

HEBRON HERALD

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 4

MAY 2026

The Pastor's Part

Once in a while life takes an unexpected turn and often it is a real blessing. Now I'm not talking about anything earth shattering, life changing- those big things are rare but this past week I had an unexpected blessing- a small victory but a win, nonetheless. Larry told me about an Exxon station that had the best fried chicken- yes, I said fried chicken- at the Manakin exit off I 64. I go by there often when I go to see my children and I had never exited there before but for a chance at good fried chicken I had to try it. It was lunchtime and the fairly large parking lot had 50+ cars and trucks- a good sign. There was a line, but it moved quickly since the staff working the food counter knew their business and filled, packed, priced the orders swiftly so I was in and out in only a few minutes. I was proud of myself for not dipping into the cardboard box although the aroma was maddening but I waited till I got to Elizabeth's and announced I had brought lunch. Immediately we all had a piece or two of succulent chicken and that box was soon emptied to well-deserved oohs and aahs. It was truly excellent chicken. I bought a full box for myself on the way back home three days later and now have a new place to stop when I head to Richmond. Thanks, Larry, for the tip. It

really is good. It seems like a small thing, but it was a win, a blessing unlooked for but much appreciated. Let us always celebrate those small wins, those moments of grace even if they are only fried chicken!

Blessings and Peace.
Pastor

Preecha



Enjoying Nature

Worship Service Moves Outdoors

On Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026, Hebron will hold the worship service outside. Bring your own chair and dress in picnic clothes. A Hamburger/Hot Dog picnic will follow. The congregation is asked to provide salads. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be grilled on location. In case of rain, we will move to the Fellowship Hall.



HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
March 29, 2026
12:00 PM

Present: Elders Tracy Mayer Lina Smith, Glenn Mader, Randy Moyer, David Obenschain, Larry Mayer, Mike Fallin, and Clerk of Session Robin Moyer.
Moderator: Rev. Dr. Henry D. Scoggins
Guest: Sandy Showalter

The meeting was called to order at 12:14pm. A quorum was declared present. The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk's Report:

Agenda was approved.
Minutes were approved from the Stated Meeting of February 8, 2026
Hebron's Session Minutes were reviewed as required yearly on March 14, 2026, and found to have no exceptions.
Communion was served on February 15, 2026, Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, and March 29, 2026, Palm Sunday
Larry Mayer and Tracy Mayer completed Boundary Training on March 19, 2026
Brenda Smiley and Louise McGavock were removed from the membership roll following their deaths on February 25 and March 5, 2026, respectively.

Presbytery report: Minutes of the February 28, 2026, meeting can be found at: <https://shenpres.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2026/03/February-2026-highlights.pdf>. There is also a link to a video recording on the Shenandoah Presbytery website. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026,

9:30AM at Charles Town Presbyterian Church in Charles Town, WV.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Marsha Sensabaugh previously reports to Session. After reviewing, Session accepted reports as presented.

Moving Forward: Sandy provided a handout with the ideas provided during the Table Talks in January. The list was reviewed and Session agreed on the first steps. The new secretary will take on communicating events to WWSA radio and WWSV tv, set up an Instagram account, set up email list of members and visitors for upcoming events, and keep information updated for Calling Post. A sign will be placed at the back of the church facing the railroad, and Scenic Railroad will be asked if they will include Hebron on their tours. Flyers with Hebron' information will be made and put on bulletin boards throughout the area were permitted. David Obenschain will get in touch with little league sports teams to offer use of the baseball field practice. David will inquire about having tours featuring the history of the cemetery in conjunction with our 280th anniversary. Donna Kirtley has agreed to plan an event like the *Evening of Comfort and Joy*. Ushers are needed at entrance doors to welcome visitors and be seated. We need to see that all visitors are greeted.

At the next meeting we will discuss Hebron Church sign along Rt. 254, and how best to utilize our door hangers for

new neighbors in the community and advertise church events.

Old Business: Email to Virginia Tech about the magazine article they wanted to do on Hebron and there has not been a response.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education – no report

Christian Outreach – no report

Communication – no report

Congregational Life – The warming racks and warming mats have been ordered.

