



Hebron Community Church

May 2025 Newsletter

May 2025—A Reflection of God's Love

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother'-- this is the first commandment with a promise: 'so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.' Ephesians 6:1-3 (NRSV)

This month we celebrate *Mother's Day*—a day we celebrate our mothers' love; a day we remember all the sacrifices our mothers have made as they gave up so much for us. For most of us, we were blessed to have a mother who was always there to pick us up when we fell down, to bandage our wounds, and even kiss them and make them better. It was mother we wanted when we got hurt and needed to cry because we knew she would be there to hold us. Just saying 'mother' or 'mom', for most people, brings to mind a myriad of images and memories, and maybe even smells as we remember what the kitchen smelled like as they prepared meals that were always served with love. I remember when, for a time, my mother worked making Moravian cookies to help provide for our family, and she would come home smelling like whatever cookies they were making that day. To this day, that smell takes me back.

I know I was blessed to have such a mother—a mother who was always there, and who gave of herself so that we would have what we needed, and who taught us the importance of looking to God. I'm also blessed now with a wife, who is such a mother to our children. Many of us have been blessed in this regard—with mothers, who may not have been perfect, but worked hard for us and our families and taught us the love of God. There are also many who may not be mothers physically, but who have the heart of a mother and have helped mother other children in many ways. God blesses us with these beautiful women who give so freely of themselves for others.

As I have reflected on the love I received from my mother and the love I have seen in my wife and other mothers for their children, it reminds me of God's love for us. Mothers are a true gift from God, but they are also a reflection of the love that God gives to us. I'm reminded of a Travis Tritt song, "God Must Be A Woman" that speaks of how a woman's/ mother's love reflects God's love. The chorus goes, "God must be a woman. You're probably a lot like her. Grace that's so amazing, an angel here on earth. So much like your maker she

sent you down to lay a crown on me. God must be a woman. Only mothers have a love that runs so deep and complete, watching out for drunks and babies and fools and castaways like me."

I know scripture often speaks of God as our Father, but also compares the love of God to a mother. Scripture says in Isaiah 66:13, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you..." In Hosea 11:3-4, God says, "I led you by the hand, but you did not understand. I drew you with cords of love, cords of affection. I was like a mother who bears her child, I lifted my children in my arms." God is the ultimate mother and the ultimate father to us all. God loves us and has called us children (1 John 3). God created us out of love, not as robots, but as children who could choose to have a relationship with God or not. And even though we as humans have so often failed, God has remained faithful and God's love is unconditional. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less. As much as our earthly mothers love us, God's love is infinitely more powerful and endless. Just like our mothers, God is always there for us to cheer us on, to help us up when we fall down, to heal our wounds, and to give us encouragement and strength to go on.

As we celebrate Mother's Day this month, let us give them the thanks they deserve and honor them as we read in scripture, and let us also give thanks to God for them and the many ways they have taught us about and reflected God's love for us.

May God bless you this month and always.

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dustin D. James". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor Dustin D. James

May Birthdays

1st Sharon Warren
 8th J.P. Whited
 11th Alan Forrest
 12th Anita Dawkins
 Sam Chang
 13th Aaron Moss
 14th Maddie Moss
 Haley Allred
 22nd Matt Creekmuir
 25th Fay Whited
 26th Jacob Flack
 30th Lois Dixon

Up Coming Events in June

1st Abundant Life Covered Dish Lunch
 2nd SPRC at 6:00 pm
 7th Hot Dog Lunch Set Up 3:00 pm
 8th Hot Dog Lunch following Worship
 Church Council to follow Lunch
 11th Mother's Day
 14th Hut Reserved 9:00 to 4:00
 16th Friendship Circle at 7:00 pm
 17th Newsletter Deadline
 19th – 21st VBS
 22nd Hut Reserved 1:00 – 3:30
 26th Methodist Men at 6:00 pm.
 27th-28th Crafting in the Hut
 Every Tuesday night at 6 pm is Prayer meeting in the Prayer Room
 Every Wednesday night at 6 pm Bible Study
 Pastors Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

HEBRON COMMUNITY CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Present:

Dustin James Jay Wilson Bob Swanson Ben Boney

Betty Boney Sandy Dixon Buster Albright Robin Sykes

Pat Snipes Sammy Lankford Martha Graham

Dustin opened the meeting with prayer and a devotion. The devotion was based on Matthew 21:12 which tells us that after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He upset the money changers and cleansed the temple of their robbery and cheating. We are reminded we need to cleanse ourselves by letting go of grudges and unworthy thoughts and deeds.

The minutes of the March meeting had been previously approved by an online vote.

