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Company

By Kyle Reese, Pastor

We are coming ever closer to our annual pulpit exchange with Congregation Ahavath Chesed (The Temple). I'm especially excited that Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar will be preaching at HAB on Sunday, March 3, in the 11 o'clock service. In anticipation of our weekend together, friends from Temple will be joining us for Wednesday evening dinner, conversation, and learning on February 27. I hope you'll make it a priority to attend these two events as well as the Shabbat service at Temple on Friday, March 1.

As we prepare for this annual tradition, I'm also grateful to announce another opportunity for shared learning. Mark your calendar for July 19-28, 2020. The Temple and HAB will be doing a joint trip to Israel. Our trip will be hosted by Alan Margolies of the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville. Rabbi Bahar and I have already started meeting to plan our itinerary. This trip promises

to be one of new experiences, enriching and challenging conversation in the company of friends both new and old.

In his novel *And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer*, Fredrik Backman has an interesting dialogue between a grandson and his aging grandfather who is struggling with dementia. In one conversation, the child tells his grandfather of a writing assignment in school. "The teacher asked me to write the meaning of life," says the boy, to which his grandfather replies, "What did you write?" The boy responds with one word, "Company."

It's great to travel in this life with friends. I'm grateful for our company of friends at Temple who continue to enrich this journey.

Peace,
Kyle



Annual Pulpit Exchange with the Temple

Friday, March 1, at 7:00 p.m. Kyle Reese will preach at the Temple (Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd.).

Sunday, March 3, Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar will preach during HAB's 11:00 a.m. service.

Wednesday, February 27, folks from the Temple will join us for our Wednesday night supper, followed in the sanctuary by a time of shared learning led by Kyle and Rabbi Bahar.



Kyle T. Reese, D.Min., Pastor • Thomas M. Shapard, M.Div., M.M., Minister of Music & Worship

Britt Hester, M.Div., Minister of Youth and Christian Education • Claire Kermitz Chinn, M.Div., Minister of Children and Mission

Vickie M. Landers, B.B.A., Church Administrator • H. Kendell Smith, Dip.C.M. Minister of Music Emeritus

The Wisdom of Minimalism

By Britt Hester, Minister of Youth & Christian Education

A few years ago, while scrolling on Facebook, I stumbled across a page called Becoming Minimalist. One of the quotes posted on this page caught my eye, so I investigated the page to see what Becoming Minimalist was all about. I discovered that the page and website (www.becomingminimalist.com) was run by a guy named Joshua Becker who decided to start a blog on minimalism after he had a profound experience while cleaning out his garage. While cleaning out and organizing his garage, Josh's neighbor pointed out to him that he would probably be better off discarding most of the items in his garage, especially since they didn't seem to bring him joy or serve a purpose. And from that conversation, Becoming Minimalist was born. Josh has now written three books on minimalism, recently started a magazine called *Simplify*, and increased his network of followers to well over a million people, including me.

Why am I telling you this? Because if you've been paying attention, minimalism has taken America by storm. Following the 2008 economic recession, a lot of people had to find ways to cut back or make more money to stay afloat. As a result, people began taking inventory of their spending habits and selling possessions to supplement their income. Around that same time, websites like Josh's started popping up everywhere. In addition to Becoming Minimalist, authors like The Minimalists (Joshua Fields Millburn and Ryan Nicodemus), Leo Babauta, Courtney Carver, Greg McKeown, and Marie Kondo started publishing articles and books and producing television shows that appealed to the masses. Clearly minimalism was taking root in our American conscience.

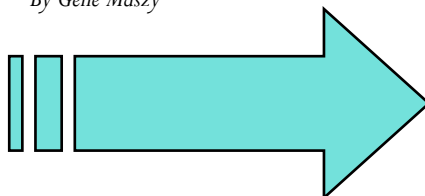
And perhaps that's not by accident. At the heart of minimalism isn't a radical purge of all your stuff, but rather taking an intentional look at everything in your life and determining whether or not it adds joy and purpose to

your life. If you've watched Marie Kondo's popular show *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo*, you'll recall how she asks families and individuals to determine whether or not their clothing and possessions bring them joy. If they have excess items that do not fit this criterion, they discard them. What decluttering teaches us is that we often have so much excess in our lives that we can no longer identify what is most important to us. At the heart of minimalism is elevating that which is most important to us and learning to say no to the things that do not honor our values.

What's appealing about minimalism to me is that I believe Jesus was a minimalist. Consistently in the Gospels, Jesus reminds people to evaluate what's most important in life. He instructs the crowd in the Sermon on the Mount, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasure in heaven... for where your treasure is there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). In Luke 14, he tells the crowds, "None of you can become my disciples if you do not give up all your possessions" (Luke 14:33). And of course, in Mark 12, Jesus instructs the rich man to give up his possessions and follow Jesus if he wishes to inherit eternal life (Mark 12:17-31). The wisdom of minimalism is that it forces us to reevaluate what's truly valuable in this life. When we identify that which is more important, we begin to live on purpose for something greater than ourselves. And Jesus himself says there is no greater reward.

