in your life. But a question to ask is, "Do my habits – the way I spend my time and my thoughts – actually reflect what I believe are my most important relationships?" How would you answer that question? If I say that I love my spouse, do my time and thoughts actually bear that out? If I say that my relationships with my children are among my most important, is that actually reflected in what I think about and in how I spend my time? If I claim to love God above all, how do I actually make time and space for that relationship?

I'll be the first to admit that it's often tough to correlate the use of our time and our mental energy with the things and the people we claim to love the most. The practical aspects of living place demands on our time and our thoughts. We work in order to support those we love; or, so that those we love won't have to support us! We give of our time and energy to those outside our immediate circles of concern because this is what Christ calls us to do. We do as much as we think we can to strengthen our relationship with God, but we often feel that it's not enough. Sometimes just getting to Sunday worship feels like an accomplishment!

Smith says in his book that when we worship in meaningful ways, it *restores our loves*. Isn't that a beautiful way to think about worship? Worship should reorient us to our essential relationships; our relationship with God in Christ, and all our other relationships that flow from that primary relationship with our Creator, through our Savior. When we make our relationship with God our top priority – with time and thought devoted to the reading of Scripture, and to prayer and worship – God helps order our habits so we can truly love what and whom we say we love. When Jesus said, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be, also;*" he was talking about more than money. He was talking about the way we are to order our lives, so that we can build our "treasure" where it really matters.

With prayers for your journey,

Connie Weaver

SESSION SUMMARY

**Stated Meeting
January 17, 2019**

- The 2019 working budget was approved. A congregational meeting will be held on February 10, 2019 to share it with the congregation.
- It was noted that Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 17, 2019.
- Confirmation classes will begin on February 3; Paula Curle will lead the classes.
- Confirmation Sunday will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2019.
- The 2019 holiday schedule has been approved by the Personnel committee.
- Fayette Thackston was elected to attend the next stated meeting of the Presbytery of the James on February 16, 2019 in the event the primary attendees are unable to attend.

**Called Meeting
January 20, 2019**

A Called Session meeting was held on Sunday, January 20th for the purpose of receiving Joe Weaver as a member of Hebron Presbyterian Church. Joe is received upon transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church in Ashboro, NC.

Financial Report	
Monthly Need:	\$26,966
Actuals: January	\$25,090.46

Modesty Is the Best Policy

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you; Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgement, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

~Romans 12:3

The German composer Johannes Brahms wrote great symphonies, songs and chamber music that are loved universally; but a principal, endearing quality was his unassuming modesty. Brahms would know world renown in his lifetime, becoming one of the most successful composers of the nineteenth century.

Yet even at the height of his fame, Brahms—who had been born in the slums of Hamburg—usually wore old, simple clothing; he enjoyed taking long country walks and eating in plain roadside cafes. He was a quite benefactor to the poor around him, made friends easily, and was particularly fond of children. A bachelor, Brahms was unpretentious in his lifestyle. In fact, he grew the long bushy beard so prominent in his best portraits because he was tired of shaving and wearing ties!

In the midst of his unsought fame, which puzzled and amused him, Brahms was modest and unassuming about his creations. He once mailed—unregistered—the only existing manuscript copy of his Fourth Symphony to a conductor. In a fury, the conductor, Hans von Bulow, protested, “What would we have done had the packet gone astray?” Brahms simply stated, “In that case I would have to write the symphony anew.”

But most revealing of Brahms’s modesty are his comments comparing his music to that of other greats: concerning Mendelssohn, Brahms said, “I’d give all my compositions if I could have written such a piece as the oratorio *Elijah*.”

After playing a Bach sonata, Brahms threw a copy of his own sonata on the floor: “After that, who could play such stuff as this?”

And at dinner during which his host was about to toast “the health of the greatest composer,” Brahms interrupted. Glass in hand he jumped to his feet and bellowed, “Quite right! Here’s to Mozart’s health!”

What a picture of unpretentious humility! Here is a man who had learned the profound truth of 1 Peter 5:5: “*Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’*”

When I consider Brahms’s life story, I think of a parable that Jesus told at a dinner when He “noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table”:

When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, “Give this man your seat.” Then humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, “Friend, move up to a better place.” Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Luke 14:7-11).

What a wonderful story about the practical benefits of modesty. It may have its heavenly rewards, but in the here and now it can prevent humiliation. And I don’t know anyone who doesn’t want to avoid that hard lesson. May we all remember this story and strive for a spirit of humility even in the midst of success, and may our work and character speak for themselves.

~Markus Compton

Hebron Day School News

. . . “love one another as I have loved you.”

Father’s Night was a huge success! We had many dads and family friends join us on January 23 for a fun night “at the circus”. Our guests were treated to a pizza dinner, donated by Victor Guevara of Belmont Pizzeria! Many thanks to Abel’s dad for doing this.

Registration for Hebron Day School for the 2019-2020 school year opens to the public on February 1, 2019. Please let us know if you have any family or friends with preschoolers who might be interested in our program. We will be happy to send them an application packet.

The preschool will celebrate Valentine’s Day on Wednesday, February 13, at 11:00am with our annual party and valentine exchange. Parents in our Little Ducks class are planning and organizing this event.

