

The Herald

HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 2020



Church in the Age of COVID-19

By Matt Cook, Interim Pastor

If I'm honest with you, it would have been much more fun for my first few weeks as the transition pastor at HAB to happen without a pandemic. But given that, in some ways you outdid yourselves showing the new guy what a great church this is. I am so grateful for the phone calls, texts, and e-mails that you've sent my way and for the opportunity to get to know some of you on Zoom. HAB is a warm, wonderful congregation, and even in this weird time of social distancing that is still evident!

Many of you may be wondering when we might get to be together face to face as a church. The first part of my answer is I don't know yet. At this point, only about 1 in 20 churches across the country has reopened or set a date for reopening, and some of the ones who have reopened now regret it after people in their congregation contracted the virus. My own sense is that we need to watch and see what happens with the partial reopening that is taking place around us and see if the numbers go back.

That, however, brings me to the second part of my answer. "I don't know" probably isn't that helpful, but "We're working on it" might be a little more encouraging. As I write this, we're in the process of pulling together a task force that will help our church ask the right questions about when/how we'll reopen. I don't have to tell you that HAB is greatly blessed to have folks in our midst who can give us the kind of medical and logistical insights we need to make good decisions. Once our task force has developed some protocols, we'll make sure and let you know what's going on.

In the meantime, your staff is working very hard to make certain that we still focus on worship, discipleship, fellowship, and serving our neighbors in this moment. We've had some technical challenges in worship as we've moved from the chapel back to the sanctuary and also as we shift back and forth between live worship and pre-recording (for the handful of Sundays I'm working from Dallas). The staff team is putting lots of time and energy into ironing out those kinks, so please bear with us as we work to make sure that worship (and Bible study too, for that matter) come off without a hitch.

I'll say it again: HAB is a great place. I know we all want things to get back to normal as soon as possible, but it's a huge blessing to realize that this pandemic is not keeping us from being the Church. The building, as wonderful as our facilities are, is not what makes HAB a special place; you are!

Matt Cook, Ph.D., Interim 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

Digital Discipleship

By Britt Hester, Minister of Youth & Christian Education



I don't know about you, but when I'm forced inside, be it from the weather or a quarantine such as ours, I tend to do a lot of thinking. And lately I have been thinking about our digital selves. You might balk at such a description. Are we not the same person online that we are in real life? Yes and no, it turns out.

Our digital selves may, in fact, represent truths about ourselves. Yet, researchers are largely finding that we can, in fact, create perceptions of ourselves and the world around us that are not real.

In social psychologist Kenneth Gergen's 1991 book, *The Saturated Self*, he warned of a world where technology might saturate human beings to the point of "multiphrenia," or "a fragmented version of the self that is pulled in so many directions the individual would be lost." Unfortunately, I believe Gergen's prediction was correct.

The further we dive into social media, it appears, the more susceptible we become to losing our sense of who we truly are. Naturally, this causes us to behave and interact in ways that contradict our true values and convictions.

My friend Brian Foreman recently posted on his blog about this phenomenon. He writes, "In recent days I have seen people of faith defend murder, berate those with

whom they disagree, belittle strangers, and suggest people kill themselves, just to name a few. These are people who faithfully sat in sanctuaries Sunday after Sunday before COVID-19. These are people who will go out of their way to help someone in need. These are people who are as good as gold in person. But behind a screen something happens."

Behind a screen something happens. We could get into the science and psychology of what exactly happens, but for our purposes here, I believe it's important to note that something does happen. *And as people of faith we have a responsibility to consider the ramifications of our behavior online.* Our posts, comments, and shares have the capacity to shape people's perceptions not only of ourselves, but also of our faith and our faith community.

Discipleship does not have limits. Our commitment to follow Jesus extends to every facet of our lives, including our digital presence. When we post, comment, or share on social media, we might do well to ask ourselves: Does this represent the real me? Does this article, meme, video, etc. reveal my true values and convictions? What does posting this say about me, my faith, and the communities I belong to?

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says to the crowd, "The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45, NRSV). May we heed these words on and offline.

Neighbors

By Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Mission



Sam and I recently moved into a new home. Moving into a new home during a pandemic has its own sets of challenges, but one of the greatest gifts this move has given us is neighbors. Our neighbors are spectacular.