FINANCE

Buster reminded us that when budgets are being planned for activities, the proposed amount needed should be presented to him for discussion with the Finance Committee members.

The update of the financial report is still a work in progress with the goal that it will be much more easily read and understandable.

ALM's Spring Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, May 1. It will be held at Harvest Baptist Church and is a fundraiser for ALM. There is no cost, but donations will be appreciated. Buster encouraged anyone who would like to attend, to please sign up or let him know as having the number attending, in advance, would be helpful.

TRUSTEES

Screens have been placed over the openings to the attic space in the education building. This should prevent birds from nesting in the attic.

Vinyl siding has been placed on the outside of the new closet in the Hut.

Workdays have been scheduled to re-do some storage closets in preparation for the church-wide clean-up day in May.

Lyn Albright's family has offered a stove for the church. Available spaces will be evaluated to make the best use of this gift.

Sammy will check to be certain we do not have an outstanding bill for work done on the boiler.

SPRC

The SPRC Committee met this past Monday. It was a good meeting.

The first Safe Sanctuary meeting for 2025 was held April 6 and was well attended.

A church member requested a meeting with church officials. The member, Dustin, Sandy and Betty B. attended this meeting, It went well, and the individual was pleased with how the meeting was conducted and the outcome. The feedback will be helpful for Dustin and the committee members.

The pastoral review form which was prepared by Cory did not seem appropriate for Hebron. Betty B. put one together which was approved by the committee and will be used for the bi-annual pastor review.

NOMINATIONS

There was nothing to report.

WORSHIP

The church clean-up day is scheduled for May 3. Everyone will have an opportunity to volunteer in a specific area. Lists will be evaluated to determine that all areas are amply covered. The sanctuary will be cleaned on a separate day.

The VBS sign will have this year's date painted on it and it will be placed on the church lawn several weeks in advance. Dustin and Evelyn will prepare a "banner" for Facebook.

The purple cloth, on the cross in the front of the church building, will be replaced this week.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Kite Flying day was very successful. There were 26 children and at least that many adults in attendance.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

The Pancake Supper, which benefited the Samaritan Purse Clean Water mission, went well. Approximately 45 people attended. Eight families will receive bio-sand water filters for their homes thanks to the \$800 donated at the supper. Sixty dollars were placed in the offering plates on Sunday and a check for \$100.00 was also received.

The next mission opportunity will be a hot dog lunch following the worship service on June 8. These donations are also designated for the clean water project.

Plans to partner with S.A.F.E. for their food distribution will be put on hold for now. Having a food pantry in the education building would be a huge undertaking at this time. However, having an ongoing mission to provide food and other items is very important. We could provide items on a quarterly basis. For instance, May and June could be a food drive, July through September could be a collection for children's diapers, pullups and other supplies, and October through December could be for adult toiletries. Our committee would reach out to S.A.F.E. to determine the greatest need. A list of desired items would be made available.

Helping Hands met to update the information which is provided to anyone who needs assistance. Meals are currently being provided for a household.

Sunshine Baskets are continuing to be delivered, but currently not each month.

The Ride Mission is functioning but with few requests.

Pat shared that while remaining committed to the plans currently in place, she will be out of town for much of the summer and fall. She will discuss this further with Dustin.

MEN

The men are preparing for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast which will follow the service. Breakthrough Community Church has been invited to join in the sunrise service and breakfast. They have offered help.

WOMEN

The Friendship Circle has prepared Easter gift bags for ALM and Springview Homes in Elon.

Plans are underway for the candle burning offerings for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

PASTOR

This Wednesday will be the last Lenten Lunch. Our presiding elder, Tom Newman, will have the message. The lunch will be covered dish.

Remember the Holy Week schedule begins with the Lenten Lunch at noon on Wednesday, then Maundy Thursday service with communion at 7:00, Good Friday service at 7:00, Easter Sunrise service at 6:45 followed by breakfast, regular worship at 10:30.

A meeting has been scheduled on Saturday, May 10, for those interested in forming more small groups.

Evelyn and Dustin have begun using an app called CANVA for making flyers and mailers, etc. It is free to churches and they have found it to be helpful.

Dustin asked about having another yard sale in July. The yard sale last year was very successful. There was discussion about items stored in the church which could be placed in the yard sale. The former scout room, in the education building, is currently available for storing yard sale items. Members of the congregation would be invited to share anything they might have.

Betty B. may not be available to attend the General Conference which is scheduled for June 25-28 this year. She asked for someone to act as an alternate.

Jay told us Joannie would like to revive the Isiah 55 Café, prior to Sunday school, once a quarter. It was agreed she may do this.

We will not have a scheduled meeting in May. If the need arises, a meeting will be called.

