

NO LONGER IN THE HCBA

As a result of a unanimous recommendation by our deacons, followed by a unanimous vote taken by our church in the July business meeting, we have officially severed our relationship with the Henry County Baptist Association. Our reasons are outlined in the following letter which was sent to the HCBA.

That said, it should also be noted that we are not without the support and friendship of other churches. We have wonderful relationships with several of the pastors and congregations of our area, and will also continue to enjoy sharing events with the other three CBF churches in MHC. (Two of them, FBC Martinsville, and Chatham Heights BC have also voted to leave the HCBA.)

Here then, is our letter to the HCBA.

To the Churches and Staff of the Henry County Baptist Association,

This letter is to inform you of our decision to withdraw from the HCBA. Our reason

is that we have come to see that we are a different denomination than Southern Baptist, which is the denomination of the majority of the churches in our association. For a long time we have believed ourselves to simply be a more moderate member of the HCBA, but more recently our theological differences have, at least for some, become more pronounced.

This is not a decision we have come to lightly. We have been a part of the HCBA since it formed and have enjoyed sharing in the work of the kingdom with you, our sister churches. In the early 1990s, we left the Southern Baptist Convention to align ourselves with the more theologically moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Ever since then, we have continued to work together with you in the HCBA, despite our theological differences – which have mostly not seemed to matter until more recently. Indeed, some of the strongest leadership in the HCBA over the years has come from the CBF churches – such as that of Rev. Dr. David Adkins, Rev. Keith Spangenberg and Rev. Dr. Mike Hatfield.

But in 2016, one of our CBF churches in the HCBA, Starling Avenue, called a couple as their co-pastors, Rev. Ashley Harrington, and her husband, Rev. Brian Harrington. A few months later, in 2017,

we called our pastor, Rev. Susan Spangenberg. About a year later, First Baptist Martinsville called the Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer as their pastor. And most recently, Starling Avenue called Rev. Angela Zimmerman as their pastor. That our church, and these two other churches, called women, seemed to be a difficult change for several of the churches of our HCBA, since Southern Baptists do not interpret the Bible to affirm women as pastors. While the work we have done together has not been affected by whether a church has had a female or a male pastor, we recognize that this difference has increasingly created an awkwardness for perhaps the majority of our HCBA churches, especially with regard to the annual meeting, or any meeting where up-front leadership from the pastors is required.

Meanwhile, we also have received the emails from the Interim Associational Missionary, Craig Rockwell, asking churches to decide and state “who they are and who they aren’t,” which is to be determined by whether a church affirms The Baptist Faith and Message 2000. We affirm the BF&M 1963, but do not affirm the 2000. Most accurate for us are The Four Freedoms; the tenets of faith for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

HCBA LETTER - CONTINUED

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Again, we feel this decision, while regrettable, has sadly become necessary. We bear no ill will toward the churches of the HCBA and have enjoyed our years of working together for the kingdom. May God bless each and all of you as you continue in your work for our Lord.

Sincerely,
The People of Pocahontas Bassett BC

This letter was sent to the HCBA office, but will also be sent to each church in the HCBA, that we might be clear about our decision and hopefully avoid the hatching of any rumors as to why we left.

I am grateful for our church's unanimous consent on this and for all the support you have shown to me, personally, regarding this decision. I surely do love and appreciate you!

Susan

SEPTEMBER 2025

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

AA MEETINGS

Mondays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, September 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the fellowship hall. Come join us and invite your friends! We are studying the gospel of Luke. There's always room for more!

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesdays, September 3, 10, and 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. Choir rehearsals after 9/17 to be announced.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Saturday, September 13: Pickers and Fiddlers Monthly Bluegrass Music Fest from 10:00 a.m. to noon in our fellowship hall. Invite your friends and neighbors. It's always a wonderful time! Great music, fellowship and food, all free of charge!

Monday, September 15: Stewardship Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

Tuesday, September 16: Deacon's Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

Thursday, September 18: Monthly Community Meal in our fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to come serve, eat and meet the people of our community. *Please arrive by 5:15 p.m. to serve.* If you would like to donate a dessert, please speak to Lindy Koger.