We will hold our Workshop Wednesday after-school class on Wednesday, February 20, from 12:00-1:00pm. These workshops are a fundraiser for Hebron Day School, and we are grateful to all the parents, teachers and Board members who donate their time and materials to support these workshops.

Many thanks to all of our Hebron Church friends for their continued support of our program, and for all the kind words we hear from many of you. They are much appreciated.

Shirley Bonovitch
Director

Operation Christmas Child

. In February please shop for these items:
—Hair bows, hair clips and scrunchies
—matchbox cars

All year please look for:
—Youth tee shirts on sale at Michaels and Jo Ann Fabric
—Reusable shopping bags from grocery, discount and hardware stores
—Free items from sporting events and conferences (stadium cups, pens)
—Free toothbrushes from your dentist
—Small purses from cosmetic companies

No time to shop? We welcome donations!
Put your Christmas gifts in the large green plastic tub outside Holman Hall.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Friday, February 1

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Sunday, February 3

Adult Bible Study 9:00am

Seeking a Word from the Lord, Ralph Fields Room*Book of Acts*, Holman Hall

Confirmation Class 9:00am

Worship & Communion 10:00am

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering

Soup Luncheon

Tuesday, February 5

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Wednesday, February 6

Choir 6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, February 7

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Friday, February 8

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Sunday, February 10

Adult Bible Study 9:00am

Seeking a Word from the Lord, Ralph Fields Room*Book of Acts*, Holman Hall

Confirmation Class 9:00am

Worship 10:00am

Annual Meeting

Men's Group 6:00pm Holman Hall

Youth Group 6:00-7:30pm Parrish House

Tuesday, February 12

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Wednesday, February 13

Day School Valentine's Party 11:00am

Choir 6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, February 14

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Friday, February 15

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Sunday, February 17

Adult Bible Study 9:00am

Seeking a Word from the Lord, Ralph Fields Room*Book of Acts*, Holman Hall

Confirmation Class 9:00am

Worship 10:00am

Tweens 11:30am-1:00pm Lunch and Bible Study

Men's Group 6:00pm Holman Hall

Youth Group 6:00-7:30pm Parrish House

Tuesday, February 19

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Wednesday, February 20

Choir 6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, February 21

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Session 7:00pm

Friday, February 22

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

PRAYER CONCERNS

The Powers Family

Polly Anderson

T. C. & Diane Anderson

Sandy & Rossie Fisher

Chris Amirault, *friend of Laura Farley*Mike Hammond, *family friend of The Thackstons*Ryan Dean, *Patricia Turner's nephew*Lou Hanscom, *friend of Ronnie Thornton*Luke Baher-Mona, *friend of the Northen family*Scott Kulp, *Megan Compton's uncle*Joyce Hawk, *Lori Alford's mother*Audrey Ownsbey, *Debbie Fahrner's mother*Betty Ownsbey, *Debbie Fahrner's sister*Mary Ellen Bundy Murray, *friend of Hebron*Matthew Neher, *Robin Williams' cousin*Vickie Ipsen Curle, *Mack Curle's sister-in-law*A friend of *Rod & Susie Smyth*Carter Smith, *Tracy Kistler's nephew*

The Atkinson Family,

*friends of Dan & Martha Rogers*Ted Phillips, *Barb Young's brother*Ben Watkins, *Tricia Miller's brother*Mia Barksdale, *Paula Curle's sister*Karen Ball, *Patsy Rice's daughter*Glenn Parrish, *Sandra Parrish's husband*

Our Military Personnel

Firefighters

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

In general, names on the Prayer List will be printed for four weeks. Please contact the office if you would like to keep a name for a longer time. Confidential prayers may be requested on the church website.

Saturday, February 23

Officer Retreat 8:30am-2:00pm Holman Hall

Sunday, February 24

Deacons Meeting 8:30am

Adult Bible Study 9:00am

Seeking a Word from the Lord, Ralph Fields Room*Book of Acts*, Holman Hall

Confirmation Class 9:00am

Worship 10:00am

Confirmation Retreat 11:30am-2:30pm

Men's Group 6:00pm Holman Hall

Tuesday, February 26

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Wednesday, February 27

Choir 6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, February 28

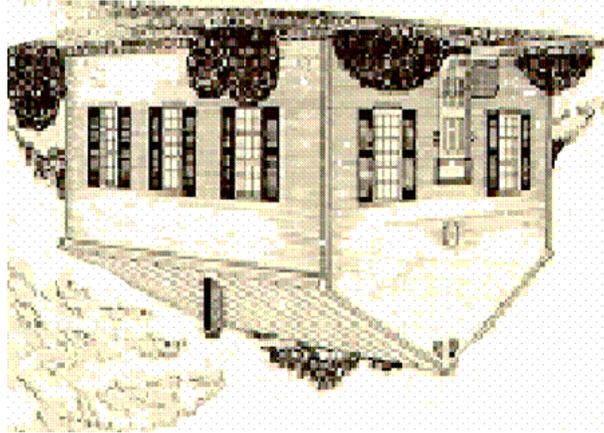
Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

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
10:00am Worship Service*