

# Hebron News

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

November, 2019

## *Seeking Jesus*

*"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people."*

*John 1:3b-4, NRSV*

As you are reading this issue of Hebron News, we are just a month away from the beginning of Advent. It won't be long before we'll be seeing Christmas greenery on our neighbors' doors, holiday commercials and movies on television, and Christmas cards in our mailboxes. *Are you ready? Neither am I!* But it will be here, just the same. One of the challenges we face as people of Christian faith is keeping our focus in the right place during the Advent season. The word "advent" connotes the coming of something important. In the case of our Christian Advent season, we are anticipating the arrival of God incarnated – God, made flesh – in the person of a tiny baby whose name was Jesus. Rather than a time of pre-celebration of Christmas, Advent is meant to be a time of waiting and preparation. Our Orthodox brothers and sisters even undertake a "nativity fast" during Advent, abstaining from much of the food and drink that we take for granted as part of our celebrations leading up to Christmas Day.

Years ago, I heard a story about a little boy who is now a young man. This boy had learned from someone at church that because Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, the baby Jesus should not be placed in the family's creche or nativity scene until Christmas Day. So, he went home and took the baby Jesus out of his family's manger scene and hid it. He hid it so well that no one could find it, and he refused to divulge its location until Christmas morning, when he returned the baby Jesus to his place in the manger. I can't think about "looking for Jesus" or "seeking Jesus" without remembering this story, which always makes me smile. Sometimes it is the youngest among us who actually "gets" what the Advent season is all about.

During the month of November, we'll be looking at three gospel stories about people who wanted to see, touch or know Jesus. The first is from Luke's gospel; the story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector despised by his peers but loved and called into repentance by Jesus. The second is Mark's telling of the woman who sought merely to touch the garment of Jesus to receive healing, but who was called out and recognized and blessed by Jesus. The third story is from John's gospel, about a Pharisee who comes under cover of darkness to have a conversation with Jesus. Then on the last Sunday in November, which is Christ the King Sunday, we'll look at a parable of Jesus from Matthew's gospel often referred to as "the judgment of the nations," in which Jesus makes clear what it really means to love and serve him.

It's my hope that as we consider these stories of real people who sought and encountered the Jesus who walked among them as God-made-flesh, our hearts will be made more ready for the season of waiting called Advent.

With prayers for your journey,

Connie Weaver  
Pastor

**Hebron’s Session did not meet in October. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, November 21st.**

**—a thought from Your Stewardship Committee:**

Just a reminder to turn in your pledge card expressing your commitment to God’s work through Hebron. The Session will use our gifts to set our mission programs for next year.

In Rev. Weaver’s sermon on The Power of One: Generosity, she reminded us that God takes whatever we have to offer and uses it for His work. He doesn’t change the gift—but accepts whatever we bring because His transforming love can multiply it. We simply need to offer our gifts and trust Jesus to use them to make a difference in the world around us and in the lives of others. What a powerful assurance.

Blessings from Your Stewardship Committee

<b>Financial Report</b>	
Monthly Need:	\$26,966.00
Actuals: October:	\$35,622.17

**Wednesday Night Special continues through November 20**

Join us on Wednesday evenings for dinner (\$5) at 5:45pm followed by singing, hearing a testimony, and a time for prayer. We conclude by 7:10pm.

- |             |                            |                              |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| November 6  | Speaker: Carol Mittendorff | Menu: Chicken parmesan       |
| November 13 | Speaker: Suzanne Gahan     | Menu: Chili/baked potato bar |



**November 20: Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship**

Turkey, dressing, rolls and pies will be provided. Bring a side dish or salad to share. We will also collect non-perishable food items for the GoochlandCares food pantry.

## Christian Education at Hebron

Growing in faith. Together.

