

The Herald

December 2019

Presence over Presents

By Britt Hester, Minister of Youth & Christian Education

Ever since Abigail was born, Courtney and I have been amazed at how little it takes to keep her entertained. For instance, Abigail has a box full of toys in our living room, yet she often plays with remote controls, pillows, and towels more than her own toys. Now, don't get me wrong. She still loves her toys, particularly her Disney dolls. But, it's amazing how often she finds contentment playing with everyday things left sitting around the house.

What's even more intriguing is how little she wants to play with toys when Courtney or I volunteer to play with her. When one or both of us get on the floor to play, the toys become almost obsolete. All that matters in that moment is time with Mom and Dad. The laughter and energy that come from simply chasing each other around the couch or wrestling on the floor far exceed the joy of playing with plastic toys. I don't mean to compare our interaction with her in a way that makes playing with toys a bad thing. Rather, I offer this comparison to highlight the value of relationships over possessions.

Obviously, we are in the season of Advent, the season of preparation and anticipation of Christ's birth. Yet, I'm convinced in a world saturated by ads, commercials, and flash deals, we are easily tempted to focus our attention on which presents we will purchase for our family and friends, and which presents we hope to receive from family and friends. There's nothing inherently wrong with this except that so often we miss out on the gift of simply *being with* one another.

After all, Advent reminds us that Christmas is a story about the God who wants to *be with* us. The name Emmanuel literally means "God with us." Our celebration of Christmas is a celebration of God's incarnation. The greatest present the world ever received is God's presence with us in the form of Jesus Christ. And perhaps we would do well to remember this same truth in our relationships. While we will no doubt share presents of all kinds, I do hope we remember to give the greatest gift of all: the gift of our presence. For there is no greater gift than the gift of uninterrupted time with those who know us best and love us most. May we share it abundantly.



Above is an example of "Presence over Presents." HAB Singers and others visited Barbara Folmar and sang hymns together.

Kyle T. Reese, D.Min., Pastor-in-Interim • 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



First Sunday of Advent: December 1

8:45-9:45 a.m.: Worship

9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Youth Bake Sale and Silent Auction in the fellowship hall

9:30 a.m.: Church-wide Breakfast in the fellowship hall

10:00-10:45 a.m.: Invitation to Advent led by Tommy Shapard
All adults, youth, & children are invited to take part in a combined lesson in the fellowship hall

11:00 a.m.-noon: Worship

DECEMBER 15
COMBINED WORSHIP & CHRISTMAS MUSIC WITH INSTRUMENTALISTS
10:30 a.m.

Bible Study 9:30-10:15 a.m.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Our Advent devotions for 2019 have been written by some of our own HAB members! Advent Devotional Guides are available in the narthex or online.

Christmas Eve Services

DECEMBER 24, 2019

**INFORMAL
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**

**4:30 P.M.
SANCTUARY**

**CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE OF LESSONS
AND CAROLS**

**11:00 P.M.
SANCTUARY**

ADVENT
2019

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Joy to the World

10:30 a.m.

Combined Worship Service
December 29, 2019

Thank you to
Jeanette Yates

for serving as our communications assistant for the past year and a half! Jeanette has resigned to take a job with Text In Church. Jeanette, we wish you blessings in your new endeavor!

Anticipation

By Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Mission

The holiday season seems to come faster and faster every year. In seminary one of my professors said that Sundays seem to come around every five days, and I have the sneaking suspicion that we could now say the holidays come around every few months.

Even though I would love to start celebrating Christmas after Thanksgiving, the reality is we have already started getting ready for our Family Christmas Eve service and Night of Caring. A funny thing has happened while we have been preparing—I have started to feel the weight of anticipation differently. I have started feeling that desire and longing for the birth of our Savior.

Our children have started imagining telling the birth narrative in their own words, and while questions about the story have been asked and imagination has overflowed, there is a feeling in the air that we are getting a great privilege to tell this story.

And that is where I feel the weight of anticipation. I feel it when our children are excited to talk about how the shepherds must have been stinky or why Mary and Joseph didn't just ride their bikes to be counted. The weight is felt because our children know that this story is special. The weight of anticipation is felt when we know Thanksgiving is

right around the corner but we are eager to tell of the angels' proclamation of glory. Yet we know that we must wait—we must continue to ask questions about the birth story no matter how silly they sound. This Advent season let's tap into our inner child and ask questions and imagine this birth of our Savior with weighted importance and anticipation, knowing that we get to tell the story of the One who saves us every single day.