Finance - Session previously approved by a majority vote, to reinvest a \$15,000 CD at Edward Jones at 3.75% for 12 months following the recommendation from the committee by email. When renewed, it had increased to 3.8%.

Personnel – Sandy reported the committee had been conducting interviews for a new secretary. They received twelve applications. The committee recommends hiring Karen Hildebrand. Her pay will be \$15/hour, 16 hours per week. After reviewing qualifications, Session approved unanimously. The committee also recommend an increase in the treasurers' pay to \$16/hour. After discussion, Session approved unanimously.

Property - There is damage to the church roof from the snow/ice storm in January. The cost to repair is less than the insurance deductible. Windows in the kitchen have been replaced. Two casements, four windows, were replaced at a cost of \$2380. Water heater in the Scout Hut is not working. Committee is looking for a new propeller for the tankless water heater in the kitchen.

Worship – The following report was submitted by Hannah Bush, committee chair.

The Worship Committee met on March 15, 2026, to plan for Spring and Summer.

Easter Season - Devotional booklets from the Society of St. Andrews were made available at the beginning of Lent. The Cross will be placed on the pulpit with a purple drape for the remainder of Lent. On Palm Sunday, purple will remain as the pastor takes us through Holy Week to the Passion of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Midway through the service, the drape will be changed from purple to black and the Crown of Thorns will be added.

Music Events - Guest organist, Nancy Novelly, will hold a concert on March 22 at 3 pm with reception to follow. Servers are needed. Also, Pete Echols, trumpeter, will join us on Easter Sunday and, we hope that Sheila Dietrich will be available for a soprano solo. On the Sunday after Easter, Sheila Ambler will be here for a piano/organ duet.

Summer - It was suggested to hold an outdoor worship service before the weather became too hot. The committee decided that on Pentecost Sunday, Hebron will hold the worship service outside. Bring your own chair and dress in picnic clothes. A Hamburger/Hot Dog picnic will follow. Congregation will provide salads. Dogs and burgers will be grilled on location. In case of rain, we will move to the Fellowship Hall. Communion will be celebrated on Palm Sunday, March 29 and on Trinity Sunday, May 22. Summer's quarterly communion is scheduled for August 2.

Lina reported that the flowers will be in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

PNC - no report

Moderator's Report: Pastor Scoggins will be on vacation the weeks of April 12 and April 19, 2026. Mark Wilson will lead the services on those Sundays.

New Business: Hebron's 280th Anniversary- Looking for suggestions on how to celebrate this anniversary. A suggestion was made to have a free spaghetti dinner and invite the community. Volunteers will be needed to help with any ideas.

Closing and Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:37pm.

Our next Stated Session Meeting will be April 26, 2026, at 12:00

Robin Moyer
Clerk of Session



Hebron's Patriots

On Saturday April 11, 2026, with the dogwoods and red buds at their finest, and Hebron's Cemeteries and Church yard freshly mowed, we had an historic event at Hebron. The General Daniel Morgan Chapter, Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), gathered to conduct patriot grave marking in our Old Cemetery.

The group included representatives from:

Virginia Society SAR
Colonel James Wood II Chapter SAR
Fort Harrison Chapter SAR
George Mason Chapter SAR
Beverly Manor Chapter DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution)
Society of Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge
Colonel James Patton DAR

Hebron's Patriots honored were:
Samuel Bell, John Crawford, Michael Hoover, and Archibald Scott.

These men have ground level plaques placed in front of their headstones.

Fortunately, for us our Greg Smith had been working with Mr. Jeff Brown prior to the ceremony that day and Mr. Brown agreed to help us research those who may deserve "Patriot Recognition."

The program included costumed reenactors of the colors, a bagpiper, beautiful wreaths, and a musket salute. The audience of approximately sixty people participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, singing, prayers, and TAPS played by a trumpeter.

The event ended with a Thomas Jefferson 283rd Birthday Commemoration.

(Part Two)

Archibald Alexander Scott

With Charles Cummings's departure in 1772, Brown's Meeting House did not have a pastor for about six years. Then in 1778, Brown's (Hebron) and North Mountain (Bethel) called the Reverend Archibald Scott to serve both churches as minister.

