

# HERITAGE JOURNAL

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

## BEING THE CHURCH



### BEING THE CHURCH AT HERITAGE

Testimonies from long-time members of HBC

### WHEN SHEEP BITE

Dealing with a church of broken people is not easy

### TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT SERVING

Is there a place for kids to serve inside the church?

JANUARY 2024

# HERITAGE JOURNAL 2024

Heritage Baptist Church  
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Heritage exists to make followers of Jesus Christ by living the gospel life among the nations



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## WHY IS THE CHURCH PRECIOUS?

Why is the church precious above all things save God Himself? The Apostle Paul said the church will be arrayed "in splendor, without spot or wrinkle...holy without blemish" (Eph. 5:27). The Apostle John described the church as a "bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 21:2). Charles Spurgeon called the church "the dearest place on earth." Jonathan Edwards pictured the relationship of Christ and the church in such a way that their mutual joys "are the end of creation." Do we as Christians have such lofty visions concerning the church, which is the future bride of Jesus Christ, the Son, who is the second member of the Holy Trinity?

### The church is precious because of who loves her.

A nobody can suddenly be known and esteemed, simply because the President of the United States or the King of England makes mention of them. A sports jersey can sell for astronomical amounts simply because it was worn by a famous athlete. How much greater is this reality when God Himself declares that the church is to be the object of His special affection; that Jesus would bless her, lavish her, seal her, and keep her for Himself (Eph.1)?

### The church is precious because of the price that was paid for her.

The price paid for an item, declares its worth. Relatively insignificant items are made priceless because an individual declared the worth of an artwork by paying a significant sum for its purchase. The Apostle Paul declares what God thinks of the redeemed when he wrote in Acts 20:28, "the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." The church was purchased with the very blood of God. Nothing has had a higher price tag than the church. When we think on the church, we must never forget who loves her and the price that was paid for her. Indeed, the church is precious beyond measure.

**NATHAN SMITH**  
SENIOR PASTOR





## AMONG THE CITY

On Sunday, November 19, 2023, our Worship Ministry had the privilege of participating in the Downtown Lynchburg Association's Bright Nights event. Thank you to the many, many people who helped pull off our part of the event with only about 3 weeks notice!

From the HBC Children's Choir, directors and parents, our band and instrumentalists, the Worship Choir and soloists, our Tech Team, the Worship Staff, and many others who helped set up and tear down, thank you so very much! It took everyone working together and we are so grateful for all your hard work in such a short amount of time! We hope to be involved in future events like this because it gives us an opportunity to be a blessing to our community!

-Pastor Kevin

## NEW CONNECTIONS MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Did you know that **98 people** attended our last New Connections class of 2023?



Remember to pray for those who have recently joined Heritage and if you are interested in attending New Connections - scan here



# TRAINING & SOWING

WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

You have donated over  
**\$230,000**

Thank you for helping us to empower the multiplying efforts of our Global Workers and Partners via a collection of projects that seek to sow Gospel seeds and train leaders across the Global South. Find out more about where this money will be used at [hbclynchburg.com/christmas](http://hbclynchburg.com/christmas).



# How Can Children Serve in the Church?

by Chelsea Barnwell

We are the church. That's a special statement, even unique grammatically. It implies multiple people or parts making up one singular object. It's similar to saying "We are a family."

For those who are in Christ, being the church is not limited to taking a membership class or being baptized or attending church potlucks (though all of these are important to different degrees). When we are the church, we are invested. We invest not only with our finances, but our time, our commitment, our service.

How about children? It can be difficult to discern if a child is at the place of spiritual understanding to believe and follow Christ. How do we give children a good understanding of what the church is? Children are much more concrete in their thinking, so it helps to give them tangible ways to be involved. If we are unsure of their spiritual understanding, they are not ready for baptism or communion, but they can learn by participation tangibly in other ways. They can witness baptisms and communion, sing with the congregation, thoughtfully participate in class discussion and activities, and take notes if they have the capability. They can also serve the church.



Even children can serve one another in the body, though for adults guiding them, we do need to keep in mind what their abilities are. Often, a child's first introduction to serving will be alongside their family. They may be helping in a very small way initially, mostly observing their parents or siblings, while offering occasional assistance. Then, as they can follow more detailed instructions and have more patience for a repetitive task, they can do more and more meaningful service.