Stepping Stones Christmas Gift Tree

The Stepping Stones (now called "Milestones") Christmas Tree with the "Wish List Ornaments" is in the narthex on Sundays and in the fellowship hall on Wednesdays. Please choose a gift tag from the tree, sign the list, and return your wrapped gift with the gift tag by Sunday, December 8. Gifts can be placed under the tree or taken to the church office. These gifts are for our friends from the Mental Health Resource Center.



CROP Walk 2019

Thanks to all those who participated in CROPWalk on Sunday, November 3. It was a great day!



UCOM Christmas Bags

We are collecting the items below for Christmas bags for UCOM clients. Please place items in the bin in the narthex. Items are due by December 15.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Stuffing Mix
- Mashed Potatoes
- Corn
- Green Beans
- Gravy
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- French Fried Onions
- Canned Pumpkin
- Pie Crust Mix
- Condensed Milk
- Chicken Broth
- Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes

Tim Rucci Photography Exhibit Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary of New Sanctuary

In the early morning hours of December 23, 2007, a horrendous fire completely destroyed our former sanctuary.

Within hours of the fire the leaders of the church determined that the sanctuary would be rebuilt within two years, and they committed to reopening on December 23, 2009. From the time of the fire and afterward, photographer Tim Rucci documented the devastation, as well as the rebuilding process. After the sanctuary was completed, the Art Ministry Team displayed an exhibit of Tim's photographs. The exhibit was called *Loss and Restoration*. Now Tim Rucci and the Art Ministry Team present *Loss and Restoration II*.

You're invited...

The opening reception for this exhibit will take place on **Wednesday, December 4, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

Tim's photographs will be displayed throughout the month of December. We invite you to take a look!

The transitional gallery in the narthex is open on Sunday mornings and at other times by appointment. To make an appointment, contact Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 333.



Pastor Search Update

The Pastor Search Committee has completed initial interview conference calls. We have further narrowed our list of candidates. We are continuing our deliberative search for our next pastor. Thank you for your continued prayers as we search for the next pastor God has chosen for us.

Your Pastor Search Committee: Lad Daniels (chair), Mary Bridgman (vice chair), Debbie Hagan (secretary), Jordan England, Charlotte Haines, Joyce Hanson, Dawson McQuaig, Jr. Elizabeth Spradley, and Justin Weise.

POINSETTIAS

We will be using poinsettias during Advent in the narthex and sanctuary.

To order in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 333, by Tuesday, December 17.

Poinsettias are \$10 each. Names will appear in the worship bulletins on December 22 and on Christmas Eve, and you may take your poinsettia(s) home following worship.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL HAB "YOUNG ADULT"

Christmas Party

"Young Adult" definition: (1) 20-40 somethings, (2) Parents of young-ish children, (3) Members of the former "Genesis" Sunday school group

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry

Saturday, December 14 | 6pm

Molly & Keith Davidson's Home
1515 Lockend Ct., Jacksonville

RSVP TO MOLLY AT (850) 228 5702

PLEASE BRING
YOUR BEST APPETIZER OR DESSERT
AND A WRAPPED \$25 GIFT



Kitchen Korner

By Sharon Maszy

'Tis the season for many special and heartwarming traditions. One of them is definitely the giving and receiving of gifts. The best Christmas presents are often an experience to be shared, like dinner at a unique restaurant, or something that lasts all year, like a subscription to the Wine of the Month Club. I think we're participating in those kinds of gifts, giving and receiving, all year long at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church. It's the gift of ministry, especially ministry that reaches beyond the walls at 4001 Hendricks Avenue.

Someone asked Gene this week if we are still doing "Pay It Forward" on Wednesday nights. The answer is "YES!" The money people give goes on a Post-it Note and on the board. When we have food we haven't needed for our suppers, we donate it, supplemented with food paid for by the Pay It Forward money, to San Marco Church, on the corner of Naldo and La Salle, for their Wednesday night suppers.