With our two dogs we spend a lot of time in the backyard, and so do our neighbors. In the short time in our new home, our neighbors have been incredibly generous. Outside of their generosity, our neighborhood has reminded me how important just being kind truly is. The gift of kindness is a gift that every day makes my life better. The kindness of a

stranger, a friend, or family member stays with you. It is an act that shifts your entire outlook for the day.

Our neighbors could have simply waved or introduced themselves and left it at that. Instead they have been kind—they have gifted us with conversation and laughter. They have reminded me how easy it is to be kind. It is easy to smile and say hello. It is easy to be a neighbor who puts away your neighbor's trash bins. It is easy to ask how somebody's day has been. It is easy to offer conversation.

Being surrounded by neighbors who stop their cars to talk with you has reminded me that goodness and kindness are vital to our wellbeing. Kindness brings out the best in who we are. Being a good neighbor is not hard; it is a simple act of care that brings us together. With our world yearning for goodness, I look to my neighbors and can see their kindness.

Be kind; be the neighbor who makes others better.

Sunday Bible Study beginning Sunday, May 31: An eight-week study based upon the book entitled
Glad Reunion: Meeting Ourselves in the Lives of Bible Men and Women

by John Claypool

Book Study and Bible Research Credit: Jack Mitchell

This eight-week Sunday Bible Study facilitated by Denise Thomas will examine the lives and faith experiences of eight Old Testament figures, the roles their lives played as our spiritual ancestors, and what their experiences say to us today, more than 2500 years after they walked the earth.

We will seek to become better acquainted with each one of these pivotal people and in so doing, get in touch with our religious roots, drawing upon Dr. Claypool's unique insights.

Although this study will be based upon Dr. Claypool's book, it will not be a book study per se. Participants will receive a syllabus with weekly reading assignments from the Bible. It is not necessary to purchase Dr. Claypool's book, although those who choose to may do so. The Bible study will be held via Zoom call beginning Sunday, May 31, at 9:15 a.m. Look for access via Zoom on the HAB Members Group on Facebook or a link in the HAB weekly e-mail.

LESSON SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

May 31: **Abraham**, Dynamic Security
 Readings: Genesis 11:31 through 25:11 (Focal passages: Genesis 12:1 - 13:4; 15:1-6; 17:1-23; 21:1-7; 22:1-18)
 Claypool, Chapter 1 (optional)

June 7: **Rebekah**, The Ethics of Obedience
 Readings: Genesis 24:1 through 27:46 (Focal passages: Genesis 24:1-4, 24:10-67; 25:19-28; 27:1-35)
 Claypool, Chapter 2 (optional)

June 14: **Jacob**, Writing Straight with Crooked Lines
 Readings: Genesis 25:19 through 49:33 (Focal passages: Genesis 25:19 - 29:30; 31:3 -21; 32:1-30; 33:1-17; 35:1-7, 9-10)
 Claypool, Chapter 3 (optional)

June 21: **Joseph**, How to Fail Forward
 Readings: Genesis 35:23 through 50:26 (Focal passages: Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1 - 46:7; 46:26-30)
 Claypool, Chapter 4 (optional)

June 28: **Moses**, Secrets of Growing with God
 Readings: Exodus 1:1 through Deuteronomy 34:12 (Focal passages: Exodus 1:6-16; 2:1 - 4:17; 5:22 - 6:12; 12:21-36; 14:5-14; 19:1-25; 31:18; 33:7-11; 40:16; Numbers 14:1-45; 20:1-12; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 39-40; 6:4-9; 31:24-26)
 Claypool, Chapter 5 (optional)

July 5: **Samson**, The Failure of Promise
 Readings: Judges 13:1 through 16:31 (Focal passages: Judges 13:2-5, 8, 24-25; 14:1 - 16:31)
 Claypool, Chapter 6 (optional)

July 12: **Ruth**, The Wisdom to Make Your Move
 Readings: Ruth 1:1 through 4:22
 Claypool, Chapter 7 (optional)

July 19: **Samuel**, Crossing Where It's Narrow
 Readings: 1 Samuel 1:1 through 25:1 (Focal passages: 1 Samuel 1:2:26; 3:1 - 4:1a; 7:2 - 8:22; 10:1; 12:1-5, 16-25; 13:5-14; 15:12-23; 16:1-13; 25:1)
 Claypool, Chapter 8 (optional)