We don't want to do "token" service, service that makes us feel good about ourselves without truly benefiting anyone else. The same should be true for kids. The good news is that children are more capable than we expect them to be. They do need to be given clear instructions, but it is healthy for them to have responsibilities and to be contributors.

As you may train children to help with chores and contribute to the family, how can a child learn to serve the church? Start small. They can observe and assist when their family volunteers even if tasks are a little out of their reach. They can find a way to serve their own small group or Sunday School class. Teach them to ask the teacher how they can help. Older children can handle responsibilities like stacking chairs or passing out paper. Even young children can be taught to not only share their own prayer request, but pray for others in their class. Can they contribute to class by participating thoughtfully, reading Scripture, praying, etc?

Through living it out, they can experience the church. If they are already spiritually in Christ's family, they'll be able to grow with the body, being the church. If they are not yet a follower of Christ, they will be learning more about the church and hopefully growing in their love for it and understanding of Christ as they experience it.

# BEING THE CHURCH by Morgan Hall

What does it mean to be the church? Aren't we, as the Church, supposed to strive to be like Jesus? Didn't Jesus himself say after washing his disciples' feet, "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you (John 13:15)"? Let's take a more personal look into what that means for us here at Heritage.

I was blessed to have the opportunity to interview some veteran volunteers at HBC regarding their time serving the local church here at Heritage. I was amazed at their thoughtful and intriguing answers about what it means to be the church and how they have seen the faithfulness and goodness of God during their time serving. I asked all of them the same five questions and the rest of this article will highlight their responses in order to portray what it means to "be the church", specifically at Heritage.

## How long have you been serving at Heritage and in what role(s)?

### **Paul and Mary Raybuck**

29 years in various roles including DC leaders, Student Ministries, choir, Global Care Teams, building the Global Houses, hospitality, and more!

### **Dr. Harvey and Kriss Hartman**

25 years as DC leaders and 17 years as a mentor for Apples of Gold (Kriss).

### **Bonnie Rencher**

31 years in various roles including Apples of Gold, DC leadership, Nursery, Phoebe Care, The Gathering, and pre-marital counseling with her husband, Bob.

### **Clay Harvey**

28 years as Worship Leader and he also has served as a Deacon and a DC leader.

### **Jim and Cyndie Tucker**

25 years in various areas including DC leaders, Young at Heart, hospitality, visitation, prayer ministries, and deacon and ushering (Jim).

## How would you best describe what it means to "be the church" through serving in your specific area?

**Paul and Mary** explained that being the church means "using one's spiritual gifts to build up the body." They went on to explain that being a part of a church community is not like a spectator sport; you need to be involved. **The Hartmans** described their DC as a "microcosm of the HBC congregation" due to its cross-generational nature as it encompasses all age groups. Their class supports and serves each other and, by doing so, they are "serving the larger body through their DC in all that is the ministry of the church."

Specifically for Apples of Gold, the mission of being the church is laid out in Titus 2:3-5 which admonishes older women in the church to train up the younger women. **Bonnie Rencher** states that being the church "means representing Christ in every area where we have the opportunity to serve Him and others...wherever he sees fit." **Clay and the Tuckers** echoed similar responses. The Tuckers said, "It is showing the same sacrificial love, compassion, and care for others that God has shown to us." Clay also described being the church as an act of obedience and explained that "Christ is the foundation of the church and because He was a servant I feel it is the best way to show our love for Him by serving."



## When have you seen God work in other's lives while you were serving?

The longevity of faithfulness of those I interviewed proved to show similar responses to this question as they have seen the faithfulness of God displayed in the Heritage congregation over the years. **Bonnie** attests that it is so special to see the young adults she's worked with over the years remain faithful in their service to the Lord! She says, "this may be as a godly homemaker, parent, nurse, missionary, pastor, pilot, or what 'following Jesus' means in their life." **Jim and Cyndie** have seen "the Lord work mightily in and through the lives of our seniors, as scores of them willingly served the Lord each month by serving one another." The seniors have been so faithful in serving others by stepping out of their comfort zones or doing what they could through letters, phone calls, and prayer.

The **Raybucks** and the **Hartmans** listed various ways that they have seen God work in and through their Discipleship Communities. They gave examples of seeing financial needs met, marriages healed, people within their communities serving each other well, widows being cared for, people stepping into full-time ministry including overseas, and more! **Clay** specifically shared that, as a worship leader, he "saw God use the songs that were sung to uplift those who were hurting or comfort those who were mourning the death of a loved one." He also recounted so many times that he "saw people with joy on their faces because of how God was speaking to them through the song." All in all, there is no doubt that these faithful servants have seen God at work in mighty ways within Heritage.