The pastor there is the Reverend Steve Painter. They do a meal every Wednesday, following a 6:00 p.m. worship service, for the homeless in our community. When Rev. Painter first came to San Marco Church, about 5½ years ago, the men's Bible study invited him to be their leader. He encouraged them to open it up to more than just men. There were six regular members. One member was homeless. Rev. Painter and the District Methodist Outreach minister worked together to seek God's direction for that group and their church. They prayed one prayer, "God, show us where you're working, so we can partner with you." The next week there were 20 people at the Bible study, 15 of them homeless.

They always served a snack supper after the Bible Study. That snack has grown into a full meal, and the study has grown into a worship service! It's all volunteers there, too, shopping for, cooking, and serving the meal. They are members of the college campus group, Wesley Foundation-sponsored, Campus to City Wesley, or CCW. They are serving an average of 75 people every Wednesday night! Rev. Painter says their guests love the nights they know it was cooked by the Food Services Team at HAB.

So back to the tradition of gifts. What a blessing it is to be part of a ministry like that. We share our gifts of extra food and an extra dollar here and there. And we receive the amazing gift of knowing we are at work in partnership with our brothers and sisters in Christ, God's church in the world.

Have a blessed and holy Christmas Season. See you Wednesday!



From the Library

By Julie Babcock, church librarian

Come and visit YOUR library! We are in C wing, right behind the sanctuary. NEW right now are five books hot off the presses. And more are scheduled for release before the New Year! We have John Grisham's newest, *The Guardian*, as well as two books by the author Dr. Reese mentioned in his sermon last week, a new Baldacci, a new Danielle Steele, and many that have been released earlier in 2019. You might also consider books by our favorite authors, added to our holdings recently, or earlier releases.

Can you volunteer to be in the library from 10:40-11:00 a.m. on Sundays to greet those who visit? It only takes 20 minutes of your time once every two months, and it makes it possible for me to get robed and practice our choir anthem for the day. If you would help in this way, please let me know by email (bjbc@comcast.net) or by leaving me a message at the church number—904-396-7745. Thanks!



Congratulations to...

...Andrew & Taylor Nowlin on the birth of their daughter, Charli Rae, on October 29, 2019. Her grandparents are Bill & Kendra Nowlin; uncle & aunt, Daniel & Sheila Nowlin; and aunt, Keely Nowlin. Virginia Owens is the great-grandmother.

Sympathy to...

...Dot & Ralph Chambers in the death of Dot's brother, Gerald (Buddy) Brown. Buddy died Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

...Vickie Landers in the death of her mother, Peggy Mitchell, on November 9, 2019.

...Susan & Dick Clark in the death of their son-in-law, Laura's husband.

Thank you:

For all your expressions of care and sympathy in the death of my brother, we are most appreciative. *Janet Metcalf*

Fall Greetings from The Institute for Worship Studies

By *Sandy Dinkins*

Fall greetings from your campus partner, The Institute for Worship Studies! It's hard for us to believe we just celebrated our 20th anniversary as a graduate school and the start of our 5th year here on the HAB campus. Every January and June our students and faculty arrive for a week-long intensive academic session in either the Master of Worship Studies or Doctor of Worship Studies programs. This January IWS will welcome 118 students from 12 countries and 26 states to study and worship together with our exceptional faculty. We hold nine classes daily, morning chapel services, evening practica, provide three meals a day in the fellowship hall, and host a separate two-day worship seminar open to the public and our alumni.

Every session we have wonderful volunteers from the HAB family that join us in welcoming and caring for these students. HAB members also serve as host families for some of our students and volunteers around campus. We are looking for more volunteers!! Are you looking for a way to get involved? Here are some ideas and specific needs:

- ~Pray for our students and faculty coming to Jacksonville
- ~Pick up an international student(s) from the airport (Tuesday, December 31, and Wednesday, January 1)
- ~Host a student for one week (Tuesday/Wednesday to Wednesday, providing bedroom and bathroom only, no transportation or meals)—significant need!
- ~Attend our Opening Convocation service Wednesday, January 1, at 6:30 p.m.
- ~Usher/Greet/Serve during our Opening Convocation service Wednesday, January 1, at 6:30 p.m.
- ~Serve on hospitality crew for our New Student Orientation Wednesday morning, January 1
- ~Work for our Pop-Up Shop in the fellowship hall (times available lunch or dinner time throughout week)
- ~Register for our Worship Seminar with Dr. Jeremy Begbie (Monday and Tuesday January 6-7, 2020, www.iws.edu, \$)

If you can volunteer or would like more information on these opportunities, please e-mail sandy.dinkins@iws.edu or call 904-264-2172. Thank you!!

