



OCTOBER 2024

Healthy Harvest Food Bank

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

THE HILL



FROM THE PASTOR

In our beloved Northern Neck we are sometimes lulled into believing that the social and economic maladies that infect the world don't exist here. For example, hunger and food insecurity are continuing concerns throughout the Northern Neck. In spite of our community being incredibly wealthy per capita, there is a segment of our population that doesn't know if there will be food on the table tomorrow.

The elderly and the young are at greatest risk of experiencing hunger in our communities. To address the need many churches provide food pantries every week. Other churches and civic groups gather food and funds for distribution. But the most incredible success story in the war against hunger is the Healthy Harvest Food Bank in Warsaw.

I remember when the original food bank opened in 2008. It was called the Northern Neck Food Bank and was operated out of one
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Learning To Grow: Bridging The Gap Between Food Insecurity And Education

In 2008, Northern Neck Food Bank began in the back of a pickup truck, assisting area pantries by transporting food from Richmond to the Northern Neck. The organization has grown at an exponential rate ever since. Today Healthy Harvest Food Bank serves over 11,000 individuals each month through 36 partner pantries across the Northern Neck and Upper Middle Peninsula. In the last year we distributed over 2.1 million meals to those struggling with food insecurity, equating to over 2.5 million pounds of food and 669,000 pounds of fresh produce.

As we celebrate our 14th anniversary things are growing and thriving at Healthy Harvest Fresh! Our aquaponics center is providing a steady stream of freshly grown produce to our pantries across the region and will continue to expand its reach as the system grows to full production.

I still get goosebumps when I walk through the greenhouse and take in my surroundings.
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PRAYER list

Margaret Ambrose
Jane Austin
Billy Benson
Page Carlson
Betty Christopher
Eddie Dawson
Eleanor Delano
Ralph Doth
Charlotte Evans
Wilson and Sandra Evans
Alice Fallin
Bill and Mary Fletcher
Douglas Garrett
John Gilbert
Johnny Gilbert
Margaret Gaines Greene
Mary Herndon
Greg Howell
Anna Keane
Cathy Kellum
Shirley McNeal
Donald Morgan
Barbara Murray
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett
Sylvia Saunders
Pattie Ruark Sobieski
Sue B. Staton
Paul Stone
Fran Stout
William and Patricia Taylor
Tommy Thompson
Clint "Scooby" Walker
Lynn Keane Walls
Irvington Baptist Church
Children's safety on Halloween

*Please give us updates. Do we keep
praying or rejoice in being able to
remove someone from this list?
When adding someone, please provide
an address so we can send a card.*

*Prayer list contact
Mae Shelton at 804-366-3817*



7 Alayna Holcomb
10 Debbie Dodson
12 Martin Smith
20 L A Fletcher
20 Constance Fullerton
28 Ashley Nonnemacker
29 Michelle Gordon

October 10, 1981
John and Pepper Mann

October 24, 1998
William and Patricia Taylor



Learning To Grow: Bridging The Gap Between Food Insecurity And Education

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Aquaponics not only teaches you something new every single day but it is also fascinating. An overwhelming calmness settles over you as you witness the synergies of a system where each aspect works together to create something extraordinary. In a world where food waste and hunger continue to plague us, at Healthy Harvest, we have created something beyond the imagination that is natural, sustainable, has virtually no waste and will provide a variety of produce with the highest nutritional value available.

For much of my tenure the dream of an aquaponics greenhouse and educational program has been researched, debated, developed, argued, and finally accepted. Through all the challenges and setbacks, I have never lost sight of the importance of what this program means for the children, families, and seniors we serve monthly who struggle with food insecurity or those who battle food-related, dietary illness. I have never lost sight of the value this program will bring to our schools and students, many of whom have grown up in a cycle of inescapable generational poverty but will now have a chance to learn, grow, and break that cycle.

We are on the verge of a new era at Healthy Harvest, having only scratched the surface on a concept that brings innovative smart farming to our rural region to empower students of all ages while boldly bridging the gap between food insecurity and education.

~ Cindy Balderson, President & CEO



**The Flower Committee
is pleased to welcome new member**

Wendy Deihl



**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT
HEALTHY HARVEST FOOD BANK**

On Sunday, October 13th
we will kickoff our canned food drive
to support
Healthy Harvest Food Bank.

This year we have coordinated with
HHFB to determine their greatest needs.
They have indicated that they need:

Peanut butter
Canned meats
Shelf stable milk

We will have large boxes labeled with each
type of item. Please place your donations
in the appropriate box.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation,
envelopes will be available on Sundays.
Envelopes may be placed in offertory or
given to Kathy Pittman.

Make checks payable to:
Healthy Harvest Food Bank

**Collection ends:
November 17th**



Continued from page 1

pickup truck. Fast forward to 2024 and the Healthy Harvest Food Bank boasts a state of the art distribution facility and a new aquaponics facility where healthy, organic vegetables are being grown for distribution. With a budget of nearly \$5 million, the Healthy Harvest Food Bank is a shining example of how communities can help the less fortunate and fulfill the calling of Jesus to feed the hungry.

This newsletter is dedicated to Healthy Harvest Food Bank and I encourage you to visit their website and support them financially. Morattico Baptist will be collecting canned goods throughout October and November. Please consider a generous donation to the Healthy Harvest Food Bank and help them help those among us who may not have a pantry and refrigerator packed with food.

“Even as you have done to the least of these,
you also have done to me.”

Blessings and Peace!



**Did you know?
Samaritans Purse Helps in the US
Too**

Many think that Samaritans Purse only collects Christmas boxes to distribute to other countries. Often people ask “why don’t we help here in the United States?” Well they do. When storms tore across the Great Plains this past summer, Samaritans Purse was busy in six states cleaning up damage, making emergency repairs, and comforting survivors. They also sent teams to Houston after the flooding and to South Carolina after a storm.

Samaritan’s Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Founded in 1970 by Bob Pierce and led by Franklin Graham for over 40 years this organization is based on the story of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:30-37.

Operation Christmas Child, the world’s largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 198 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries and territories. Shoebox gifts are collected in Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States. Over 498,000 volunteers worldwide—with nearly 200,000 of those in the U.S.—are involved in collecting, shipping and distributing shoebox gifts.

Once again, Morattico Baptist Church will sponsor an Operation Christmas Child (OCC) campaign. The MBC OCC campaign will be lead by Linda Herring and Janet Smith. The two have many years of OCC experience and are sure to make it a huge success in 2024!

Thank you Linda and Janet!!!!



Morattico Baptist Church
is collecting for:
BOYS AGES 2 TO 4

Personal care items
School supplies
Socks
Crafts & activities
Toys

Linda and Janet will be making
announcements in church with more
details.

Collections have begun

**Deadline
NOVEMBER 10th**

QUESTIONS:

Call

**Linda Herring
804-580-1612**

OR

**Janet Smith
804-724-1185**

*no food, candy, money, toothpaste,
liquids, etc.
Please check the avoid list.

GOAL 150 boxes

Newsletter Deadline



If you have ideas, suggestions,
family news, articles or photos,
submit them to

newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org

or call Kathy Pittman at
(804) 761-2441

Deadline:
10th of each month



PENCIL IT IN

Sunday: 8:45 am Sunday School (adult)
10 am Sunday Service

Calendar events:

Oct. 13th Pastor Appreciation Sunday
Oct. 14th Columbus Day
Nov. 21st Business meeting
Nov. 27th Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov. 28th Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 20th Streets of Gold Christmas concert
Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25th Christmas Day
Dec. 29th 5th Sunday event

Bold = MBC event

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