## What are some impactful memories from your involvement at Heritage?

**Bonnie** shared that she and her husband received a recent phone call from a young lady inquiring about premarital counseling. Come to find out, she was referred to them by her mother who was once in the Renchers class at Heritage! They were happy to have that time to minister to the next generation. **The Tuckers** shared that some of their favorite memories were from the annual Young at Heart "Sing Alongs" where "it was very exciting to see individuals discover God gifting them in ways they never imagined, to glorify Him and bless others."

The **Raybucks** shared of the joys of seeing their DC develop such great community coming through the pandemic together. **The Hartmans** shared some iconic memories of getting to witness a "thing of God" with a "smooth and seamless" transition in church leadership from Pastor Kroll to Pastor Nathan Smith and recounting the New Year's Eve service of 1999 with the "unveiling of the Ebenezer where we in unison recited our commitment as Christians to Christ." Finally, **Clay** recalled a favorite memory when he fell up the stairs of the stage as the service began! Overall, the memories shared were snapshots of some joyful times in the lives of those at Heritage!



## Why is it important the "Be the Church" by serving in the local church?

The Hartmans and Bonnie both equated the local church to family. The **Hartmans** explained how, these days, people tend to seek the church for selfish reasons or church hop so much that they never have a local body to be a family with. They said, "Families stick together, work together to care for each other to build each other up. That is done by serving." **Bonnie** added, "HBC is the local body of believers where we serve others and are served BY others as we are the hands and feet of Jesus!" The **Tuckers** also answered that "we are the hands and feet of Jesus to Lynchburg (and the world). God ministers to people through people."

The **Raybucks** shared several references (Eph. 4:11-12, James 2:18, and Matt. 25:14-30) including Ephesians 2:10 about how we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. They explained that "each of us, as Christians, have been graciously given gifts from the Lord to use. To not use them is to disobey the Lord." Finally, **Clay** sums it up well by stating, "Through serving in the local church, God gives us opportunities to minister to others, speak into the lives of others, and also to grow us in our faith and dependence on Him. The thing that I always try to remember is that without God's goodness and guidance, I am totally useless!"



# When Sheep Bite

by Pastor Mike



In John 10, Jesus gives us an incredibly comforting image when he says, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep." In this statement, we hear the voice of compassion and care that is associated with our Good Shepherd. He knows us, loves us, and is willing to sacrifice his own life for his sheep. Therefore, inside the sheep pen, we can find security and comfort because of our shepherd. He will never hate us or harm us because he is holy and good.

## But what about all the other sheep?

If you've been in the church for any amount of time, chances are you've been frustrated or even harmed by those who claim to be Christian. In some cases, these wounds may be from unbelievers masquerading as sheep, but many times these wounds come from true followers of Christ whose sin or ignorance cause us personal pain and heartache. I'm not referring to times when a fellow parishioner didn't smile as they passed you in the hall or made last-minute changes to your after-church plans without telling you. I'm speaking of Christ following sheep who react to you with harsh words spoken in anger. I'm thinking of the sheep who decide to gossip about you or reveal intimate details about your personal struggles with others.

## Sheep bites hurt, but how we respond in those moments is critical for the health of the church.

In the book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul writes, "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another." (Gal 5:14-15)"

In this passage, Paul contrasts interactions between Christ's sheep. One way of interacting inside the sheep pen, is in accordance with the scriptures. It involves a love for people that is on par with the love that we have for ourselves, but more so, it is a love that encapsulates the entirety of the law. The other option is allowing anger, hatred, and personal vengeance to guide our response, ultimately leading to great harm and division.

Peter puts it another way in 1 Peter 4:8, "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sin." Earnest love is an intentional, enduring love. It's serious in nature, resembling the love of Christ who "loved us and gave himself up for us (Eph 5:2)." This is not to say that correction and rebuke are absent from the sheep pen, indeed they are an important part of life as a Christian. Peter's admonition is not that we never confront the sin of another sheep, but that we be self-controlled and sober-minded about it (1 Peter 4:7). In those interactions, we should never allow for sinful anger or selfish ambition to trump our love for one another.

How we interact often begins with the "glasses" we are wearing. Do the lenses we use highlight the sins of others or something else?

