

HERITAGE JOURNAL

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Walking Together
Philippians 2:1-2



Towards Christ
Hebrews 12:1-2

IT STARTS AT HOME

Encouragement on fostering a heart of discipleship in the family

WHY DO WE FOLLOW?

Reflections on what a joy it is to follow Jesus & why we do it

TAKE HBC ON VACAY!

Resources to help you learn & grow on the go

MAY 2026



HERITAGE JOURNAL 2026

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



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THE HIKE IS WORTH IT

There's a regular interaction that occurs in my house every few weeks. My wife, Amy, will come to me with that sweet smile of hers and asks if I want to go on a hike. While I'm not opposed to a nice walk through the woods, I'm pretty sure I'm allergic to any hike that's over 2 miles long and so I pause to consider the options. It's in that moment when my brain is doing a cost-benefits analysis that she grabs my arm and off we go. Here's the thing, while I may not be the first to head up the mountain, the reality is that I don't mind the hike because of the one I'm with.

While this little window into the Crump house may get me in trouble, it also provides a picture of our walk with Christ.

As we read the scriptures we are made aware of the nature of our life with Christ. It is true that the yoke of Jesus is easy (Matt 11:30), for salvation is not of works, yet the process of sanctification (becoming more like Jesus) can sometimes feel like a barefoot hike up Sharp Top in the middle of a blizzard. It's in those moments when each step is painful and we keep tripping over roots that you and I should look to see Jesus hiking next to us.

As disciples of Jesus we are commanded to deny ourselves and take up our cross (Matt 16:24) but in that same verse Jesus says to "follow me." This means that Jesus isn't pointing us down a dark trail while he sits in a luxurious cabin to watch. He is leading, guiding, and also communing with us as we go. There may be times we'd rather not hike at all, but it's in those moments that Jesus lovingly grabs our arm and pulls us to His side.

What does this look like in everyday life? It looks like the tangible actions of the church - the body of Christ.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor... Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality... Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
Rom 12:10-15

One day we will see Jesus face to face, but while we wait for His glorious appearing we have been given one another as an extension of His presence. Therefore, as we hike through the valleys we care for one another and as we crest the mountain top we rejoice in seeing God's glorious hand at work in our lives.

Yes, the hike may be hard, but it's worth it because of who we are with. Let's do it together.

MIKE CRUMP
PASTOR OF CHURCH
COMMUNICATIONS



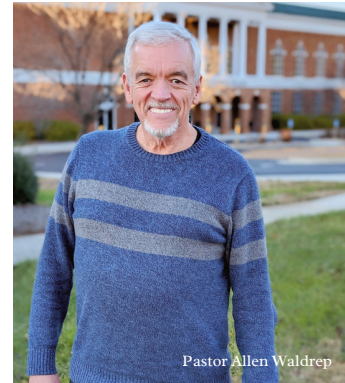
(from the left) Matt Hankins, Matt Durand, Ben Forrest, Keith Metzler

Lay Elders

On March 22 four lay elders were voted into the eldership. We are thankful for the many members who joined one another in voting for this important part of our church governance.

Let us now join together in prayer for all the elders as they begin new rhythms of life and ministry together.

HBC Updates



Pastor Allen Waldrep

Allen Waldrep has been a pastor at Heritage for 23 years and has used his many gifts to provide godly wisdom and scriptural direction for countless individuals at our church.

Pastor Allen began on staff as the Missions Pastor under Dr. Kroll in 2003. While his experience in the area of missions was limited at the time, he quickly poured himself into the role and used his administrative abilities to provide many systems of care for our global workers that still exist to this day. Since that time, Allen has held several roles yet one thing never changed - his love and care for the people of God at Heritage. As the Pastor of Connections, Allen has tirelessly worked to help the people of HBC to find their place to belong and grow in Christ. His passion for biblical fidelity and logical consistency are well known and have helped shape many things at our church over the years. In July Pastor Allen will officially retire and will, along with his wife Robin, enjoy a new season of life together. We are so very thankful for them both and pray God uses them as much in retirement as He has in ministry. Pray for the Waldreps and for the staff of Heritage who will miss Allen's weekly presence in the office.

Pastoral Transitions

Tony Mitchell has been a pastor in kids ministry for many years, and while his involvement with the kids of Heritage will continue his pastoral title has changed.

