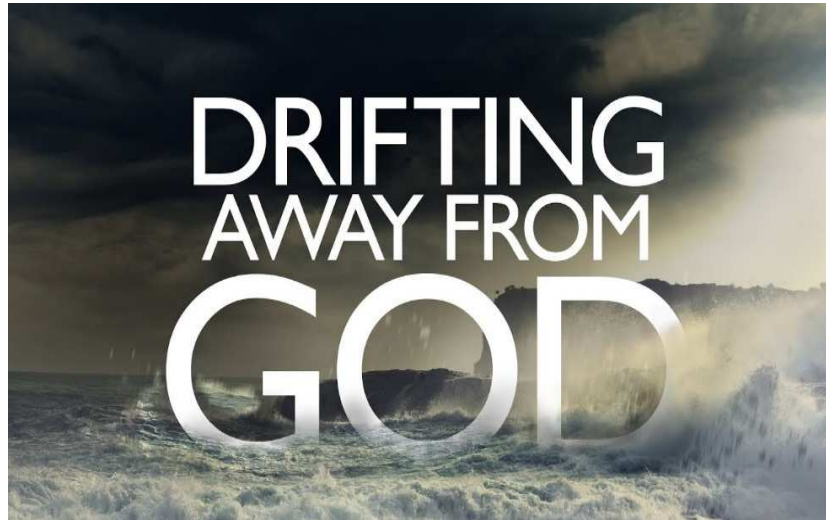


***The HBC Weekly Forecast***  
**Hilton Baptist Church. [www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org](http://www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org)**  
***101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601***



At some point in our journey with Jesus, I believe that that we can find ourselves drifting away from God. We all know this is not a good place to be. So, how can we tell if we are drifting away from God and what can we do about it?

The drift is hardly ever intentional. Life happens. We get distracted. Busyness crowds out the priority of our relationship with God and we begin to drift. Our hearts grow colder and we wander further from Him. We feel spiritually empty and apathetic. So, when we talk about drifting from God, what do we mean?

When I say drifting away from God, I mean we have been carried away from what we once believed about God, Jesus, the Bible, and the church, by the current of culture and unbelief. The writer of Hebrews says it very plainly:

*So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it ([Hebrews 2:1](#)).*

Sin clouds our belief about God's power, holiness, sovereignty, grace, and love. We begin doubting his goodness, When we start questioning God's character and his Lordship over our lives, then it becomes easier for us to drift from the home base of God's presence. We all drift – near and far from God.

Though we drift, there is good news. We can always find our way back the harbor of fellowship with God. If we have drifted or are drifting, here are several moves that we should make that we will explore this Sunday!

**Join us live at HBC, 10:00 am for this exciting new series...**  
**“Deep Clean!” – Or tune into Facebook Live at**  
**10:00 am and encourage others to join in with you!**

# The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

August 24, 2021

Budget \$2947.44

Budget Designated

In Memory of Bill Henley \$20.00

In Memory of Joe Hudson \$100.00

Alma Hunt State Missions \$525.00

Cash in Cash out Coffee- \$3.00

Cash in Cash out- Church Use \$100.00

Food Pantry \$100.00

Pure Water Pure Love \$50.00

Total Deposit \$3895.44



*A special donation of \$500.00 was made by Lillian Clopton and family in memory of what would have been Vid Clopton's 100th Birthday on Augusts 28th*



Another Way to Give

## **Special notes we received this week**

*To my friends at Hilton Baptist Church  
Thank you so much for all the good, cards and all your prayers. The service was wonderful.*

*Thank you Lynwood*

*Love, Beverly Hudson*

*A note received from Tommie Wheeler...*

*Hello HBC, Enjoying the FORECAST tremendously, You are truly stirring up old memories! Give Pastor Wells a big HELLO for me and the rest of the troops as well.*

