



## Treasure

*By B. J. Hutto, Pastor*

Friends,

As many of you know, Rebekah and I have spent much of the month of August arranging needed details and moving our and our children's lives down to Jacksonville. As I am writing this today (August 18), I am sitting in our old apartment in Charlotte while a moving crew carefully packs our home here into boxes.

And I have to confess: It is a lot of boxes...

We are so grateful for the church's generosity both in regard to help with the move itself and also in regard to gifting us this needed space to pick up our lives from one place and plant ourselves in our new home amongst all of you. Rebekah and I, and Hannah Ruth and Elijah, all know ourselves to be truly blessed to be a part of the HAB family.

And here I sit, surrounded by these mountainous stacks of boxes, writing to all of you.

*"The 1961 Ferrari 250 GT California. Less than 100 were made. My father spent three years restoring this car. It is his love; it is his passion..."*

Some of you know that last week Rebekah and I put two other large pieces of our life in place in Jacksonville: we bought a second vehicle, and we put a contract on a house. This is actually the second house that we've put a contract on down there, as the first contract fell through earlier this month. And I have to confess: these processes—the finding and securing of a house and a truck—have consumed me since we arrived in Florida. They've consumed my time, but more to the point they've consumed my imagination. And as I've been going through them, the words of Jesus in Matthew 6 have been continually running through my mind: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Sometimes, I think we get the calculus of that statement backwards. We think that if we love something, if we find it valuable and invest ourselves in it, then we will invest our resources into it as well, but what Jesus is saying is something quite different: wherever we choose to invest our resources, that is where we will inevitably invest our very selves. It isn't that our treasure follows our hearts; it's that our hearts, too often, are bound to our treasures. And that's been me for the better part of the last month: searching; researching; hoping; imagining; waking up at night with my mind, unbidden, already working on how to secure these things. And while both a home and a vehicle are important, and while I'm very grateful for them both and for the ability to offer them to my family, I can already feel myself—my time and energy, my imagination and so on—being possessed by them.

*"Ferris, my father loves this car more than life itself...he never drives it; he just rubs it with a diaper."*

To be sure, there's a place for possessions like homes and vehicles in our lives, but the important thing, and at times the difficult thing, is to keep them in their place so that they don't end up unduly possessing us instead. As these processes

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**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

(B.J., *continued*)

have done to me throughout August, or as these stacks of boxes here in Charlotte are metaphorically doing to me right now...

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." There's a promise in there, but there's also a threat, and the challenge for all of us is to keep both the promise and the threat at the front of our minds so that we always remember whom we serve and whom—or what—we don't. Know, however, that while my "treasure," such as it is, is currently looming over me, trying to crowd out the world beyond it, my heart remains with all of you, and with HAB, and with the future that God has in store for us, and for Jacksonville, and for the Kingdom itself.

Kindest regards,  
B.J.



Our youth enjoyed an outdoor art lesson with Claire Aho



## Promotion Sunday

*By Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Mission*

On Sunday, August 16, we recognized Promotion Sunday. Promotion Sunday is bittersweet for me this year. For the last three years I have watched as Henry and Jonas Wilson, Riley Haines, and Aidan Chandler have grown and matured. I have watched as some of them have been baptized, I have heard them ask challenging questions about faith, and most of all I have been able to be a small part of their lives.

But this year, as we all know, has been different. I was beyond excited to take this group to their last Passport Camp. I was excited to see how they took a leadership role with our first-time Passport campers because this group of now middle schoolers are a special group of children. They possess humor and wit that oftentimes made my stomach hurt because I laughed so hard, and they ask such brilliant questions that I had to study more to figure out the answers.

You, as a congregation, have helped to raise this brilliant group of newly minted middle schoolers. You, as a congregation, have led by example through service, sacrificially giving of your time and tithes, which has allowed this amazing group of children to succeed!

Guess what?! The work is not yet done! We welcomed a wonderful and bright group of first graders on Promotion Sunday as well! Jonah Farmer, Elizabeth England, and Logan Cooke all have such bright futures. They are funny, smart, and eager to grow. This group of new elementary students are ready to take off. They are ready to grow and learn in their

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(Claire, *continued*)

faith. They are ready to listen and learn. I am excited to see what the future holds for these amazing children and their families.