"Mr. Tony", as he is lovingly referred to by many of the kids (and adults) at Heritage, has recognized that he is in a new season of ministry and therefore decided not to pursue eldership under the new constitution. This simply means that Tony is transitioning out of pastoral ministry, but will still serve along side Pastor Joshua in kids ministry. So, while Tony will not be part of the eldership, you can still catch Tony serving our kids, caring for our volunteers, and even dancing with his skates on at FunQuest.



"Mr. Tony" Mitchell

Thank You HBC Family!

A total of \$8,826 was raised for teen STMTs at Trivia Night! Thank you so much to those of you who came to this event to support our teens serving on mission trips this summer! Please be in prayer for our teens this summer on mission trips to Detroit, Alaska, and locally in Lynchburg.

Photos of this event can be found on the back page of this issue!



Further Up Further In

BY ZACH MARTIN

My DC'S name is Mathetai. You might be wondering, what a strange name for a Discipleship Community. It's unique (and maybe a little hard to pronounce: math-ay-tie), but full of meaning. It is the Greek word for "disciple" or "learner." In other words, it is a word to capture who the people are who follow Jesus Christ.

Why name a DC this Greek word? The name reminds us of what we want to be: disciples of Jesus, plain and simple! Since I started leading the DC in 2021, I have seen God do wonderful things to grow our community to be fully devoted followers of Christ.

Following Jesus Further Up & Further In!

Discipleship is just that: developing fully devoted followers of Jesus. It is seeking to always be growing to follow our Lord more deeply, more fully, and more lovingly. In his book, *The Last Battle*, C.S. Lewis repeatedly uses the phrase, "Further up and further in" to capture going deeper into eternal joy and relationship with God. In a sense, that is discipleship. Further up and further in toward the image of God's Son. In our DC, I have seen people grow in discipleship in two main ways. First, I have witnessed our community have a growing desire to know God's word deeply so that they might praise Him with joy. Second, I have witnessed the community act in obedience to God's word in loving one another in the broader church body. And I mean genuinely loving one another: showing up, calling out sin, challenging one another, showing hospitality, celebrating new parents and babies (so many babies!), and the list goes on!

Not Always Up, But Always Upward

This growth in discipleship has been beautiful to witness. But it has not been easy to cultivate nor has it been easy to walk through. There have been challenges, mainly in the area of having a large DC. Having a large DC makes it difficult to know how people are growing. It makes it harder for people to feel cared for. Perhaps you have felt that a bit, even at a larger church. These are real challenges. In addition, there have been people who have left the community that brought some harder transitions. On a personal level, I felt the exhaustion of stewarding a large group of people through much of that. There were tough conversations, points of challenge, and many ripple effects. But, of course, God is sovereign and He cares for His people that they might still be made like Him. So, although not every step has been "up," growth in discipleship for our DC has always been upward.

Lessons Learned

I have learned some valuable things over the years in being part of my DC and seeing discipleship happen organically. First, I have learned that teaching people to live out the Bible is not draining, it is life giving. People are hungry to know God's word and live in light of it. Second, I have learned to be patient toward others as they grow up in Christ. No one can rush discipleship since it is not a program. It takes a lifetime (and eternity)! Finally, I have learned that discipleship cannot happen apart from the church. Members are to care for one another so that we all grow up in Christ. May God bless our efforts at Heritage as we seek to disciple one another and make more followers (disciples!) of Jesus Christ among the nations.

Can I Buy a **VOWEL?** *by Pastor Rob*

As a gathering of Jesus' Church at Heritage we recently adopted a new constitution. One that formalized an eldership including both vocational and lay elders. In many ways, it has brought to the front burner for all of us members the particular role God intended elders to play for His Bride. This has fueled much thought, prayer, and consideration for my own heart personally, to ask, what does it look like for me to serve His Bride as a faithful elder at Heritage?

In this process I have been sharpened in my appreciation for the fact that I am an elder among the flock of God (many thanks to the Holy Spirit speaking through Peter in 1 Peter 5). And as a member among Heritage, how am I loving the elders of Heritage? In what ways am I, as a member, contributing to the fulfillment of the beautiful picture in Ephesians 4: "when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

While meditating on these questions, I came across a recent conversation of two elders and a sermon by one of them (scan QR code below). In both the conversation and his sermon, this dear pastor laid out not only the dynamics of a faithful shepherd of God, but also the response of a healthy flock. While I commend both of his sermons on shepherds and deacons to us at Heritage, I also plan to borrow his helpful framework for myself and pray it helps many of the members at Heritage as well! His framework is a response for members of the flock that is rooted in Paul's exhortation "to know" (ESV translates it "to respect") our leaders in the Lord (from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). It is as easy as remembering to buy a vowel (or rather all the vowels):

A - Affirm evidences of God's grace: When an elder preaches or demonstrates godliness, offer specific feedback. Instead of generic compliments, tell them exactly how a specific point in a sermon convicted or encouraged you.