While the idea of sheep wearing glasses is quite humorous, I think this analogy may be beneficial. In fact, it may help us respond better the next time one of Christ's sheep bites a chunk out of our arm. Consider what Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:16-17:

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Most of us are familiar with verse 17, because we celebrate the new life we have in Christ. We rejoice that we have been born again into a living hope (John 3). We were crucified with Christ and therefore our old self no longer lives (Gal 2). We are a holy priesthood, a chosen race, and a holy nation (1 Peter 2). We are children of God, which means we should not ultimately be labeled in accordance with our old life of sin, but rather according to our new life in Christ.

Therefore, let us *first* see one another according to Christ's work and not the sin that clings to our flesh. Let us place the label of "redeemed" on that sister that hurt us, rather than the term "gossiper". Let us categorize our struggling brother as "God's own possession" rather than immediately dismissing him as "lazy". Then, with Christ-colored lenses guiding our vision, we can love the sheep around us with patience and gentleness, understanding that we need the same love extended to us that we are commanded to extend to others.

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GLORY BEARER WHO STAYS?

*yet still goes* ←

On Sundays at Heritage we've looked at what it means to be a glory-bearer whether we stay here in a familiar context or go cross-culturally to the ends of the earth.

**Did you know that the Great Commission calls us to go even in our staying?** According to the syntax of the sentence in its original language, Christ's word "Go" in Matthew 28:19 functions as an imperative.<sup>1</sup> Every Christian then is commanded to "go and tell" rather than to wait for the lost to "come and see."

**Staying goes fulfill so many roles that are vital to the Church's global efforts, including: welcoming, supporting, caring, giving, praying, mentoring, growing in maturity, and multiplying in their local context, to name a few!**

We're excited to highlight several Heritage members in ministries tailored specifically for stayers who long to bear the Lord's glory while they go into their local context to fulfill the Great Commission! Visit us online or email [go@hbclynchburg.com](mailto:go@hbclynchburg.com) to find out how you can be connected to one of these ministries!

## DISCIPLE-MAKING TEAMS

A Disciple Making Team is an intensive 10-week training to develop discipleship rhythms as a team to impact Lynchburg and the Nations. Disciple-making teams provide a hands-on opportunity to journey closely with other believers to increase our love for the Gospel and our effectiveness in sharing it with others both locally and globally. Each team meets for ten weeks where they will intentionally pray, meet, and connect with unbelievers. These teams have been instrumental in equipping our members to share the gospel whether they stay in the US, or move cross-culturally.



**Kaylea Smithson** ”

"Growing up overseas, I often struggled to see the U.S. as a mission field. However, through the DMT, the Lord opened my eyes to the harvest that is here in the U.S. You do not have to go far to find broken people who are in desperate need of a savior."

## SHORT-TERM TRIPS

Short-Term Ministry Trips provide opportunities for our members to better grasp God's heart for the nations and come alongside our Global Workers in care, support, and understanding.



**Max Hidalgo** ”

"The Short-Term Ministry Trip to Washington D.C. was a beautiful glimpse of what living overseas could look like. The numerous opportunities and diverse culture allowed me to experience cross-cultural evangelism, and challenged me to step out of my comfort zone for the sake of the Gospel."

## GLOBAL CARE TEAMS

Global Care Teams are one of the primary means of care and support for Heritage's Sent Global Workers. The teams consist of Heritage members who fulfill various roles with a desire to care well for their Global Worker, advocate on their behalf, and help champion their work among the unreached in their specific geographical context.



**Ryan & Makenna Limon** ”

"It's such a blessing for us to get to serve alongside the North Africa Team in this capacity. We're passionate about intentionally and diligently upholding the arms of our global workers while they navigate each day in the harvest field. It means so much to us to get to lead a group of people that all desire to be a small part (through consistent prayer and encouragement) of reaching the people of North Africa for God's glory, from Lynchburg."

**TO BE CONTINUED...**  
*in the next edition!*

<sup>1</sup> See the use of the participle of attendant circumstance in Matthew 28:19 in Dan Wallace's "The Great Commission or the Great Suggestion?" cited on page 1 of Heritage's Global Ministries Vision and Values.