SPECIAL EVENTS: SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 6: Bassett Heritage Festival Breakfast at the Train Station 6 – 10 a.m. Hotdog Lunch at the Bassett Fire Department. Activities and parade until 2:00 p.m. (We arrive at 8:00 a.m. and take down our tent / booth at 1:00. Booths located behind the Bassett Office Bldg.) Please come serve at our booth and visit with the community. We will giving out ICEE pops and balloon animals. Wear your PBBC T-shirt.

Tuesday, September 9: All PBBC Budget 2026 Request Forms are due to the Stewardship Committee from our committees and staff.

Saturday, September 13: VA Baptist Women's Chorale in Vinton, VA For more information, speak with Mary Helen.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS
continued next page

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Sunday, September 14: Ingathering of the Alma Hunt State Missions Offering in our worship service.

Friday, September 19: Parent's Night Out from 5:30 to 8:00 in the fellowship hall. *Each child is welcome to invite a friend.* Please bring children with their pajamas, a pillow and a blanket. We will provide dinner, crafts, games, and a movie with popcorn - all free of charge. Please register through the church office (276) 629-5394 or submit the form provided in the Sunday worship guide to the church office or to Donna Anthony. The registration form helps us with a headcount for the meal and activities, plus we will need the information about allergies.

Sunday, September 21: Farewell to Min. of Music Mary Helen Cameron during worship and the lunch to follow.

Saturday, September 27: Visitation Day! Gather in the fellowship hall at 10:00 to receive names and addresses, and to team up. All visits will be pre-arranged. We will meet back to church at noon to decide who we next need to visit and to schedule our next visitation day.

SPECIAL EVENTS / OCTOBER and BEYOND (highlights only)

Saturday, October 4: Oktoberfest 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in uptown Martinsville. More information on the October calendar.

Sunday, October 5: Blessing of the Animals Service: at 4:00 p.m. in the picnic shelter. Bring your favorite furry family member to this special service in which he or she will be celebrated and receive a prayer of blessing. Please bring dogs and cats on their leashes or in their crates. Other pets are also welcome.

Tuesday, October 7: Grace Network Pumpkin Patch at FBC Martinsville (23 Starling Ave.) from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser benefiting GN, the MHC church-supported food bank and benevolence center. Our church will have charge of the pumpkin sales for the day. You may come and volunteer at any time within those hours.

Sunday, October 12: PBBC 2026 Proposed Budget Discussion and Lunch following the worship service, in the fellowship hall.

Saturday, October 25: Church Work Day 9:00 a.m. Gather in the fellowship hall. Come and help clear out spaces and create new ones for children's Sunday School. Other projects as well.

Saturday, October 26: Church Quarterly Business Meeting immediately after the worship service with lunch included.

Friday, October 31: Trunk O' Treats in our church parking lot from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Come and begin decorating your cars and yourselves around 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 1: The 2nd Annual Quail Hunt Please speak with Carlton Craig about the meeting time, the cost to participate, and reserving your spot.

Saturday, November 1 P.M. : Daylight Savings Time ends. Turn your clocks forward an hour tonight.

Sunday, November 2: All Saints Sunday This is the service during which we especially remember church members who went to be with the Lord in the past year, and also celebrate all the saints who have gone before us in our own lives and in Christian history.

**Sunday, November 23: Deacon
Installation** in the worship service

**Sunday, November 23: Community
Pre-Thanksgiving Service** at 3:45 p.m.
in the auditorium of the HJDB Event
Center (the old Bassett High School)
Our musical guests again this year will be
the ladies vocal ensemble “Branches.”

JOY GROUPS!

J.O.Y. stands for Jesus, Others and You,
and our JOY groups are times to gather
together, get to know one another better,
and share a meal together. Everyone is
welcomed and encouraged to join a JOY
group if you haven’t already done that.
(The groups have been reorganized and
made smaller. See Pastor Susan to be
reassigned.) Part of the purpose for our
JOY groups is to draw new folks into
them – so please also encourage friends
and family from outside of our church to
try out your group. Likewise, if you’re not
in a group yourself yet, ***please*** join one!

At each month’s meal, a different person
in the group will volunteer to take the
lead on deciding where and when the
next month’s meal will be. It might be in a
home, a restaurant, in our church
fellowship hall, or in a park for a picnic.
The meal can be potluck, host-provided
or dutch treat. ***Please try to get your
JOY groups together at least twice
before December.***

PBBC LAELC COMMITTEE REPORT

A NOTE FROM THE MUSIC MINISTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LAELC