E - Encourage in the midst of weariness: Serving as an elder is difficult, burden-bearing work. Recognizing that elders can feel fatigued or discouraged, members should actively offer encouragement to help them persevere.

I - Invite them into your life: Share your struggles, prayer requests, or personal burdens with your elders. This allows them to fulfill their role as shepherds who genuinely care for the individuals in their congregation.

O - Openly express concerns: Rather than harboring complaints or opposing your leaders, be willing to share concerns or feedback in a spirit of love. This type of constructive correction can help an elder grow and better serve the church.

U - Uphold them in prayer: Simply and consistently pray for your elders and their work.

Jesus may have warned the people of vows (Matthew 5:33-37), but these vowels are ones with which I look forward to blessing our elders and contributing to our growth together in love. Will you join me?!



It Starts at Home

Our mission at Heritage is to make followers of Jesus Christ by living the gospel life among the nations. Jesus calls us as believers to share the good news of the gospel among the nations (Matt. 28:19-20). When we think of this, we may think more along the lines of missions or street evangelism, but what about our own children, nieces or nephews, or any other family member for that matter? **God has given us the opportunity to influence our family members for him.** Are we forsaking that opportunity to disciple those closest to us?

It wasn't until motherhood that I understood the gospel to be something that is to be shared throughout all aspects of life. From the monumental to the mundane moments, the good news of the gospel is there! So how are we to incorporate gospel conversations and discipleship into our every day lives?

PRAYER

One of my favorite things to do with my daughter is prayer walks. Since she was a baby, I would carry her on our trail in the woods and pray aloud, giving thanks to God for the beauty of his creation. Now, at 5 years old, I catch her doing it on her own and we still do together! This is just a simple way I was encouraged in to disciple her heart to have a posture of thanksgiving to God as her creator and sustainer.

There are also opportunities to pray with our children amidst the daily routine. Driving in the car, at meals, before bed, and more! We can pray truths over the day and thank the Lord for all he's done for us; including Jesus dying on the cross, rising again, and being the one true, living God!

READ ABOUT IT

Even before a baby can talk, you can read to them and what better thing to read than passages of Scripture or kids books that are saturated with biblical truths. There are also a few kids Bible story books that walk through the Scriptures but paraphrase for kids of all ages to understand better. What a great way to disciple and shape their minds at such a young age while sparking a desire to learn about God.

LEVERAGE THE HOLIDAYS

Christ is the center of Christmas and Easter, yet our culture often gets distracted with busyness, gifts, or even family gatherings so much so that we forsake the opportunity to leverage discipling our families at these opportune times. Planning ahead to have rhythms, activities, or just slower evenings together to create space for keeping the reason for these holidays on the forefront is important. At Christmas, we enjoyed doing a kids advent book and pairing a fun little treat with it each night. At Easter, it's fun to do resurrection eggs, empty tomb cookies, or another tangible way to disciple little hearts with the truths of the gospel.

Besides Christmas and Easter, we can be thankful for the gospel at Thanksgiving, share more about God's great love for us at Valentine's, or share the story of St. Patrick and how he shared the gospel with others on St. Patrick's Day! There are plenty of holidays throughout the year that offer fun, memorable opportunities for discipleship with our families.

GET IN COMMUNITY

It has been crucial for family discipleship to be involved in a church body. From my first-hand experience, our Discipleship Community loves on our family and our daughter in ways I never would have imagined! Our daughter enjoys interacting with kids her age, but especially the teen workers who help share the Bible with her! We also serve together with Greeter Team as a family, which is great for our extroverted child! All these ways of being a part of the body minister to our family and bring their own, unique discipleship opportunities. Being able to share life together, the good and bad, and model that to our kids in a biblical way is so important for their spiritual growth.

SHARE YOUR STORY

It's important to share with each other in community, especially within our own families, what God has done and is doing in our lives! This authenticity and vulnerability can prompt great discipleship opportunities with kids and adults. When we're open, it invites others to be transparent about their walk with the Lord too; fostering growth and togetherness.