The best part of Promotion Sunday to me is watching the parents beam with pride as their new first graders and sixth graders receive their new Bibles. For me it is that moment where we see the best of our church. We see the hope and the love that these families hold, and we see the eagerness and willingness of our congregation to make sure these children are loved beyond measure. (Since we weren't able to do that in person this year, we are posting photographs of these students with their new Bibles on social media.)

God's love is tangible in that moment, and what a wonderful moment that is.

## Transition Committee Wrap-up

*By Jack Mitchell, Transition Committee Chair*

With the arrival of Dr. B.J. Hutto to serve as our new pastor, the work of the 2020 Transition Committee has concluded, and in accordance with the bylaws of our church, the committee is now dissolved. But as we wrap up our work, we want to express our gratitude to those who helped make our task easier.

First, we want to thank Dr. Matt Cook for his superb servant-leadership as our interim pastor under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. We believe that God led us to Matt, and we have been richly blessed by his presence.

Second, we want to express appreciation to Lad Daniels and the entire Pastor Search Committee for working closely with us and keeping us well advised of their progress.

And finally, we want to thank the congregation for your confidence, your trust, and your prayers.

We now look to the future with eager anticipation as we seek to become the church that God wants us to be.

Jack Mitchell, chair  
Marshall Hill, vice chair  
John Matteson, secretary

Lindsay Bergstrom  
Anita Snell Daniels  
Teri Mills  
Bob Personette



## Transition Committee



## Needed: Community Garden Leader

We are looking for a new leader for our Community Garden. This person would be responsible for the planning, coordinating, and executing of planting and harvesting different crops, flowers, and herbs. The leader would coordinate and manage these responsibilities: order and distribute new soil to the beds, grow and harvest different produce, water, weed, mulch the walkways, fertilize, and basic upkeep of the space.





## News of the Church Family

### Congratulations to...

... Courtney & Britt Hester on the arrival of Micah Thomas Hester on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Abigail is the big sister!

### Sympathy to...

...Martha Douberly in the death of her sister, Dr. Shirley Belville on Thursday, July 30, 2020.

...the family and friends of Cecil Acree, who died Sunday, August 9, 2020. Cecil had two sons, Charles (& wife Gaye) and David. Cecil would have been 100 on September 7.

...Janis, Steve, & Walker Price in the death of Janis' mother, Mary Sutton, on August 16, 2020.



Abigail & Micah Hester

## Prayer Shawl Ministry: God's Work, Our Hands

By Paula Hayward

Throughout the pandemic, the HAB Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet via Zoom. Intentional prayers are lifted while creating handmade comfort shawls for members of our church family experiencing illness and loss.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was formed in September 2018 and has created over 40 shawls and lap wraps for those in special need. Like God's embrace, the shawls enfold each recipient with comfort, healing, and peace. *Every stitch is a prayer.*

For more info about this loving and creative ministry, or if you have a request for a prayer shawl, contact [PaulaRHayward@gmail.com](mailto:PaulaRHayward@gmail.com).



Elizabeth Spradley  
modeling a prayer shawl  
made by Debbie Hagan

The Offering Plate	For the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2019		
	Sept '19 - Jun '20	Jul '20	Year-to-Date
Offerings and Other Revenue	\$ 1,004,648	\$ 76,226	\$ 1,080,875
Expenses	(907,706)	(109,273)	(1,016,979)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	96,942	(33,046)	63,896
Budgeted Offerings & Other Revenue	1,032,934	103,294	1,136,228
Above/(Below) Budget	(28,286)	(27,068)	(55,353)
# Days Operating Cash on Hand (period-end)	49.60	40.43	

**DID YOU KNOW? You can give online at [habchurch.com](http://habchurch.com); then choose "Give."**



## Little Friends Opened August 10

By Julie Mason, Little Friends Board Chair

Little Friends daycare and preschool opened on August 10 amid great flurries of excitement mixed with trepidation—teachers, parents, and children alike deep breathing to control pounding hearts and fluttering nerves. What would they find at their long-awaited and eagerly anticipated preschool in this scary time of COVID-19?

**Signing In:** Balloons and happy smiles greeted children and parents as they were individually signed in at the new entry point in the breezeway of the B wing, temperatures of both parent and child taken; masks issued where appropriate (VPK-ers wear see-through masks); and children escorted individually to their classrooms where seats are marked off with blue tape and they practice “airplane arms” to safe-distance as much as they can.