*With Love, Tommie*

### **Lock up/ Greeter**

8/29 Joe Wircenske

9/5 Pam Cooke

### **Counter**

8/30 Myrna Powell

9/7 Joe Wircenske

## Calendar

### Tuesday, August 24th

1:00pm– 2pm Food Distribution

### Wednesday, August 25th

7:00pm Facebook Bible Study

### Thursday, August 26th

1:00pm– 2:00pm Food Distribution

### Friday, August 27th

5:30pm Community Dinner

### Sunday, August 29th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

Sonshine Kids

Back to School Sunday

### Tuesday, August 31st

1:00pm–2:00pm Food Distribution

### Wednesday, September 1st

7:00pm Facebook Bible Study

4:00pm– 6:00pm Drive thru Food  
Donation, Back Parking lot of church

At gym

### Thursday, September 2nd

1:00pm– 2:00pm Food Distribution

### Sunday, Sept 5th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

Sonshine Kids

*Praying For the People of Afghanistan and Haiti*



### Happy Birthday in August

/30 Janice Harvey

8/30 Mark St. Ours

8/31 Pat Schell



Mia left this past week for Randolph Macon College. Below is her address if you would like to drop her a card sometime.

Mia Kuhlne

CMB 3732

304 Henry Street

Ashland, VA 23005

[Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226](#)

[WMU Focus](#)

WMU Missions Focus for August— Pure Water/ Pure Love

PWPL has three purposes : to supply missionaries with water filters, to provide the people they serve with wells that offer clean water and to supply missions teams with water filters for use on short-term missions trips.

Monetary Donation are accepted

[Food Pantry at HBC](#)

HBC gives food away on Tuesdays and Thursday. See Sue Monfalcone to volunteer and for more information on how you can help. Restock the pantry the last Sunday of every month. Drive Thru Food Donation is the first Wednesday of Every month 4pm-6pm in the back parking lot.

[‘Pray for Our Missionaries](#)

Eric Reece (American People) KG, BH, DW (Central Asian People)

Becky Rowland (European People) DT (Northern African and Middle Eastern People)  
SH, DM (Southeast Asian People) CP (Sub-Saharan African People)

David Hendon (AL) Dana Thorsell (CA) Mark Parks, William Sizemore (GA)

Joseph Todd (MT) Maximiliano Almeida (NJ)

Rodney Jackson (OH) Kathyne Boroughs (TX)

[Aluminum Cans](#)

Recycle your cans at HBC and help Support missions! Bring them to HBC and place them in Prior Hall or the Church office.

*Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!*

[Sonshine Kids Happenings](#)

[Back to School Sunday, August 29th](#)

During Kids Church

Fun Games and School Supplies





## ***“When You Find Yourself Drifting”***

Drifting from God. Seems like it happens to all of us at one time or another. Sin clouds our belief about God’s power, holiness, sovereignty, grace, and love. We begin doubting his goodness, which he is somehow holding out on us. When we start questioning God’s character and his Lordship over our lives, then it becomes easier for us to drift from the home base of God’s presence.

***Drifting Happens Slowly*** - The times when I have strayed away from God (yes, pastors are susceptible to spiritual drift, too), it never happened suddenly. I didn’t wake up, saying: “I think I am going to wander away from God.” If you are anything like me, you don’t intentionally stray away from God. The interesting thing about drifting away from God is that we drift and we don’t even know that we are drifting. Drifting happens slowly, and many times unintentionally.

***Drifting Happens in Heart First*** - Drifting always occurs in the heart first. Then, it metabolizes to our attitude, words, and actions. Followers of Jesus can be adrift while singing songs in worship service, leading small groups, praying for the sick and preaching sermons from the pulpit. We turn to faking piety and managing an image, as a way to shield people from how far we may have drifted from our Father. This play acting is exhausting, and it leads us to a place of spiritual apathy. It’s unfortunate many of our churches have not created communities of grace that are safe enough for people to feel free to be brutally honest and transparent about where they are on their journey with Jesus.”

***How We Know We Are Drifting*** - How do we know we are drifting or have drifted away from God? We become aware that we are wandering away from God when we:

Spend little or no time reading the Word of God.

Spend little or no time praying.

Are not affected by the Good News (the power of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus) like we once were.

Spend little or no time fellowshiping with other believers.

Attempt to follow Jesus without the power of the Spirit.

Find it easier to compromise our moral beliefs.

Feel very little or no need to confess and repent of our sins.

Refuse to trust God.

Justify and rationalize our sins.

We all drift – near and far from God. Though we drift, there is good news. We can always find our way back the harbor of fellowship with God and his people. If we have drifted or are drifting, Believe that God loves you unconditionally and his grace is enough to cover your drift!