PASTOR SEARCH

Pastor Search Update

By Mary Bridgman

Despite shutdown conditions, the HAB Pastor Search Committee has been very active during the past month, conducting telephone and video interviews of our seven outstanding candidates, all of whom project a high level of interest in our senior pastor position. Our next step will be to narrow the list and schedule appropriate follow-up interviews. Please continue to pray for us, our church family, and this process. Our goal is to have a new senior

pastor in place by September, although we realize that the pandemic will continue to require that we make adjustments as needed. Thank you all for your ongoing support, notes, words of encouragement, and prayers.

Please continue to pray for God's guidance for our Pastor Search Committee:

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

Little Friends VPK Graduates

By Julie Mason

On Friday, May 29, the Little Friends teachers honored the 2020 VPK (voluntary pre-kindergarten) graduates with a Drive-By Caravan. Our wonderful little scholars each received a certificate of completion; an individually personalized book made by their teacher, Mrs. Lisa Kaufman; and a beautiful flower. We are so proud of our 2020 graduating class!

Our graduates are Ava Kusic, Charlie Christian, Emma Thomas, Gio DiStefano, Joy Dates, Luke Mosier, and Lux Minix. All of these children will go on to kindergarten, and we believe they are very well prepared to do so successfully. Little Friends' principal, Mrs. Chelsea Weise, had this to say to the graduates: "Students, we are so very proud of your accomplishments. It was a true honor to have you attend Little Friends Preschool. When COVID-19 interrupted everything so unexpectedly, every single one of you stepped up in a very mature and positive manner. You kept going with the help of Mrs. Lisa! I am so proud of every one of you, and I wish you the very best! I love each one of you so much!"



Emma Thomas



Lux Minix



Luke Mosier



Joy Dates



Ava Kusic



Charlie Christian



Gio DiStefano

Wanted: Little Friends Infant Teacher

Do you love teaching and influencing the lives of children? Or perhaps you know someone who does. Little Friends Preschool here at HAB is currently hiring a teacher for our infants for the 2020-2021 school year that begins this coming August. Candidates must have a high school diploma and pass a background check. Experience in teaching and a bachelor's degree are preferred. Please send a resume to Chelsea Weise at littlefriends@habchurch.com. It's a wonderful place to work!

"You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
You're off to great places; today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting, so...
GET ON YOUR WAY!"
~ Dr. Seuss

Kitchen Korner

By Sharon Maszy

Hopefully by the time you are reading the June edition of the HAB *Herald*, life will be moving toward normal, though probably a somewhat “new” normal. There are many things we have missed this spring: worshipping in the sanctuary, being served in a restaurant, keeping the grandbabies. And in the “new” normal, we will still be missing some favorite events. I am going to miss seeing our IWS (Institute for Worship Studies) faculty and students. For the June 2020 session, IWS will be moving to a virtual campus. We always look forward to hosting IWS for their first dinner of each session on the HAB campus at a Wednesday night meal. To be in the fellowship hall when they join voices and sing the blessing is a little preview of the heavenly chorus!

We are also missing cooking with the kitchen ministry teams on Wednesday afternoons. Sharing a meal and time with our HAB family around the table is something to look forward to in the future. You are probably cooking more at home these days. I know we are. I want to share my new, favorite recipe for a summer vegetable. This dish and a plate of bright red, sliced tomatoes will make that Costco rotisserie chicken an outstanding meal.

Baked Zucchini

- Olive oil for the pan
- 1 pound zucchini, sliced ¼-inch thick (You can mix in yellow squash, too. Gene likes this made with skinny squash. It is not so mushy when it’s cooked.)
- Salt and pepper
- ½ sweet onion, sliced thin

Sauté the onion in olive oil until it is done and some pieces have browned. Arrange the squash in overlapping rows in an 8” by 8” baking dish, or a 9” pie pan, fanned out in overlapping rows/circles. Sprinkle the onion over the squash.