Your Monthly Funnies

By Gene Maszy



Kitchen Corner

By Sharon Maszy

"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well if one has not dined well," declared Virginia Wolff. Julia Child said, "People who love to eat are always the best people." And a definition for kitchen: A gathering place for friends and family, a place where memories are homemade and seasoned with love.

You will find all these things are true in the HAB kitchen! I would even extend it to the fellowship hall. Wonderful things happen when a family gathers around the table, and that is true of the church family too.

It's a pleasure to welcome two new members to our Wednesday night kitchen ministry team. Garry Andriesse is helping Gene shop and lending a hand in the kitchen. Dolly Colwell will be making desserts as a start. You will also see their smiling faces at the cashiers' table. Another new team of cashiers will be Susan Howell and Sally Lott. What a great way to start the new year! And to add to our blessings, the Hinckleys, Carolyn and Paul, have signed back on to cook. Who remembers that wonderful stuffed chicken breast meal? It is delicious; you are in for a treat.

In February the deacons will be taking over the kitchen, led by Dawson McQuaig, Jr, to prepare and serve the Senior Adult Luncheon on Sunday, February 10. So if you are of a certain age (feels younger and younger), be sure to make your reservations by February 5 to enjoy a delicious lunch and interesting/entertaining program.

We're off to a great start for 2019! Please join us on Wednesdays. Dinner is served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The children's mission and music program and vespers follow the meal. All the best people will be there!



February Menus

February 6

Shrimp Creole, bread, rice, vegetables, bread pudding

February 13

Company chicken breast, bread, wild rice, broccoli, coconut cake

February 20

Meatloaf, bread, mashed potatoes, lima beans, carrot cake

February 27

Tequila lime chicken, bread, yellow rice, green beans, cookies

All meals include salad bar and drinks!



More Than We Can Handle!

by Julie Babcock, Librarian

Thanks for the donations of books to the library. At this point, we have a deluge to process, as it takes about ten minutes or more to enter one book into the system and get it on the shelf.

Though this is a good problem to have, we will be unable to accept more donations until we have completed processing our current donations. (Please note, we will continue to accept books donated in memory or honor of someone at any time.)

We ARE still taking recent magazines to give to the Cathedral housing to read, however. Contact Debbie Hagan at debhagan@comcast.net or Susan Howell at 904-262-2811 if you have questions about gifting a magazine.

Authors who are popular and have recently released books are in high demand. We try to feature those on an end rack just to the right inside the front doors. If you have a favorite author with a new book you think we should purchase for the library, email me (babjc@comcast.net), or leave a note on my desk with the information needed to order.

We encourage you to remember the HAB library as a source for your reading needs as well as for greeting cards, DVDs, and more! Please visit our library and see for yourself what a selection we do have. If you read a book we have that is recently published, chances are you will also enjoy books previously written by that author. Check us out on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings before the 11:00 a.m. service.

Feeding the 1000: Hands-On Hunger Initiative

Did you know that our front office volunteers serve bag lunches to over a thousand people a year! Yes, it is difficult to wrap your head around that, but it's true—they do. At LEAST 20 lunches a week ($20 \times 52 = 1,040$) and oftentimes it is more than 20 a week! Jennifer Mayo, and other volunteers, stamp brown bags with a simple prayer and fill each one with a bottle of water, a protein (tuna, potted meat, Chef Boyardee, Vienna sausages), a fruit, a sweet. Jennifer also likes to pack a little something extra for a late night snack or breakfast the next morning (PB crackers, Pop Tart, power bar, breakfast bar, trail mix, Slim Jim).

Here's how you can help!

1. Stock our lunch closet by keeping an eye out for BOGOs during your weekly shopping trip. Non-perishable food items that do not require a can opener are welcome!
2. Drop off any time at front office or leave in chapel after grabbing your coffee on Sundays.

3. Save those carry-out utensil packs you never use.
4. No time for extra shopping or delivery? We understand! Hand Jennifer \$\$! Absolutely any denomination will be put to use. Let Jennifer Mayo know if you desire contribution credit or call her with questions at 904-304-4118.



Thank you so much for your partnership in this very important aspect of our Hunger Initiative as we seek to serve our neighbors facing food insecurity. Your contribution matters. Some of our clients depend daily, some weekly, some transient and never see again..but it is not wasted and DIRECTLY feeds a friend.



Sympathy to...

...Kris Butler in the death of her husband Walter on December 12, 2018. Walter's memorial service was December 28 in our sanctuary.

...Sharon & Gene Maszy in the death of Sharon's cousin, Katie Howell.

...the family of Joanne Hatcher, whose memorial service was in our sanctuary January 4, 2019.

...Ken & Adrienne Meyers in the death of Ken's father, Harry Kenneth Meyers, on December 18, 2018.

...the family of Frances Pamela (Pam) Coalson, who died December 23, 2018. Pam's service was in our sanctuary on Wednesday, January 16. (Pam was W. C. Coalson's daughter.)