**Safety Precautions:** Student and teacher security are paramount. Extreme safety precautions have been taken throughout the B wing, the area of the church that exclusively houses Little Friends. Additionally, rooms D-1 and D-2 have been temporarily reassigned to house the administration of Little Friends so that the teachers do not have to access the church office. Principal Chelsea Weise’s office is in D-1; the teachers’ workroom is in D-2. Everything will be returned to the “new normal” when the COVID pandemic releases its stranglehold on society and the church again functions normally. Children who become sick during school hours will be isolated in a corner of Chelsea’s office

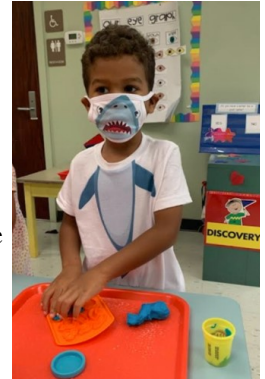
until their parents arrive to take them home. Classrooms are sanitized all during the day, and again thoroughly each night. Steam clean machines and HEPA filters have been installed in each classroom, which will be kept at a slightly cooler temperature than before. When practical, windows will be open to facilitate ventilation.

### New Toys Are Desperately

**Needed:** New toys are still needed, as all old toys had to be destroyed to



insure cleanliness and safety. The best way to help refill the toy boxes is by **monetary donation** because the teachers know exactly which educational toys are best for helping the children learn while they play, and they know what can easily and safely be sanitized each time a child plays with it. Regulations require that toys must be made of either plastic or wood, no other substance—no fabrics, no strange and wonderful new materials, nothing that cannot easily be cleaned and sanitized, which must happen EVERY TIME a child plays with a toy. There’s a “Donate Toys” tab on the Little Friends website ([littlefriendsathab.com](http://littlefriendsathab.com)), **OR** you may send a check to the church marked “Toys for Little Friends.” If you have questions, e-mail Chelsea at [littlefriends@habchurch.com](mailto:littlefriends@habchurch.com).



### Happy Days Are Ahead:

Despite the great strictures under which it opened for the current school year, there is great joy in Little Friends-ville. Both children and teachers are so happy to be back; to be together again; and to engage in the joys of learning, practicing our core values, and keeping the faith. On July 26, the church voted to make Little Friends a formal ministry of HAB, with emotional, spiritual, and prayer support. If all goes as planned, Little Friends expects to have a favorable surplus of revenue over expenses at the end of this fiscal year. Little Friends loves being a part of HAB and contributing to the body of Christ in the world!

You are invited to subscribe to the weekly Little Friends news update: on our church website ([habchurch.com](http://habchurch.com)), select “Ministries,” and under that tab, select “Little Friends.” On the very first page of the Little Friends site, you can sign up for the weekly e-mail update.



### Read the Little Friends Story!

Are you interested in the Little Friends story? It’s a good one, and you can read all about it at the link below—where it’s been, where it is now, and where we intend to take it!

Go to <https://www.littlefriendsathab.com/> and scroll to the bottom of the first page to find the Little Friends Annual Report.



## Kitchen Korner

By Sharon Maszy

(cartoon courtesy of Gene Maszy)

Plans for regathering in person are still unknown as I write this, but your HAB kitchen ministry looks forward to that time with eagerness and warm anticipation. In the meantime, we are developing some new recipes. My favorite thing to do is come up with a new menu. I almost always start with the meat or entrée and build on that with sides and a dessert. Gene found some thick pork chops that he knew had great potential. They proved to be delicious roasted and served with a mushroom and cream sauce (gravy!), fresh baked sweet potato towers, new-age broccoli casserole, mixed green salad with lemon vinaigrette, and for dessert, an old favorite, Congo Bars. I hope your mouth is watering. We have two more menus that we are still tweaking, so I will update you on those in the future.

To make the Congo Bars I pulled out the cookbook from the first church where Gene and I cooked, St. Paul United Methodist Church, over on Lone Star Road. We started doing snack suppers for the MYF, Methodist Youth Fellowship, in the mid-1980s. Our two older boys were regularly active in the youth group then, and we wanted to support that vital ministry. Every Sunday night we met our friends, the Nortons, in the kitchen and made supper for about 50+ youth. Usually Emily and I planned what we were going to make in Sunday school that morning. Then we took turns shopping, and the four of us cooked, served the kids, and cleaned up.