For the topping:

- ½ cup panko
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese (fresh is best)
- 8 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves stripped from the stems and chopped (or 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves [not ground])
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil

Stir the panko, cheese, and thyme together. Season with salt and pepper. Add the olive oil. Stir to moisten all the crumbs. Sprinkle this mixture evenly over the squash. You might not need it all to get a nice coating.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. Hope you enjoy it!

We know we can’t gather as a physical body while we are “safe at home,” but we can still be together in the Spirit. Let’s support some of our local restaurants by ordering takeout or delivery. See below for a list of restaurant suggestions for the next month. Stay safe and practice social distancing!

June 3: Mojo BBQ (1607 University Boulevard West)

June 10: Tijuana Flats (5635 San Jose Boulevard)

June 17: Southern Grounds (1671 Atlantic Boulevard)

June 24: Bearded Pig (1224 Kings Avenue)





Sympathy to...

...John & Christi Matteson in the death of John's mother, Diane Wells, on May 5, 2020.

...Eleanor Rogers in the death of her niece, Miriam Lewis, on May 3, 2020, at the age of 69. Miriam's sister Shirley died April 9, 2020, at 71.

...Susan, Frankie, Sara, & Jenna Wilson in the death Edward Baker on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Ed was the father of Susan and grandfather of Sara & Jenna.

...Kay Maiden in the death of her brother on May 20, 2020.

A Report from the Transition Committee

By Jack Mitchell, chair

We are now well into the transitional interlude between the departure of Dr. Reese and the call of a new senior pastor. In accordance with our bylaws, a Transition Committee was elected by the church on February 9. Our primary responsibility has been to conduct a search for a qualified interim pastor for recommendation to the congregation. We believe we have accomplished this with the recommendation of Dr. Matt Cook, who accepted the church's call and began his work as interim pastor on May 1. We believe that God led us to Matt, and we are confident that he has the appropriate skills, knowledge, and experience to provide effective leadership during the transition and to prepare us for the arrival of our new senior pastor.

We deeply appreciate your prayers, your words of encouragement, and your confidence as we set about our task. Our role now is to work in concert with Matt and our ministerial staff, together with the deacons and Coordinating Council, to ensure that the programs and ministries of the church go forward uninterrupted. Should any concerns arise, we invite you to share them with a member of our committee.

Jack Mitchell, chair
 Marshall Hill, vice chair
 John Matteson, secretary
 Lindsay Bergstrom
 Anita Snell Daniels
 Teri Mills
 Bob Personette

The Offering Plate	For the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2019		
	Sept '19 - Mar '20	Apr '20	Year-to-Date
Offerings and Other Revenue	\$ 739,347	\$ 83,295	\$ 822,641
Expenses	(650,734)	(85,674)	(736,408)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	88,613	(2,379)	86,233
Budgeted Offerings & Other Revenue	723,054	103,294	826,347
Above/(Below) Budget	16,293	(19,999)	3,706
# Days Operating Cash on Hand (period-end)	47.15	46.53	

DID YOU KNOW? You can give online at habchurch.com; then choose "Give."

It's a Puzzle!

By Julie Babcock, church librarian

Greetings from your Library and Media Center. One of our members has suggested that we add to our supply of jigsaw puzzles. As many are using these in the evenings or at other times to have an activity that one, two, or however members are in your family can work on together, and taking the time to bond over a relatively simple activity, it sounds like a good idea to me.

Hopefully one of the things we will learn during our time of staying at home is that family being together is a good thing and doing puzzles doesn't have to stop just because we can leave the house. Sooo, if you have a puzzle or two that you would donate to our collection, please do—when we are able to be together once again. You can check them



out (hopefully all the pieces are there) and return them when you have one finished and have had time to enjoy looking at it. Then someone else can check it out and also enjoy the pleasure.

Some folks have said that 500-piece puzzles hold their interest, some want 300 pieces, and yet others want the challenge of a 1000-piece puzzle. Any of these will find a loving home in our library.

Enjoy these days of togetherness when a positive experience comes to brighten an otherwise dark time in our lives.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the church campus is closed until at least June 15.

In the meantime, please join us for the following weekly online events:



Sundays

Sunday Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.
See Zoom link in weekly e-mail

Online worship at 10:30 a.m.
Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church
Facebook page
or
YouTube

Wednesdays

Zoom call at 6:00 p.m.
See Zoom link in weekly e-mail



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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.

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