DID YOU KNOW? You can give online at habchurch.com/give.

The Offering Plate	For the Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2018		
	Sept '18-Nov '18	Dec '18	Year to Date
Offerings and Other Revenue	\$ 278,400	\$ 92,470	\$ 451,800
Expenses	(302,665)	(122,842)	(425,507)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(24,265)	(50,558)	(26,293)
Budgeted Offerings & Other Revenue	316,677	105,559	422,236
Above/(Below) Budget	(38,277)	(67,841)	(29,564)
# Days Operating Cash on Hand (period-end)	25.3	39.1	

Fruit of the Spirit

by Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Mission

Have you ever gone into someone else's home, or a hotel, or a restaurant and observed the most beautiful bowl of fruit you have even seen? You see the perfectly shaped and colored grapes, and you think to yourself, "I cannot wait to have some." Then that fateful moment arrives when you take a big bite of grapes and they are fake!!

It is a fateful moment when you realize this beautiful fruit is fake, and the disappointment mounts. On Wednesday nights with our children we are spending a moment to meet the fruit of the Spirit. We are taking a deep dive into what it means to be people who fully live into the fruit of the Spirit, and not just on the outside.

On our first Wednesday night I asked this question of the children: "Why do you think this is so hard to do?" One of our children answered, "Well, it is really easy to be

someone who pretends to love everyone, and be kind, and all that stuff, but it seems impossible to actually love everyone and be kind to everyone.

Do you know how hard it is to be nice to my little brother all the time?" This is what we will be learning and exploring about the fruit of the Spirit this semester. We will be learning about how not to be like that fake fruit; we will be learning that patience takes practice and discipline—because the fruit of the Spirit is not just words we learn in a fun song; they are words that should define our character as people who follow Jesus. They are words that should make us think before we talk and do.

At best, the fruit of the Spirit can help us be Christ's light in this world, and that is what the children are journeying toward this semester on Wednesday nights. Won't you join us?



Help us spread the word!

There are so many great things happening at Little Friends Preschool this year, and we cannot wait to see what God has planned for us in the coming school year. Do you know anyone looking for a loving environment for their child? A place where they will be introduced to music and art, Bible stories, and the wonders of God's creation through gardening? If so, please tell them about Little Friends Preschool, where we are dedicated to nurturing the whole child. More at habchurch.com or call 904-396-7745 x360.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, February 3

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m. Worship: Sanctuary
 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Sunday Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-noon. Eleven O'clock Worship: Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Master Ringers: E-9
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 ????. Youth Big Game Party
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel

Monday, February 4

8:00 a.m. Men's Book Study: D-1

Tuesday, February 5

1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: D-1

Wednesday, February 6

5:30-6:30 p.m. Meal Served: FH
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids Music, Missions, & More: E-wing
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Moms Meet Up: Parlor
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Youth: Gym
 6:30-6:55 p.m. Vespers: Chapel
 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

Sunday, February 10

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m. Worship: Sanctuary
 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Sunday Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-noon. Eleven O'clock Worship: Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Senior Adult Luncheon: FH
 (reservations required)
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 4:30-5:00 p.m. HAB Ringers: E-9
 5:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday Night Youth: Choir Room
 6:00-7:15 p.m. Master Ringers: E-9
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel

Monday, February 11

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Women's Book Study: D-1

Wednesday, February 13

5:30-6:30 p.m. Meal Served: FH
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids Music, Missions, & More: E-wing
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Moms Meet Up: Parlor
 6:30-6:55 p.m. Vespers: Chapel
 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

Friday, February 15-Sunday, February 17

..... CBF Youth Mission Madness

Sunday, February 17

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m. Worship: Sanctuary
 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Sunday Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-noon. Eleven O'clock Worship: Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 6:00-7:15 p.m. Master Ringers: E-9
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel

Monday, February 18

8:00 a.m. Men's Book Study: D-1
 5:30 p.m. Sulzbacher Feeding: Sulzbacher Center

Wednesday, February 20

5:30-6:30 p.m. Meal Served: FH
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids Music, Missions, & More: E-wing
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Moms Meet Up: Parlor
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Youth: Gym
 6:30-6:55 p.m. Vespers: Chapel
 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

Sunday, February 24

9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Sunday Bible Study
 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Combined Worship: Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 4:30-5:00 p.m. HAB Ringers: E-9
 5:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday Night Youth: Choir Room
 6:00-7:15 p.m. Master Ringers: E-9
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel

Monday, February 25

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Women's Book Study: D-1

Wednesday, February 27

5:30-6:30 p.m. Meal Served: FH
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids Music, Missions, & More: E-wing
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Moms Meet Up: Parlor
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Youth: Gym
 6:30 p.m. Shared Learning w/Temple: Sanctuary
 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

New Art Exhibit

Coming Mid-February!

Closet Christian: Christian in a Secular World

Artist: Jim Smith

Stay tuned for more details!



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for information about our Sunday Bible study
classes, upcoming events, new books at the
library, Wednesday night menus, and more.

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