Born about 1747 in Scotland, Scott came to America as a boy in his teens about 1763. He was alone, poor, and friendless. For a while, he earned his living by working for wealthy farmers in Pennsylvania. In Scotland, he was a member of the Seceder Church, a division of the Scottish Presbyterian church. His piety and seriousness attracted the attention of a Dr. Cooper who took an interest in him and encouraged Scott to study for the ministry. He then joined the Presbyterian Church and announced his intentions to become a candidate for the ministry.

As the usual custom for ministers, Scott began his training with classical studies. He became acquainted with a Mr. Ramsey whose parents had moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia and settled near Fairfield. Scott learned that there were positions open for classical teachers in the Valley. He and a physician friend moved to Virginia and joined the Ramsey family. Soon, he began his study under the well-known Dr. Graham of Liberty Hall (Washington and Lee University). In the meantime, he supported himself by teaching school. He completed his study for the ministry in 1777 and appeared before Hanover Presbytery for examination. He spent time preaching in vacant churches in the Valley before he took his first pastorate. In 1778, he was appointed to spend four Sabbaths "at the united congregations of North Mountain Meeting House and Brown's Meeting House." In October, the two churches issued a call to Scott which he accepted and was installed in December of that year.



In 1779, he married Frances Ramsey, a sister to the Mr. Ramsey that suggested he come to Virginia. He purchased one hundred fifty acres on the east side of the Middlebrook Road just north of Arbor Hill. Four years later, he purchased 240 more acres on the north boundary of Christians Creek.

For twenty years he ministered to the congregations of North Mountain (Bethel) and Brown's which was an area of about twenty miles square. He supplemented his income through farming. There is no record of the salary he received from these churches. During his tenure, the congregation of North Mountain built a church on the present site of Bethel to replace the dilapidated North Mountain meeting house.



No pictures of Scott exist nor any of Scott's sermons. In the book *Sketches of Virginia*, William Henry Foote gives this word description of Scott:

Here he was often seen sweating at the plough, gaining for his children a livelihood, as he had gained his own, in his youth; for during the war, and for a time afterwards, the salaries of the clergy were small and indifferently paid. He was tall, of a large frame, but not fleshy; his features prominent and pitted with the small-pox, by which one eye had been affected, which required frequent wiping to prevent a teardrop. In his preaching he was doctrinal, always instructive, and often deeply impressionable and powerful. He held his abilities and acquirements in low estimation, and was seldom satisfied with his pulpit performances.¹

Scott was greatly loved by his congregation. He made his people feel as if he was one of them. He attached great importance on religious instruction of the young in his congregations. It was his practice to assemble all the children and youth in different neighborhoods on weekdays to attend instruction in the catechism. He used the *Westminster Shorter*

(Scott continued from page 4)

Catechism and introduced *The Mother's Catechism*, a 32 page booklet which he had reprinted in Staunton. When there was a call for a classical school in Staunton in 1792, he became one of the first trustees of the Staunton Academy.

Being a minister of the pre-Revolutionary period he instilled in his pupils the American cause and worked to prepare the rising generation to enjoy and preserve constitutional liberty. On occasion at a catechism lesson at Bethel Church, a horseman galloped up to the church door to deliver the message that the British General Tarleton was nearby. Rev. Scott



directed the children to return to their homes and tell their fathers he would be on his way to Rockfish Gap, the pass through the Blue Ridge Mountains by which the British redcoats would enter the Valley of Virginia. As a leader of his people, he would be among the first to be there. Thus, he too, as was his predecessor Charles Cummings, known as "the fighting parson." George Washington, hearing of the colonists' stand said, "If I should be beaten by the British forces, I will retreat with my broken army to the Blue Ridge and call the boys of West Augusta around me, and there I will plant the flag of my country."²

His modesty kept him from taking a more active role in Church and state affairs. He preferred to follow the lead of those whose opinions he valued and trusted. Nevertheless, he was greatly loved for his integrity and Christian character. His colleagues held him in high esteem. He was elected Moderator of the Presbytery five times, and four times elected commissioner to the General Assembly.