*On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood*



## ***Don't Worry About It***

*"Casting all your care upon Him,  
for He cares for you." – 1 Peter 5:7*

"Cheer up, it might never happen!" can be the most annoying phrase in the whole world. And "Turn that frown upside down!" can be as helpful as dropping your ice cream on the carpet! It can feel really patronizing and unhelpful when people tell you not to worry. After all, most of the time you worry about things that actually matter.

One author wrote, "A friend came up with this novel idea: 'Why don't you try this worry coupon? It entitles you to worry as much as you like, but only if it will: (a) feed and clothe you; (b) add to your life instead of taking from it; (c) make tomorrow better; (d) you don't mind acting like a non-believer! If that doesn't work, make a list of all the things you're worrying about, place it in a box and put it up on a shelf where you can't see it. If God is either unwilling or unable to take care of it, you can always get the box and start worrying again but at least give Him a chance. While you are waiting for Him to answer, pray. Stand on His Word. Don't give your worries a voice."

If you're a chronic worrier, why not make a list of the things you're worrying about, give them to God in prayer – and give Him a chance to help.

## ***The Last Impression***

Fresh out of business school, a young man answered a want ad for an accountant. His interview was with a very nervous man who ran a small business that he had started himself.

"I need someone with an accounting degree," the man said. "But mainly, I'm looking for someone to do my worrying for me."

"Excuse me?" the accountant said.

"I worry about a lot of things," the man said. "But I don't want to have to worry about money. Your job will be to take all the money worries off my back."

"I see," the accountant said. "And how much does the job pay?"

"I'll start you at a hundred thousand."

"A hundred thousand dollars!" the accountant exclaimed. "How can such a small business afford a sum like that?"

"That," the owner said, "is your first worry."



## ***“Priming the Pump”***

Many years ago, I heard Oral Roberts tell the story of a letter found inside an old tin can. It was wired to the handle of an old pump that offered the only hope of drinking water on a very long and seldom-used trail across the Amargosa Desert:



The note read as follows:

“This pump is all right as of June 1932. I put a new sucker washer into it and it ought to last five years. But the washer dries out and the pump has got to be primed. Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water, out of the sun and cork end up.

There’s enough water in it to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. Pour about one fourth and let her soak to wet the leather. Then pour in the rest medium fast and pump like crazy.

You’ll git water. The well has never run dry. Have faith. When you git watered up, fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller.”

Signed, Desert Pete

P.S. Don’t go drinking up the water first. Prime the pump with it and you’ll get all you can hold.”

If you were a lonely traveler shuffling down that parched desert trail with your canteen bone dry, would you trust this guy, “Desert Pete”?

For all you know, he is a lunatic. What if it’s a mad hoax? There are no guarantees to what he claims is true. And what would motivate you to prime the pump with the water in the bottle – perhaps the only water available! But, you understand the fact that old pumps have to be primed.

It’s a gamble. A risk. An adventure. What do you do?

This story illustrates an important principle: the principle of before. The lonely traveler had to prime the pump before all the water flowed. The before principle manifests itself in everyday life.

There are battles before victory. There are struggles before celebration. There are steps before arrivals. There is practice before perfection. There is preparation before completion.

We want victory in our life. What you do now – before the battle – will determine the victory you have in the battle! Find what you can do to “prime the pump” and you’ll have all the water that you need!



# Welcome to Online Giving

*"The Benefits To You & HBC!"*

Online donations to HBC may be made at any time from the comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and each user can change his or her preferences or desired donation amounts at any time. You can make a one-time gift of recurring donation.