Next IWS Session: January 1-January 8, 2020.

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

The Offering Plate	For the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2019		
	Sept '18 - Aug '19	Sept '19	Year-to-Date
Offerings and Other Revenue	\$ 1,186,312	\$ 99,876	\$ 99,876
Expenses	(1,218,821)	(94,357)	(94,357)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(32,509)	5,518	5,518
Budgeted Offerings & Other Revenue	1,266,705	106,610	106,610
Above/(Below) Budget	(80,393)	(6,734)	(6,734)
# Days Operating Cash on Hand (period-end)	21.47	22.65	



December Calendar



Sunday, December 1

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

YOUTH BAKE SALE & SILENT AUCTION

8:45-9:45 a.m. Worship Service: Sanctuary
9:30-10:45 a.m. Breakfast & Invitation to Advent: FH
 11:00 a.m.-Noon Worship Service: Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 4:30-5:00 p.m. HAB Ringers: E-9
 5:00-6:00 p.m. HAB Singers: Choir Room
 6:00-7:15 p.m. Master Ringers: E-9
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel

Monday, December 2

8:00-9:00 a.m. Men's Monday Study: D-1

Tuesday, December 3

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

Wednesday, December 4

5:30-6:30 p.m. Meal Served: FH
 5:30 p.m. Deacon Meeting: D1
 6:00-7:30 p.m. Youth Group: Gym
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids Music, Missions, and More: E-wing
 6:30-6:55 p.m. Vespers: Chapel
 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir: Choir Room

Sunday, December 8

8:45-9:45 a.m. Worship Service: Sanctuary
 9:30-10:00 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments: Chapel
 10:00-10:45 a.m. Sunday Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-Noon Worship Service: Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 4:30-5:00 p.m. HAB Ringers: E-9
 5:00-6:00 p.m. HAB Singers: Choir Room
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel

Monday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 11

5:30-6:30 p.m. Meal Served: FH
 6:00-7:30 p.m. Youth Group: Gym
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids Music, Missions, and More: E-wing
 6:30-6:55 p.m. Vespers: Chapel
 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir: Choir Room

Thursday, December 12

Noon Stepping Stones (Milestones) Christmas Party: FH

Saturday, December 14

Noon PedsCare Christmas Party: FH

Sunday, December 15

9:00-9:30 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments: Chapel
 9:30-10:15 a.m. Sunday Bible Study
**10:30-11:30 a.m. Combined Worship Service: Sanctuary
 (Christmas Music w/instrumentalists)**
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel

Monday, December 16

8:00-9:00 a.m. Men's Monday Study: D-1
 5:30-6:45 p.m. Sulzbacher Feeding

Wednesday, December 18

5:30-6:30 p.m. Meal Served: FH
 6:00-7:30 p.m. Youth Group: Gym
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids Music, Missions, and More: E-wing
 6:30-6:55 p.m. Vespers: Chapel
 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir: Choir Room

Sunday, December 22

8:45-9:45 a.m. Worship Service: Sanctuary
 9:30-10:00 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments: Chapel
 10:00-10:45 a.m. Sunday Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-Noon Worship Service: Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel

Tuesday, December 24

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**4:30 p.m. Informal Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 for Families & Children: Sanctuary**
**11:00 p.m.-Midnight ... Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 of Lessons & Carols: Sanctuary**

Wednesday, December 25

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Sunday, December 29

9:00-9:30 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments: Chapel
 9:30-10:15 a.m. Sunday Bible Study
10:30-11:30 a.m. Combined Worship Service: Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Romanian Church: Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Burmese Church: Chapel



HAB Singers and others enjoyed singing hymns with Barbara Folmar and Teri and Art Mills on November 10.



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Jacksonville, FL 32207-6321
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.habchurch.com

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Presence over Presents | Kitchen Korner |
| Advent & Christmas Services | From the Library |
| Advent Devotional Guide | News of the Church Family |
| Anticipation | IWS |
| Stepping Stones | Financial Info |
| UCOM | December Calendar |
| Tim Rucci Exhibit | |
| Pastor Search Update | |