After serving Brown's for twenty-one years, Scott died after a short illness on March 4, 1799 and is buried in the old Hebron cemetery. On his stone, a Bible and sword are carved. His epitaph reads, "He laid down the Bible to take up the sword." He left a wife and eight children. His wife died a short time afterwards, and



the care of their children fell to the eldest daughter Sarah. Although some family members wanted to place the children in homes, Sarah refused to consent to this plan. With advice and help from her father's friends in the ministry and persons in the Bethel congregation, she was able to provide a classical education for her brothers and instruction in English for her sisters.

- 1 William Henry Foote. *Sketches of Virginia: Historical and Biographical*. First and Second Series. Philadelphia. 1850.
- 2 Ibid.

Credit: Joan Clemmer Wright

Does anyone know where the exact farms that Rev. Scott owned?

It is described as near Middlebrook Road, and the role of his descendants in Augusta County?

**HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
April 26, 2026
12:00 PM
(Draft)**

Present: Elders Tracy Mayer Lina Smith, Glenn Mader, Randy Moyer, Larry Mayer, Mike Fallin, and Clerk of Session Robin Moyer.

Excused: David Obenschain

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Henry D. Scoggins

Guests: Sandy Showalter, Rob, Claire, Cyrus, Rennie, and Ridge Cocke

The meeting was called to order at 12:08pm. A quorum was declared present. The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer.

Rob and Clair Cocke and family expressed their wishes to become members of Hebron. After talking with them about their backgrounds, a motion was made and seconded to accept them as members of Hebron. Session accepted them unanimously and welcomed them. A date will be set later for them to come before the Congregation.

Clerk's Report:

- Agenda was approved.
- Minutes were approved from the Stated Meeting of March 29, 2026.
- Ruth Rathburn was removed from the membership roll following her death April 1, 2026, by common consent.
- Eli Burns and Rachel Morgan were married at Hebron on April 18, 2026.

Presbytery report: Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 9:30AM at Charles Town Presbyterian Church in Charles Town, WV.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Marsha Sensabaugh previously emailed a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual report, and a Transaction List by Date report for the end of March 2026. The balance in the General Fund is \$48,521.54 as of March 31, 2026. After reviewing, Session accepted reports as presented.

Moving Forward: Sandy Showalter previously emailed Session members several ideas on how to manage the progress of the Moving Forward project. Who and how to track was the focus of the discussion. It was decided a whiteboard and easel are to be put in the vestibules and the person in charge of the activity will keep in the board up to date. A sign will not be installed behind the church, but the church's banner will be attached to one of the buildings facing the train track. Robert Christian will be reaching out to the railroad concerning the announcement of the church as the train goes by. David Obenschain and Donna Kirtley are working on the Evening of Comfort and Joy. Door hangers are available in the secretary's office to be used by the Congregation to distribute to new neighbors in the community.

Old Business: All money, \$38,000, has been collected for the last pipe to be added to the organ. Larry has made the down payment which is half of the amount to Taylor and Boody Organ

Factory. No time was given for when the pipe will be ready for installation.

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Education** – Glenn Mader is the new chair of this committee. He is looking for members.
- **Christian Outreach** – The application for the July 4th parade has been submitted.
- **Communication** – No report.
- **Congregational Life** – No report.
- **Finance** – No report.
- **Personnel** – No report.
- **Property** - Two holes were filled in the ballfield. Glenn has painted the wall in the Session room and is painting the buildings in the parking lot. The toilet was replaced in the Manse due to a leak, and the dryer vent that was clogged, has been cleared. New part for has been ordered from Blossman for the tankless water heater.
- **Worship** – Next communion is May 31, 2026, Trinity Sunday.

P NC: - Search is ongoing. The church information page will be updated to say we now have small children in attendance.

Moderator's Report: no report

New Business:

- **Communications** – Duties for Secretary: having events announced on radio WSVA 550AM, television WHSV-TV3, and social media, set up Instagram account, maintain email list to communicate to members and visitors news and events, maintain Calling Post lists.

- The annual report is being compiled by Hannah Bush.
- Tracy Mayer will be the Session Representative for the Officer Nomination Committee. Two members from the Congregation are need for the committee.
- The Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2026. The Annual Report and budget will be presented, and the Officer Nominating Committee will be elected at that time.
- **Closing and Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:24pm.