May we do as Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says and love God so fiercely that it overflows as discipleship in our own homes at all points of the day. Let us strive to make followers of Jesus Christ by living the gospel life among the nations, starting within our own homes.

by Morgan Hall

Why do you follow?

Often, when we speak about following Jesus, we think in terms of action and obedience. This isn't a bad thing - Jesus Himself commanded the church to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you",¹ but have you considered what motivates that obedience? Growing up, I was often motivated by the approval of others. Likewise, there are people who are motivated by the feeling of spiritual accomplishment or religious duty. Sadly, some misunderstand the truth of the gospel altogether and obey out of fear of condemnation. This demonstrates that it's just as important for us to know "why" we follow Jesus as it is to know "how" to do it.

So, let's ask the question together: "why do we follow Jesus?"

We follow Jesus because He alone is worthy - If ever there was a man who was worthy of our complete devotion, it's Jesus of Nazareth. He's not just a good man, but the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He alone is perfect in holiness and abounding in infinite power and might. He shaped the cosmos and currently holds them together² for His good purposes. Therefore, it's not just a good idea to follow Him but imperative that we do, for He alone is God and the source of all life.³ We follow Jesus because there is no one else worthy of our worship.

We follow Jesus because He has all wisdom and knowledge. We all desperately need wisdom. Our hearts and minds are so tainted by our sinful flesh that we can struggle to discern proper responses to relational needs, emotional moments, or life circumstances. Therefore, does it not make sense to submit ourselves to the One who has infinite knowledge? Should we not pursue the One who embodies wisdom itself? This is the wisdom we need, which the Proverbs say is our shield, our guard, and our path,⁴ and all of it is available in Jesus.⁵ This means that we can follow Him with the expectation of wisdom and discernment, for He gives it freely to those who ask in faith.⁶

We follow Jesus because He is omnipotent. We may follow human leaders for a time, yet all of them lack the power and ability to fully transform the world or our lives. This is not the case with Jesus. His omnipotence means He is able to do everything He promised to do. This means that He will accomplish saving His people, destroying all sin and death, and establishing a new heaven and earth populated with those He has redeemed.⁷ He alone has the power, and no one can stop Him.

We follow Jesus because of His loving kindness. Jesus did not have to reveal Himself to us, but He did. He did not have to heal the sick, feed the crowds, or raise the dead - but He did. Jesus did not have to transform the life of a sinful hypocrite at a church camp 30 years ago, but He did (btw, that was me). Jesus did not have to supply the food I ate today, the people I get to talk to, or the sun on my face this morning - but He did. All these things point to the loving kindness of our Savior. It's not just that He does those things, but He does them with full knowledge of our brokenness and past rebellion. The fact that He would show such immeasurable kindness to us should increase our affections and motivate us to live for the One who has given us all things.⁸

I wish I had more than a page to capture all the reasons that could motivate us to follow Jesus. As I reflect on the few listed above, I am struck by how they all point to my desperation for Jesus. I am unworthy and yet the most worthy One welcomes me to Himself. I lack wisdom and power, yet the God of all creation calls me to His side so that I may learn from Him and find renewed strength. I struggle to love others and live in a world that can't even define love - yet I can look to the cross and find the perfect example of love as well as the power to live it out.

Why follow Jesus? Because He is everything, and there is no life apart from Him. Period.

by Pastor Mike

¹ Matt 28:20
² Heb 1:2-3

³ John 1:4
⁴ Prov 2:6-8

⁵ 1 Cor 1:30
⁶ James 1:5

⁷ Rev 21
⁸ 2 Cor 5:14

MINISTRY DEBRIEF & ENCOURAGEMENT TRIPS

We, the Body of Christ, are tasked to live on mission - together! Here at HBC we desire to do just that, both by living on mission together locally in our own context, and by sending and supporting those who go globally to live the gospel life among the nations.

But how exactly are we supporting those we have sent? There are many ways - by giving of our regular tithes and offerings, by picking up prayer cards or newsletters and praying in our homes or DC classes, by joining Global Care teams to provide practical needs, volunteering in the Global Ministries office, or joining a Short Term Ministry Trip (STMT) to visit workers and aid in their ministry efforts. The staff of HBC also supports these workers with a lot of behind the scenes efforts that include maintenance and booking of our global homes and vehicles, budgeting, communication, regular check-in calls, and MDET visits. MDET stands for "Ministry Debrief and Encouragement Trip." This is a visit made by the Global Ministries pastor, his wife, and a lay couple for the purpose of helping our workers debrief or process how they're doing as an individual, a family, and as a team. These visits take place within the first year on the field, and every four years after that.