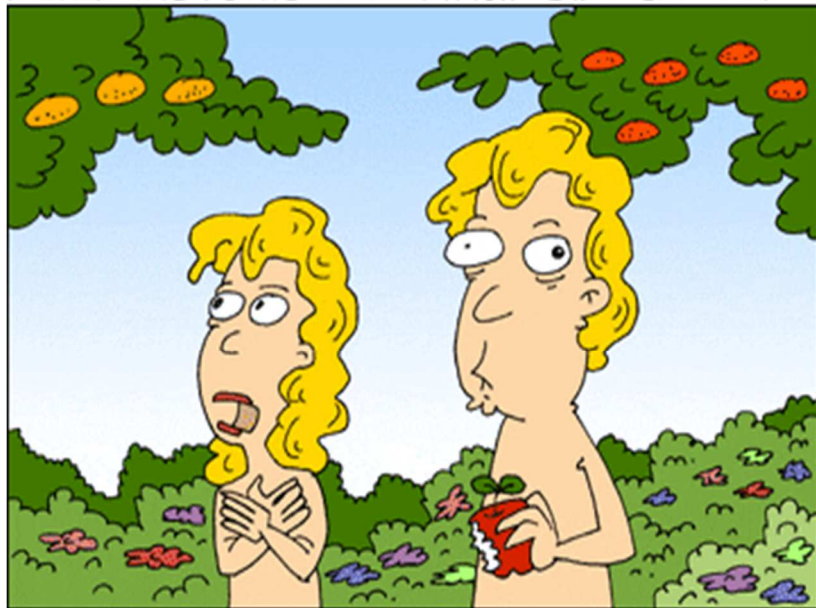
- No need to hassle with checks or cash
- Totally secure encrypted 24/7 web-based access
- Easily schedule recurring donations to fit your pay periods
- Debit / Credit card option allows you to take advantage of rewards such as air miles or cash bonuses. Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted
- No need to share bank account information as you enter it directly into the Online Giving 100 % secure site
- Allows you to give even if you are unable to attend services
- Contribution amount is easily adjusted as desired or needed
- Option to remain anonymous.

Try it today at [www.HiltonBaptist Church.com](http://www.HiltonBaptist Church.com)!

***God is doing  
some exciting new and  
powerful things through the  
faithful people of God at HBC!***

***Please remember  
your tithing commitments  
and giving and be part of the  
ongoing miracle!***

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Thanks to Pam Winn (See Genesis 3:21-24)

07-15-2004

**LEAVE THE GARDEN? ... BUT I HAVEN'T A  
THING TO WEAR!**



## ***Why People Will Want to Come Back to Church***



Here are a few reasons why I think believers and visitors may want to come back to church after the coronavirus restrictions are relaxed.

**1. People will miss connections with other believers.** The current isolation from other people is likely to cause some to crave interpersonal connections with others. The extended time of social distancing can permit loneliness to develop in some, so perhaps [Christ](#)-followers will desire to be present in church buildings once again to renew times of fellowship and interaction with other believers. This may be especially true with younger generations for whom strong connections with peers are very important.

**2. People will respond positively to connections made during coronavirus situation.** Many pastors and other church leaders have worked hard during the COVID-19 scare to communicate the gospel and the love of Christ to the largest number of people possible. Churches of all sizes have effectively utilized technology, especially social media platforms, to minister to church members and to reach out to unchurched people in their own communities.

**3. Some churches also developed new creative ways of outreach.** Ministries such as our HBC Food Pantry and food distribution to the needy. And I have also heard of some who have been making grocery or medicine runs for shut-ins) to demonstrate their willingness to serve in their own neighborhoods. These methods, especially during a difficult time in this nation's history, will undoubtedly yield some evangelistic results for the church. Recipients may indeed choose to visit those churches once the current shelter-in-place directives are relaxed.

**4. People will have a greater sense of commitment due to living through a crisis.** Some church leaders believe that the coronavirus epidemic may, in fact, be good for the church. Churches have had to figure out ways to fulfill their mission without the opportunity to gather in large assemblies. The emphasis upon a growing level of true community in small groups, in lieu of big gatherings, may continue to be a significant priority in the church's future.

*No one knows exactly what the church will look like once the current practice of social distancing is over. Some are predicting difficult times ahead for churches. Others are saying the church will come back stronger than ever. The important thing to remember is that the church is God's idea and it is His work in the world today ([Matthew 16:18](#)). He is certainly able to take care of His church and help the church weather whatever circumstances life may throw at it!*

## ***Discovering Real Treasure***

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” —  
Psalm 119:105*



The story has been told of a great adventurer and student of the Old West. The greatest thrill of his life was to search for treasures hidden from the days of the great California gold rush in the 1800s. He would begin by investigating leads on so-called “treasure maps” that had been uncovered or found in antique shops.

He would buy the maps and begin to do research on the locations. When an area was located, he would search history books to see if a treasure was supposed to have been hidden in that area. If so, he would begin searching. In this fashion, he had made a number of successful finds during his life and had become quite rich through his efforts. In fact, he became so successful that his adventures became routine to the point that he tired of them.

