

Hebron News

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

May, 2019

Our Debts and our Debtors

Years ago, New Testament scholar F.F. Bruce wrote a book called, Hard Sayings of Jesus. It's been a long time since I read the book, and so I don't remember all the "hard sayings" Bruce discusses; but one that's on my own list is some words of Jesus found in the 6th chapter of Matthew. They come in the context of Jesus' teaching about prayer. Matthew tells us that Jesus taught against praying just to be "seen" by others, and against heaping up empty phrases in our prayers. Matthew then gives us his rendering of what would come to be known as the Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.*
Matthew 6:9b-13, NRSV

And then, Matthew tells us that Jesus spoke these words: *For if you forgive others their trespasses, Your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will Your Father forgive your trespasses.* If ever there was a "hard saying" of Jesus, this is certainly one of them. How many of us harbor ill feelings against another person? How many of us live with resentment toward someone we feel has wronged us, or who has wronged a person we love? Often, the unforgiveness we carry around inside of us is toward an individual we don't even know, or perhaps even toward a group of people. Sometimes, the grudge we bear may even be against God, over things we feel God could have done, but didn't.

Forgiveness is a delicate thing. It can't be forced. It's not honest to say that we've forgiven someone, if we actually haven't. Saying we've forgiven someone when we haven't done so seems to fall in that same category of praying to be seen, and heaping up empty phrases, that Jesus speaks against in regard to prayer. So, what are we to do with the grudges and resentments that are like weights that we carry?

I see forgiveness as an ongoing process in our lives. I believe that it's truly only God's empowerment through the Holy Spirit that enables us to forgive. The more we are able to understand ourselves as beloved by God, the more we are able to see others in the same way, even those who have hurt us. I've come to understand Jesus' words in Matthew 6:14 as a layered process, maybe even as a dance of sorts, in which we continually seek to forgive others as we continually seek forgiveness from God.

The truth is, I have an "aspirational forgiveness list." It's not terribly long, but it is persistent. I have to keep putting these people before God, asking God to help me love them, and pray for them, and yes, to forgive them. I trust that by acknowledging to God my need to forgive – by getting up out of my chair to dance, if you will – I will experience God's forgiveness of my own trespasses and be empowered to forgive others.

With prayers for your journey,

Connie Weaver

The Session did not meet in April. Their next regular meeting will be May 16th.

Financial Report	
Monthly Need:	\$26,966
Actuals: March:	\$28,004.43
April:	\$22,142.50

—a thought from Your Stewardship Committee:

“John D. Rockefeller was one of the wealthiest men who ever lived. After he died, someone asked his accountant, ‘How much money did John D. Leave?’ The reply: ‘He left ... all of it.’

You can’t take it with you—but you can send it on ahead.
 ...Anything we put into God’s hands will be ours for eternity.
 Christ himself is our ultimate treasure.”

(Quoted from Randy Alcorn’s “The Treasure Principle.”)



Did you know that Hebron Church volunteers at the Goochland Cares Food Pantry every month on the second Tuesday from 10:00am - 2:00pm? Come join us! It's rewarding and truly doing God's work with the citizens of Goochland County. If you have any questions, call the church office for more information.

Adult Bible Studies

<i>Seeking a Word from the Lord</i>		Sundays 9:00am, Ralph Fields Room
<i>Book of Acts</i>		Sundays 9:00am, Holman Hall
Women's Bible Study	<i>Known By Name: Rahab</i>	Tuesdays 9:30am, Parrish House
Women's Bible Study	<i>Known By Name: Rahab</i>	Thursdays 9:30am, Parrish House
Men's Group	<i>Foundations for Men</i>	Sundays 6:00-7:30pm, Holman Hall

Hebron Youth

[students in grades 7-12]

- Saturday May 4 Service Project in Crozier 9:00am-2:00pm**
We're painting a fence for a generous donation for summer missions! Lunch provided.
- Sunday, May 5 Service Project in Crozier 11:30am-3:30pm**
We're painting a fence for a generous donation for summer missions! Lunch provided.
- Sunday, May 12 Happy Mother's Day! No youth activity**
- Sunday, May 19 Mission Trip Training 6:00-7:30pm, Parrish House**
All mission trip participants should be here as we prepare to lead Vacation Bible School in Pikeville. Snacks provided.
- Sunday, May 26 Memorial Day Weekend - no youth activity**

2019 Graduation



We would like to recognize anyone in the Hebron church family who will be graduating from high school, technical school, or a college undergraduate or graduate program this year. Please contact the church office at 784-4018 or email hebronpresbyterian@comcast.net to be sure we have your graduate's name on our list of honorees.