February - April 2024

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## FEBRUARY

### Feb 4: Spring Disciple-Making Teams Begin

- *Find More Info and Register on the Hub*

### Feb 7: Young at Heart Luncheon

- *10 AM Luncheon Event for Seniors in the Chapel*

### Feb 21: L.Y.D.I.A.

- *10:30 AM Lunch Event in the Jr. High Room for Widows & Single Senior Ladies*

### Feb 17: GriefShare "Loss of a Spouse Seminar"

- *10 AM in Germany | Visit [hbclynchburg.com/gracecare](http://hbclynchburg.com/gracecare) for More Information*

### Feb 24: GriefShare Begins

- *10 AM in Germany | Visit [hbclynchburg.com/gracecare](http://hbclynchburg.com/gracecare) for More Information*

### Feb 23: Trivia Night

- *7-9:30 PM in the International Plaza | More Info & Register at [hbclynchburg.com/trivia](http://hbclynchburg.com/trivia)*

### Feb 24: Men's Breakfast: Embrace the Mission

- *8:30 - 10:30 AM in the International Plaza | Register on the Hub*

## MARCH

### Mar 1: Trivia Night

- *7-9:30 PM in the International Plaza | More Info & Register at [hbclynchburg.com/trivia](http://hbclynchburg.com/trivia)*

### Mar 6: Young at Heart Luncheon

- *10 AM Luncheon Event for Seniors in the Chapel*

### Mar 10: 30 Days of Prayer Begins

- *Visit [prayercast.com](http://prayercast.com) for Prayer Videos or [pray30days.org](http://pray30days.org) for Prayer Guides*

### Mar 17: Season 2 of Together Through the Bible: Prayer & Meditation Begins

- *Visit [hbclynchburg.com/bible](http://hbclynchburg.com/bible) for More Info and to Download the Reading Guide*

### Mar 20: L.Y.D.I.A.

- *10:30 AM Lunch Event in the Jr. High Room for Widows & Single Senior Ladies*

### Mar 29: Good Friday Communion

- *7 PM | Family Service*

### Mar 31: Easter Sunday Services

- *Regular Services and Ministries at the 9 & 10:30 AM Hours*

Pray for the South Asia  
STMT March 8-17.

Pray for the men at the  
Men of Heritage  
Conference April 19-21.

## APRIL

### Apr 3: Young at Heart Luncheon

- *10 AM Luncheon Event for Seniors in the Chapel*

### Apr 17: L.Y.D.I.A.

- *10:30 AM Lunch Event in the Jr. High Room for Widows & Single Senior Ladies*

### Apr 27 & 28: Rejoice WAM Musical

- *Performances at 6 PM in the Worship Center*

HUB EVENTS



[hbclynchburg.com/  
events](http://hbclynchburg.com/events)

CUT AND KEEP



# NEXT STEPS

It's a new year and many of us desire to make changes or accomplish specific goals in our life. What about your spiritual goals? Are you desiring to grow in holiness and love for Jesus? What are you doing to form godly relationships or serve those around you? At Heritage, we have 4 quadrants of involvement that can be a means of spiritual maturity and growth. If you're wanting to go deeper in your walk with Christ and with His church at HBC, this is the place to start!



## Discipleship Communities

FIND A COMMUNITY

**DCs are open to anyone!** You're also welcome to visit a few of them before deciding which one to attend. You can find DCs based on your stage of life or by the service time. We also have cross-generational DCs that are available for all ages.

### What happens in a DC?

- Regular prayer for one another
- Study God's Word together
- Experiencing life with others



## Volunteer

SIGN UP TO SERVE

**Heritage has around 100 ways for you to serve at the church & in the community.** No matter your schedule, abilities, or passions - we have a place for you to volunteer that will be of great benefit to the body of Christ locally & globally.

### Why would I serve at church?

- Expression of God's grace
- Encourage the body of Christ
- The joy found in serving others
- Connect with others in the church



## New Connections

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

**Membership to a local church is crucial to our lives as Christians.** God has created us, not as loners, but as a people united in Christ, so that He may be evident in our lives and community. Find out more at New Connections!

### How do I join the church?

- Attend New Connections
- Interview with a pastor or deacon
- Voted in by the congregation



## Giving & Stewardship

LEARN ABOUT GIVING

**We know that giving is a touchy subject.** Money is important to everyone, because it's necessary for daily life. Therefore, when we give we are demonstrating, through an act of worship, that we believe Jesus is enough and we trust Him with our finances.

### Why should I give?

- Giving is a form of worship to Christ
- Generous giving is a mark of maturity
- There is joy in giving to Jesus & others
- Giving helps ministry to continue



Life @  
Heritage





Heritage  
Baptist Church

We exist to make followers  
of Jesus Christ  
by living the Gospel life  
among the nations.

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