One day, the man decided he would attempt the ultimate adventure. He would find another treasure, but this time without the help of a map. He purchased another old treasure map and figured out the general area that held the promise of a great hidden treasure. Then, he set out on his adventure without the assistance of the map. He was never heard from again. Some years later, others found his remains in a mountainous desert area. Apparently, the great adventurer had died of starvation during his quest. Alongside his bones, amongst his gear, the treasure map was found – clearly indicating where to look. He was nowhere near the treasure, but had died in search of riches that could have been easily found.

Where do you look to find spiritual treasure? Some chase after possessions to find fulfillment. Others immerse themselves in pleasurable experiences. Some long for spiritual connection, but lose heart along the way and give up. Others become convinced that they don’t need the “map” to find spiritual treasure. They believe they can find it on their own.

God’s Word – the Bible – is our treasure map. God has assured us in His Word that we can have eternal life, and through the reading, study and meditation of Scripture, we will learn how to navigate through this life. And in the end, we will find eternal treasure: living forever with God in heaven. With the Bible as our map, we are assured of never losing our way.

We are all living out the adventure of life. Where are you headed? Don’t let your soul waste away in a spiritual wilderness while a trusted map collects dust nearby. Today, take some time to read your Bible. It will help provide directions on your way to finding real treasure!



No, no, no, there's no disaster. It's just our usual summer budget challenges and our Finance Team reminds us of the fact that we're running behind on our shared planned budget giving for the year.

While we're in better shape than we've sometimes experienced, and the course of the trajectory shows signs of slowly improving, receipts still run behind the budget and to be behind the budget means certain things may not happen.

Neither deaths nor departures explain the shortfall. Perhaps some of our folk have new financial demands or setbacks. A family might have gone on vacation and forgotten to remember their church. Perhaps someone doesn't really understand what it means to give a scriptural tithe, or a special offering. Who can say? But it adds up.

However, we're not alone in this. And the God who gives us a vision for ministry always supplies the resources. The Apostle Paul says:

*The most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God. II Corinthians 9; 10 - 12.*

Yes, God is our partner in financial stewardship and God has blessed each of us so we can participate financially in God's purposes. Furthermore, each of us is a partner to one another in supporting the ministries of our church, which are designed to accomplish the mission Christ has given to our church family. And, finally, as a church united in truly mature Christian financial giving, we demonstrate together the genuineness of our love for God, our thanksgiving to God and God's continuing work in us.

Pray. Plan. Give.

We can do this. Our family will do our part, as you will as well. Thank you for your faithfulness.

See you at our beloved HBC – where and when the church gathers!



## ***How Will We Light The Church?***

Several centuries ago in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. He made a good decision. He decided to build them a church. No one was permitted to see the plans or the inside of the church until it was finished. At its grand opening, the people gathered and marveled at the beauty of the new church.

Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece.

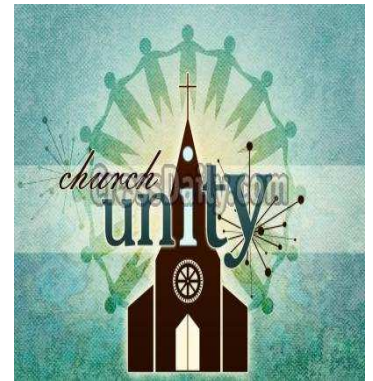
But then someone said, "Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really quite dark in here. How will the church be lighted?" The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here" the nobleman said, "the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark."

That's a poignant story, isn't it? And it makes a very significant point about the importance of our commitment and loyalty to the church.

## ***Protecting Your Church***

It is your job to protect the unity of your church! Unity is the soul of fellowship. Destroy it, and you rip the heart out of Christ's Body. It is the essence, the core, of how God intends for us to experience life together in his church.



In his final moments before being arrested, Jesus prayed passionately for our unity. It was uppermost in his mind during those agonizing hours. That shows how significant this subject is. Nothing on earth is more valuable to God than his church. He paid the highest price for it, and he wants it protected, especially from the devastating damage that is caused by division, conflict, and disharmony. Are dividing the Body of Christ just to get your way in some matter? Be ready to answer to God!

Paul instructed us: *"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."* Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)