Don't miss this summer's "mane" event!



Roar Vacation Bible School *Life is wild. God is good.*

June 17-21 9:00am-12:00pm

For all children age 4 through rising 6th graders

At *Roar VBS*, kids will learn that when life is unfair, when life is scary, when life changes, when life is sad and when life is good... God is good! With high-energy music, fun games, interactive Bible stories and hands-on mission projects, this VBS is sure to be an unforgettable adventure.

To pre-register, visit hebronpresbyterian.com



Join the herd!

*Be an important part of bringing
God's Word to life at Roar VBS*



Current volunteer opportunities:

- **Crew Leaders:** Adults and high school students are needed to lead crews of 5-6 children each day at VBS
- **Crew Floater:** Assist with Crews when needed, on days you are available
- **VBS photographer:** Adult to take digital snapshots of the action each day

For more information about anything VBS,
contact Lori Alford: hebrondce@comcast.net or 804.347.7585



Inspired by God's Handiwork

Ludwig van Beethoven

*Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.
~Psalm 98:8*

A young boy named Michael Krenn walked through the outskirts of Vienna, Austria looking for the strange man who had employed his father as his assistant. As the youth mounted a hill, he spied someone far away sitting by a brook. Yes, the boy knew that he had found his man.

Krenn later reported the bizarre scene: Jumping up from his seat on the ground, the eccentric “cried out, threw his hands about, walked fast, very slow and then very fast and then, all of a sudden, would stand quite still and write something in a kind of pocket notebook.” The ‘character’—Ludwig van Beethoven—was composing in his favorite ‘studio’—the forest and fields of the great Vienna woods

Nature was always one of Beethoven's greatest inspirations. For years his typical daily schedule included two long walks in the country, where he composed many of the masterpieces we still cherish. One of his good friends claimed that he had “*never met anyone who so delighted in nature, or who so thoroughly enjoyed flowers, or clouds, or other natural objects. Nature was almost meat and drink to him; he seems positively to exist on it.*”

Many diary excerpts describe Beethoven's love of nature. In 1812 he wrote: “Almighty One, in the woods I am blessed. Happy is everyone in the woods. Every tree speaks through Thee, O God! What glory is in the woodland. On the heights is peace—‘Peace to serve Him.’” And in another entry he wrote, “Here I shall learn to know God and find a foretaste of heaven in His knowledge.” No matter what the weather, Beethoven would wander through the fields, sketchbook in hand, awaiting inspiration. One of his favorite sayings was, “*The morning air has gold to spare.*”

Perhaps the greatest example of nature's inspiration to Beethoven is his Symphony No. 6, the ‘Pastoral’ Symphony. Each of its five exquisite movements has a descriptive programmatic title, such as “*Cheerful Impressions Excite on Arriving in the Country,*” “*By the Brook,*” “*Peasants Merry Making,*” “*Storm,*” “*The Shepherd's Hymn, Gratitude and Thanksgiving After the Storm.*”

Even after he was deaf, Beethoven held onto the inspiration he had found in the beauty of God's world. His love of nature brought him closer to the Lord, for he was careful to worship the Creator rather than the creation.

Our creator God delights in our delight of the creation He called “good.” In our fast-paced world, we too often take nature for granted. When was the last time you were inspired by a sunset, a tree, a flower, a grand canyon—or a rolling stream?

In Isaiah 55:12, the poetry of scripture talks about nature itself praising God. “*You will go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.*” May we this season praise God for creating such an awesome world and may we catch a little of the Beethoven spirit being inspired by the sights and sounds of His handiwork.

Hebron Day School News

“I will praise Thee with my whole heart”
Psalm 156:1

It's May already! We've got lots of special events going on this month. We begin with our annual Mother's Day Luncheon on Wednesday, May 8, at 11:00am. This is a very special time for the preschoolers to invite their moms to a lunch prepared and provided by the teachers. The children sing special songs and give their moms a treat made just for them.