### Sunday Mornings

#### Adults

9:00am	Seeking a Word from the Lord, led by Mack Curle	Ralph Fields Room
9:00am	Acts, led by Ronnie Nuckols	Library

#### Children

9:00am	Kids Club, led by Lori Alford and Julia Kistler	Classroom #2
10:00am	Children's Church (ages 4 - grade 2)	Ralph Fields Room

### Women's Bible Studies

Tuesdays, 9:30am	The Insanity of God, led by Tracy Kistler	Parrish House
Thursdays, 9:30am	Romans, led by Lori Alford	Parrish House

### Men's Group

Sundays at 6:00pm Led by Fayette Thackston	Christian Leadership in a Secular World	Holman Hall
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For more information contact Lori Alford at [hebrondce@comcast.net](mailto:hebrondce@comcast.net) or 784.4018

### Hebron Youth Group

#### [students in grades 7-12]



<b>Sunday, November 3</b>	Chili Bowl XIV at the Kistler's Bring your parents and siblings for flag football and chili!	<b>4:00-7:00pm</b>
<b>Sunday, November 10</b>	Youth Group at the Parrish House Snacks, games and Bible study: <i>Be the Light</i>	<b>6:00-7:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday, November 17</b>	Youth Group at the Parrish House Snacks, games and Bible study: <i>Dealing with Difficult People</i>	<b>6:00-7:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday, November 24</b>	Youth Group at the Parrish House Snacks, games and Bible study: <i>Thanksgiving</i>	<b>6:00-7:30pm</b>

## Our Grateful Hymn of Praise

'*For the Beauty of the Earth*' is one of only a few songs devoted purely to giving thanks. This hymn expresses in fine literary style many of the blessings of life so commonly taken for granted and then directs our "grateful praise" to God, the giver of every good and perfect gift.

The first two stanzas are concerned with the world of nature. We offer praise for the wonder and loveliness of Creation.

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.*

*For the beauty of each hour; of the day and of the night.  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light.*

The first stanza says that the gifts of nature, as revealed in *the beauty of the earth* and *the beauty of the skies*, are not only tokens of God's creative power, they are also proofs and pledges of his love—the love which encircles our lives right *from our birth*, and is *over and around us* till the end of our days. The beauty of the world is a perpetual reminder of the Father's concern for his children's happiness. He has placed us in a world full of lovely things, things created not simply for their use but for their enjoyment.

There is beauty in each hour, the second stanza says. Certainly *the night* has its beauty as well as *the day*, the sky as well as the ground. We look around in God's world and survey the glory of *hill and vale, tree and flower* with their infinite variety of size, form and color. We look up and discern the Creator's handiwork no less in *sun and moon and stars of light* and we gratefully acknowledge that '*The heavens are telling the glory of God*'.

The next stanza expresses another source of joy: our personal relationships.

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.*

These words call for little comment and require no explanation, but they are deserving of thought and reflection. What would life be without *the joy of human love*? Some of our most enduring happinesses are derived from the bonds of family: *brother, sister, parent, child*—and from the gift of friendship. And the latter includes not only *friends on earth* but also *friends above*; such is our faith and hope in him who is the Resurrection and the Life. For this too, we must offer our hymn of grateful praise.

The last stanza lifts our thoughts to a high spiritual plane and forms a splendid climax to this hymn.

*For the church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore this pure sacrifice of love.*

First, we praise our Lord for the church: the analogy of the Church as the bride of Christ is developed by Paul in Ephesians 5, where he likens the marriage bond to the spiritual relationship between the Lord and his people in what is sometimes called the heavenly wedlock. Like the marriage bond, it is essentially a relationship of love. Christ's love for his church--*his people*, is a sacrificial love. He gave himself up for her. The Church responds to that love in sacrificial terms, *offering up on every shore this pure sacrifice of love*. The picture of the Church as a worldwide, worshipping community engaged in a ceaseless ministry of prayer and praise is an impressive one.

May we never take for granted all the physical beauty of the world—sun, flower and shining stars. May we remember the social joy of friends and home; those relationships that bring such enriching dimensions to life. Above all, may we give thanks for the ministry of the church and may we, God's people, be vigorously engaged in responding to God's love by sharing it with the world.

## Hebron Day School News

**“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is great.”**

Psalm 107:1

Hebron Day School has several events scheduled for November. We begin with a visit from our friends. State Troopers Brandon Patenaude and Gabe Stewart on Wednesday November 6. Trooper Patenaude’s daughter was a student at Hebron Day School a few years ago, and Trooper Stewart’s son is a student in our Little Duck’s class this year. They are kind enough to share their time with us and bring their police car for the kids to see. This year they also plan to bring the Search and Rescue truck and boat!

On Wednesday, November 13, we will have our first Workshop Wednesday after-school class of the year from 12:00-1:00pm. This class is staffed by the Hebron teachers and is a fundraiser for the day school.