There being no further business, we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Graham

Helping Hands Update 2025

Helping Hands, a church member volunteer ministry was formed by Teresa Dallas in 2007. It is very blessed to have remained active since that time and to have had great support from church member volunteers. Helping Hands continues to offer organized meal delivery during a time of crisis. To be sure that all needs are met, and privacy is respected, requests made for service from Helping Hands should first be approved by those in need. Requests can be made by the person, by a family member or by a friend. Brochures are available in the church vestibule that include more detailed information. Requests can be made by phone or by email to the church office or to the pastor.

Helping Hands stands ready to provide light refreshments before or after a funeral. This service is offered to the family by our pastor during the funeral consultation with the family.

In 2024, a new type of ministry was added in which Sunshine baskets are delivered to the newly widowed and existing shut ins.

Looking back at the activity in the past year to date, Helping Hands was able to serve or assist in providing bereaved family refreshments to six families after funeral services as well as providing crisis meal assistance four times.

At the last Helping Hands meeting, Margaret Lankford presented suggestions for dividing responsibilities for the Helping Hands functions. The suggested roles are HH Leader, HH Communications Manager, HH Setup Manger and HH Cleanup Manager. She commented that no decision needed to be made during the meeting, but her hope is that all roles will be filled by the end of 2025 at which time she plans to step away from her role. She also asked the group to consider people outside of the Helping Hands who could be interested and qualified to fill the positions.

Anyone who is not a member of Helping Hands and would like to join the group by making the commitment to being available to help when needed, please add your name to the signup sheet in the vestibule. Those wishing not to make this commitment but will volunteer when needed are greatly appreciated! Anyone who may be interested in and qualified to assume one of the roles mentioned above should please notify Betty Boney.

Missions and Outreach Committee – May 2025 Newsletter

The Pancake Supper on April 5th was successful in raising awareness for and funding of the Clean Water Project. The pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit and fixings were delicious. Fellowship was wonderful! About 45 people were served. To date, contributions totaling \$960 have been made. We can now provide Bio-Sand Water Filters for 9 families in refugee communities that will provide clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing. Our next fundraiser for the Clean Water Project will be held on Sunday, June 8th directly following the church service. The committee hopes to raise funds to provide even more Bio-Sand Water Filters.

The Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12th was also a great fun time for children and adults. We had 26 children from the church and community and close to as many adults. Due to the chilly damp weather, the Egg Hunt was held in the Educational Building. In addition to the Egg Hunt, children enjoyed crafts and games followed by a hot dog lunch with all the trimmings. Several parents braved the chilly weather to fly kites. All in all it was a great day of fellowship for everyone.

We have begun our Feeding Hungry Families campaign for the summer. From now until the end of June, please prayerfully consider bringing canned food and non-perishable items with extended expiration dates. Many children in Alamance County may not have nutritious meals in the summer without the benefit of school breakfast and lunch. The blue food cart is in the vestibule on the right beside the podium.

Missions and Outreach committee members will be preparing for the Hot Dog luncheon in June. The next mission opportunity will be Vacation Bible School June 19-21. More information on these two events as well as an update on food collection will be available on Hebron's website and mid-week Flock Notes.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our missions and outreach. Our success for doing the Lord's work would not be possible if not for each one of you!

Hebron love and blessings,

Pat

May 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	30 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	1 9-4 ALM	2	3 9 am Church Clean up
4 Sunday School Worship / Communion	5 9-4 ALM	6 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg.	7 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	8 9-4 ALM 6 pm Safe Sanctuary Training	9	10 9 am Small Group Interest/Training
11 Mother's Day Sunday School Worship	12 9-4 ALM	13 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	14 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	15 9-4 ALM	16 12-10 Crafting	17 9-4 Crafting 10 VBS Edu. Bldg.
18 Sunday School Worship Homecoming Memorial	19 9-4 ALM 7 Friendship Circle Edu. Bldg.	20 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg. Newsletter Deadline	21 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	22 9-4 ALM 6 pm Methodist Men	23	24
25 Sunday School Worship	26 9-4 ALM	27 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	28 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	29 9-4 ALM	30	31 9 am Meeting about Greece Trip

Nursery Schedule

May 4th	Marti Graham & Becca Bartlett
May 11th	Joannie Wilson & Jenny Allred
May 18th	Marti Graham & Jay Wilson
April 27th	Robin Sykes & Joannie Wilson

Greeters

Bob Swanson
Jay & Joannie Wilson
Jr. & Robin Sykes
Debbie Blalock

Acolytes

Marleigh Lankford
Carlos Montejo
Peyton McBride
Annabelle Allred