Earlier this year we had the privilege of visiting two families - the Ks in South Asia, and the Ms in Southeast Asia. What a joy it was to visit the Ks and to see how far the Lord has brought them in their adaptation to language and culture, their ability and fervor to share the good news, and the fruit that they, their team, and their local partners are seeing God bring about in the harvest - praise God! It was also a joy to see the Ms for their first MDET, "finally" in the country that they have prayed for and yearned to be in for several years. Transition to a new culture and language isn't easy, but they are thrilled to be there.

Thank you, church, for joining us as we serve our sent ones in all of these ways. Your support, prayers, and love for Christ and for His people locally and globally makes all the difference in the world. **-Kay E.**

In early March, Hunter F. and I visited the M Family in Southeast Asia and were asked to intentionally take time to care for their four kids. Over the course of five days, we were able to be listening ears as the kids shared about what their life has looked like since moving to Southeast Asia along with providing them with tools they can use as they learn to live in a new culture, and like their parents, seek to faithfully make the name of Jesus known.

We entered the trip hopeful that we could provide each of the kids with rejuvenating and joyful experiences that would particularly encourage them. Whether it was through asking them to show us their new neighborhood, studying characters of Scripture who also left a known culture for a foreign one, or just having fun playing games, we witnessed the value that an intentional focus on the M kids added to the overall MDET.

It is my hope that more trips can happen like this in the future—where our body seeks to encourage the entire unit, to enter into their context, hear about their experiences, and ultimately, be just as sacrificial in our caring as we are in our initial supporting and sending. **-Lauren B.**

What a joy it was for us to see the K family in their context and see how their family is living the Gospel life in a difficult place. They are truly thriving in language and culture and beginning to see the fruit of years of hard work. Thank you for praying for them as they labor in the harvest.

-Lewis & Lindsay T.



UPCOMING TRIPS:

- May 17-27 - S. Asia STMT (Closed)
- Oct 8-13 - Dearborn, MI STMT (Domestic)
- Oct 18-28 - East Asia STMT (International)
- Jan 10-20 - Middle East STMT (International)
- Spring 2027 - North Africa STMT (Dates TBD)

For those interested in future STMT options, you can apply at hbclynchburg.com/stmt. Thank you all for your continued prayers!



May - July 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS



MAY

May 3: Disciple-Making Teams Celebration

- For more information on Disciple-Making Teams, visit hbclynchburg.com/dmt

May 6: Young at Heart

- 10 AM-12 PM in the Chapel | Open to all 55+

May 9: Men's Event

- 5 PM in the Lower HBC Parking Lot | Register on the Hub

May 17: Membership Class

- 12 - 5 PM in the Chapel | Register on the Hub

May 17: Awana Awards

- In the Worship Center | Visit hbclynchburg.com/awana for specific group times.

May 17-27: S. Asia STMT

- Please be in prayer for this ministry team and for the work God is doing in S. Asia.

May 20: L.Y.D.I.A.

- 10 AM-12:30 PM lunch event in Korea for widows & single senior ladies

May 27: Summer Wednesday Night Ministries Begin

- 6:45 - 8 PM | Global Kids, Journey to Financial Freedom, Heritage Students, & The Gathering

JUNE

June 8-12: Student Ministries Local STMT

- Please be in prayer for this team as they serve with a few local organizations: Parkview, World Help, and Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center.

JULY

July 1: No Activities on Campus

July 5: 10:30 AM Combined Service

- No DCs | Nursery & Preschool available

July 13-21: Student Ministries Detroit STMT

- Please be in prayer for our team coming alongside Global Gates, a ministry in strategic cities in the U.S. with high populations of refugees from unreached nations..

July 13-22: Student Ministries Alaska STMT

- Please be in prayer for our team serving with Mountain City Church, Downtown Hope, SEND North and other Gospel-minded organizations to show and share Jesus with the people of Anchorage.

July 20-25: Kids Camp

- Please be in prayer for our kids and leaders at camp this week.

HBC HUB



hbclynchburg.com/hub

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LOG ONTO THE LIVESTREAM

The time on vacation can often mean the reality of missing your church family. While a video feed is no replacement for gathering with the church, our livestream can provide a connection to your church family as you travel. Check out hbclynchburg.com/livestream for details.





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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