Our Thanksgiving Feast will be held on Tuesday, November 26, at 11:00am. This is a big event for the children and their parents. The parents in our Little Bears class are in charge of planning this party, and we are grateful to them and all our wonderful parents for their support!

Many thanks to everyone for your continued support of our program. We would like to wish all of our Hebron church friends a very Happy Thanksgiving!

*Growing in Faith...*

Shirley Bonovitch  
Director

### **Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you for contributing gifts for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes throughout the year. On Friday night, November 1, we packed 200 shoeboxes. Your efforts made packing the shoeboxes possible.

Please pray for children who receive these boxes and for their families and communities that their hearts will be opened to the good news of the love of Jesus Christ.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

**Friday, November 1**

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House  
Shoebox Packing Party and Dinner 5:30pm

**Sunday, November 3**

Adult Bible Study 9:00am  
*Seeking a Word from the Lord*, Ralph Fields Room  
Acts, Library

Worship & Communion 10:00am

Youth Group: Chili Bowl 4:00-7:00pm

Men's Group 6:00-7:30pm Holman Hall

**Tuesday, November 5**

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House  
Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

**Wednesday, November 6**

Wednesday Night Special 5:45pm

Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15pm

**Thursday, November 7**

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

**Friday, November 8**

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

**Sunday, November 10**

Adult Bible Study 9:00am  
*Seeking a Word from the Lord*, Ralph Fields Room  
Acts, Library

Worship 10:00am

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

Men's Group 6:00-7:30pm Holman Hall

**Tuesday, November 12**

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House  
Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

**Wednesday, November 13**

Wednesday Night Special 5:45pm

Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15pm

**Thursday, November 14**

Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

**Friday, November 15**

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

**Sunday, November 17**

Adult Bible Study 9:00am  
*Seeking a Word from the Lord*, Ralph Fields Room  
Acts, Library

Worship 10:00am

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

Men's Group 6:00-7:30pm Holman Hall

**Tuesday, November 19**

AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House  
Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

**Wednesday, November 20**

Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship 5:45pm

Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15pm

**Thursday, November 21**

Session 7:00pm

**Friday, November 22**

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sandy & Rossie Fisher

Kirk Powers

Kim Long, *daughter-in-law of Trudie Long*

Ted Phillips, *Barb Young's brother*

Dianne Quarles, *Patricia Turner's sister*

Charles Strickler, *friend of Patricia Turner*

Lindsey Haile, *Cheryl and Ronnie Nuckols' daughter*

Betty and Bob Barnes, *Martha Rogers' sister and brother-in-law*

Anne Boswell Owens, *Mack Curle's cousin*

Linda Trice, *friend of Cheryl Nuckols*

Melissa Evans, *friend of Cheryl Nuckols*

John Hodge, *brother of Marge Paradis*

Plumbers

*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.**

PASTORAL CARE

The committee consists of Scott Parks (347-7505) and Nancy Parrish (402-4864). Share any births, deaths, illness or other concerns with one of these committee members.

FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

Brenda Morgan and Louise Preston

**Sunday, November 24**

Deacons 11:15am

Adult Bible Study 9:00am

*Seeking a Word from the Lord*, Ralph Fields Room  
Acts, Library

Worship 10:00am

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

Men's Group 6:00-7:30pm Holman Hall

**Tuesday, November 26**

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

Day School Thanksgiving Feast 11:00am

**Wednesday, November 27-28**

Day School Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

Office Closed

**Friday, November 29**

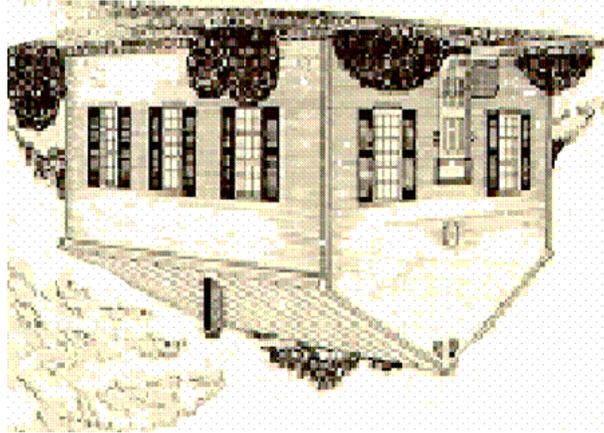
AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

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*