Report cards go home this month, and on Wednesday, May 15, we hold Parent/Teacher Conferences for any parents who would like to meet with their child's teacher to discuss their progress.

On Tuesday, May 21, we celebrate with our End of Year Party. This is a special morning of outdoor fun and games with our parents and siblings. The teachers will also present the parents with a wonderful surprise that the children have been working on all year!

Our final day of preschool is Wednesday, May 22. Our Closing Program and Graduation takes place that evening (May 22) at 6:30pm in the Church Sanctuary. All children participate in this program, and the Pre-K Class will “graduate” as they get ready to move on to Kindergarten. Following our program, there will be a covered dish dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU, to all our children, parents and church members for your support throughout the year. It has been our pleasure to be a part of these children's lives, and we hope you all have a wonderful, safe, happy summer! We look forward to seeing many of our families again in the fall. Looking ahead, our Open House will be held on August 29. God Bless!

Shirley Bonovitch
Director

Operation Christmas Child

In May, please shop for these items:
small stuffed animals (like the size of Beanie babies), small games and toys.

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.

MAY CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 1
 Choir 6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, May 2
 Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Friday, May 3
 AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Saturday, May 4
 Youth service project in Cozier

Sunday, May 5
 Adult Bible Study 9:00am
Seeking a Word from the Lord, Ralph Fields Room
Book of Acts, Holman Hall
 Worship 10:00am
 Youth Meet at GHS by 2:15 for *Hairspray*
 Men's Group 6:00pm Holman Hall

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

Wednesday, May 8
 Day School Mother's Day Luncheon 11:00am
 Choir 6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, May 9
 Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Friday, May 10
 AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Sunday, May 12
 Adult Bible Study 9:00am
Seeking a Word from the Lord, Ralph Fields Room
Book of Acts, Holman Hall
 Worship 10:00am
 Men's Group 6:00pm Holman Hall

Tuesday, May 14
 AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House
 Last Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House

Wednesday, May 15
 Choir 6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, May 16
 Last Women's Bible Study 9:30am Parrish House
 Session 7:00pm

Friday, May 17
 AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Sunday, May 19
 Deacon's Meeting 8:30am
 Adult Bible Study 9:00am
Seeking a Word from the Lord, Ralph Fields Room
Book of Acts, Holman Hall
 Worship 10:00am
 Youth 6:00-7:30pm Mandatory Mission Trip
 Training at the Parrish House
 Men's Group 6:00pm Holman Hall

PRAYER CONCERNS

Kathy Tyler
 Sandy & Rossie Fisher
 Hannah Harrison, *friend of Rod & Susie Smyth*
 Anne Boswell Owens, *Mack Curle's cousin*
 Mia Barksdale, *Paula Curle's sister*
 Farmers

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.

Tuesday, May 21
 AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House
 Day School End of Year Party 9:30am-12:00pm

Wednesday, May 22
 Choir 6:30-8:00pm
 Day School Program/Graduation at 6:30 pm, followed by a covered dish dinner

Friday, May 24
 AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

Sunday, May 26
 Adult Bible Study 9:00am
Seeking a Word from the Lord, Ralph Fields Room
Book of Acts, Holman Hall
 Worship 10:00am

Tuesday, May 28
 AA Meeting 7:00-8:00am Parrish House

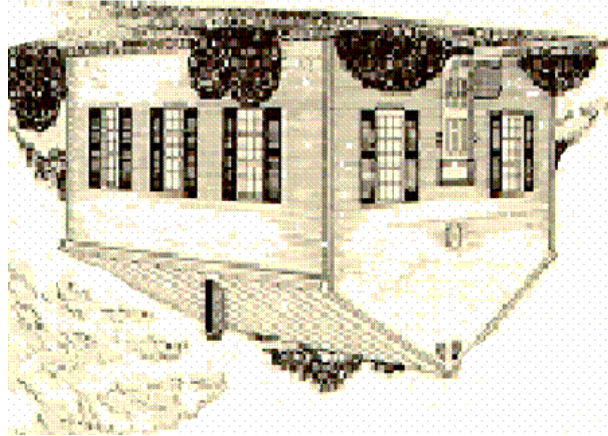
Wednesday, May 29
 Choir 6:30-8:00pm

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