Back to the Congo Bars—it was fun pulling out that old cookbook and looking through those recipes. Some pages were splotchy with grease, some still sticky. There were a lot of notations. My eyes teared up reading the names on some of the recipes. Old friends sharing their favorite foods with their church family. Most I have not seen in years, but we share some precious memories. Now for a recipe we just jump on the Internet, but do not get rid of those old cookbooks! They are a record of so much personal and cultural history. You can look up your favorite Thanksgiving dressing and see your mother's notes. There is the cake you had to make for your husband's birthday. You might run across the casserole recipe you always made to take to a funeral lunch, maybe even with notes about whose funeral. I love it that I have my mom's *Joy of Cooking* even though I never use it for recipes. It is precious because it was her cookbook with her writing on the flyleaf. I do not see how the myriad of recipes I Google and print out will ever spark the same nostalgia in my children.

Again back to Congo Bars—they are kind of like a blonde brownie. This is Nell Wold's recipe from *Tried and True Treasures from the Heart*. You would know it is a church cookbook just from the title!

### Congo Bars

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup melted butter

1 teaspoon salt

1 pound brown sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 eggs

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk

$2\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour

1 (12 ounce) package chocolate chips

$2\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking powder

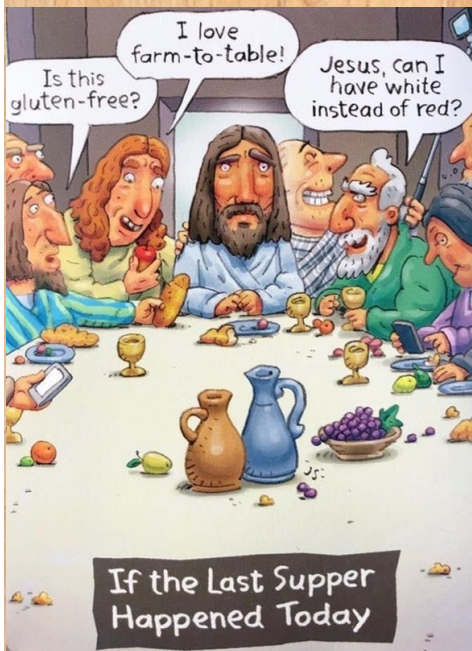
nuts (optional)

Combine butter and brown sugar. Beat eggs and add to sugar-butter mixture.

Mix dry ingredients and add, followed by milk and vanilla mixed together.

Stir in chocolate chips. Add chopped nuts if desired. Bake in a 9" by 13"

buttered pan at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes. Cool. Cut into squares.





## From the Library

By Julie Babcock, Librarian

It seems like a long time since libraries anywhere have been open. The decorations in the HAB library are still up from St. Patrick's Day, and the patriotic window I had planned for July surely never got up. Even the "Sand and Surf" window I had planned for August did not happen this year. Since I am in a high risk category, I don't know when I can safely open the library.

When we get back to checking out books (or you can download now from the public library or Amazon), there are several new ones that were released in April. John Grisham's *Camino Winds* is new, as is Baldacci's *Walk the Wire*. It's a shame that while we were "sheltering in place," we had so much time to read, but had to rely on each other to borrow books instead of being able to physically check out the newest releases. Well, maybe that wasn't too bad after all. Once a new book is released, folks tend to forget about all of the really good, but not hot-off-the-press books we never got around to reading. I challenge you to find a book—maybe a year or two old, or more—that you missed reading. You may be surprised to find how interesting books like Kristen Hannah's *The Great Alone* or *Nightingale* are. Or Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See*, or Delia Owens' *Where the Crawdads Sing*. It's not too late to go back and read all of the John Grisham books you missed, or Charles Martin's first 12 books as compared to his latest April release, *The Water Keeper*. We have so many good books, both fiction and non-fiction.

I hope we take the time to keep reading after this time at home gives way to a more mobile lifestyle. Holding a good book or reading to our children or grandchildren temporarily took us back to a simpler time and place. That's one of the good things that came out of our time at home. Let's not forget how much we treasured that return to old times.



**Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19),  
the church campus is closed  
until further notice.**

**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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[www.habchurch.com](http://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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