Our next Stated Session Meeting will be May 31, 2026, at 12:00

Robin Moyer
Clerk of Session



May 25

**Hebron Presbyterian Church
Welcomes You!**

Founded in 1746, we are a friendly and supportive church community. We invite you to worship with us every Sunday from 11:00 AM – Noon.

All our services feature music by our custom-made Taylor & Boody pipe organ.

423 Hebron Road
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 885-1648



If you desire to worship from your car,
audio is available on 94.1 FM in the
church parking lot during the Sunday
morning worship service.

Facebook – Please Like & Follow!

<https://www.facebook.com/HebronPCUSA>

Website

www.hebronpres-stauntonva.org

**Welcome
Door Hangers**

This is our new door hanger. Use them to invite a new neighbor or someone you know you would like to invite to Hebron. Please feel free to stop by the church secretary's office and grab a few.

May Birthdays

Linda Harvey	2
John Lyle	11
Donna Moyer	14
Janet Wiseman	16
Stephen Cahill	21
Rennie Cocke	22

Elder of the Month

Elder of the Month for is May is Randy Moyer. You can reach Randy at 540-649-3823. Thanks to Tracy for being Elder of the Month for April.

The Way It Is

by William Stafford

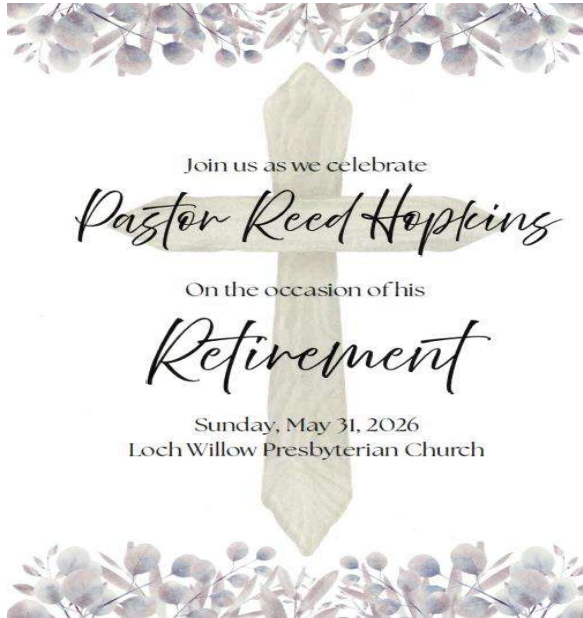
There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change. People wonder about what you are pursuing. You have to explain about the thread. But it is hard for others to see. While you hold it you can't get lost. Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old. Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You don't ever let go of the thread.

From: The Way It Is: New and Selected Poems
Copyright ©: 1998, Graywolf Press

"What is your thread?"

For some, maybe faith, for others maybe family, still others might choose the golden rule. Think about it: what is your thread?

Submitted by Sandy Showalter



Information

Please join us as we celebrate a faithful season of service and a joyful retirement

Farewell Service: 11:00 AM

Special Music: Immediately following service in the Sanctuary

Luncheon: 1:00 PM

RSVP total attending number by May 8th to Karen Fridley @ 540-849-0832 or Ann Conway @ 540-457-0294

HEBRON HERALD

Hebron Presbyterian Church

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Staunton, VA 24401

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Email: myhebronpc@gmail.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HebronPCUSA

You Tube:

www.youtube.com/HebronChurch-Staunton

Website: www.hebronpres-StauntonVA.org

Sunday School 9:55 A.M.

Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

Supply Pastor – Dr. Henry Scoggins

Editor for Hebron Herald for May-Robin Moyer



May 2026
Hebron Presbyterian Church
Sunday School 9:55 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Bible Study 11:00 am	6	7 World Day of Prayer	8	9
10 Mothers Day	11	12 Bible Study 11:00 am	13	14 Ascension of the Lord	15	16
17	18	19 Bible Study 11:00 am	20	21	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday Worship Outdoors & Picnic	25 Memorial Day	26 Bible Study 11:00 am	27	28	29	30
31 Trinity Sunday Communion Session						