

Hendricks Herald

Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church

March 2021



580 Million Miles

By *B.J. Hutto, Pastor*

Friends,

March is just about upon us, and with it comes the recognition that, to varying extents, our lives have been shut down due to COVID-19 for an entire year. As a marker, the last fully in-person Sunday at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church was on March 8, 2020. In my own life, I mark the pivot-point as Friday, March 13. While there's something darkly poetic about noting that the world shut down on Friday the 13th, I have other reasons. Partly it's because that was the last day Hannah Ruth and Elijah were in school in person last spring. However, I also mark it there because Rebekah and I were supposed to go out to dinner that night since the next day, March 14, was/is my birthday. We

cancelled out of concern, and we haven't been on a date since. That's a vanishingly small sacrifice to have made relative to other families' realities, but for me it marks the day when I felt my own world tilt on its axis. I'm sure that each of us has a similar story that we could tell.

Nevertheless, for 12 months now, for the time that it takes the planet Earth to make one full trip around the Sun—all 580,000,000 miles of it—you and I have lived our lives in fits and starts. We've stayed indoors, hoarded toilet paper, sanitized groceries, sewn handmade masks, and learned to live largely over the internet. As one person on social media put it last fall, "My shoes probably think I've abandoned them." There have been times over the last 12 months where life has felt like every bit of that 580-million-mile journey.

All of us have lost something over the last year. Some of us have lost quite a bit, and there are a number of us who, in the midst of grief, have feared that we've lost everything. For these reasons, as we come up on a full year of having lived with and under COVID, it's important that we mark this milestone—this 580-millionth milestone, perhaps—as a family of faith. Therefore, on Sunday, March 14, our worship service will do so. It will be a service of remembrance of what we've experienced, of grief over what we've lost, of gratitude for the blessings to which we still cling and the perseverance with which we've been gifted, and it will be a service of hope for the rest of our journey.

Finally, as March approaches and arrives, I want to encourage all of you to be extra mindful about how you and yours are doing. While, of course, declining infection rates and accelerating vaccinations offer bright spots of hope, a year is a long time to live under these terms, and I expect that there will be a lot of talk about this anniversary. Some of that talk may be helpful—certainly, I hope our service on the 14th will be—but some of it may not, and for that reason this anniversary may weigh heavy on us. So, again, I would like to encourage you to pay close attention to how you're feeling spiritually and emotionally. Be gentle with yourselves and your loved ones. Extend (and receive!) grace where you can. And, as always, please reach out to your church family if you need anything.

Kind regards,
B.J.

B.J. Hutto, Ph.D., 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



Denying Ourselves to Embrace Others

By Britt Hester, Minister of Youth and Christian Education

During the season of Lent a lot of attention is given to self-denial and rightfully so. After all, Lent is a season where we are invited to *memento mori* (remember you must die). Lent, then, is an invitation to examine ourselves on a serious level, and this year I am wondering if one of the things we should examine is our image of ourselves.

In a world obsessed with self-image, it is not surprising to find most people struggle to love themselves. When it comes to self-hatred among younger generations, statistics say a lot. A study of more than 3,000 adolescent girls showed that seven out of 10 believe that they are not good enough. The same study showed that 75 percent of girls with low self-esteem have engaged in “negative activities such as disordered eating, cutting, bullying, smoking, or drinking when feeling bad about themselves.”

Yet, contrary to what often gets reported, it isn’t just young women wrestling with serious self-esteem issues. In 2011, the American Psychological Association published a study posing that, while self-esteem increases during adolescence then slows in young adulthood, “there is no significant difference between men’s and women’s self-esteem during either of those life phases.”

This is not merely a problem among younger generations either. When the feeds on our phones and screens are filled with images and videos of people showing off their best selves in order to gain or retain followers, it is no wonder so many people struggle to love themselves. But perhaps the problem is deeper than that.

In his book *A Glimpse of Jesus: The Stranger to Self-Hatred* Brennan Manning writes, “The script for self-hatred starts with a distorted view of God.” Manning goes on to share a quote that has been attributed to many, writing, “God created man in his own image and man returned the compliment.” Many of us, including me, wrestle with imagining a god who looks, thinks, behaves, and treats others just like we do.

Often our image of God shapes our image of ourselves and others. And if Manning is right (and I believe he is), the god many of us imagine is not the God of Jesus Christ, who out of love bore the terror and treachery of the cross not only to redeem our own suffering, but to reveal how *worthy* we are in the eyes of God.

Our understanding and experience of God’s unconditional love has the power to free us from the bondage of self-hatred. And perhaps this is the gift of Lent for us this year. Perhaps God is inviting us to relinquish the tyranny of self-hatred and take up the gift of radical, unearned grace. Do yourself a favor and, in the words of Paul Tillich, “accept that you are accepted.” Embrace grace this Lenten season and let yourself be loved by God. For indeed you are.

IWS receives accreditation

The Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools has granted the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies (IWS) initial accreditation for the Master of Worship Studies and Doctor of Worship Studies degrees for the maximum allowable initial time period of seven years.

IWS was commended for, and encouraged to maintain and enhance, the following distinctive strengths:

- a. A clear understanding of the mission and vision of the institution, which is shared by the school’s various stakeholders.
- b. An ethos of learning in community, characterized by a sense of mutual respect and humility among teachers and learners.
- c. The exceptional dedication of the faculty, administration, and board of trustees in serving the students in the context of global worship renewal.



The ROBERT E. WEBBER
INSTITUTE FOR WORSHIP STUDIES



Lenten Treasure

*By Claire Chinn,
Minister of
Children and
Mission*

Do you have a Scripture passage or book that you try to avoid at all costs? You know you should listen closely to it or study it a

little closer, but every time it comes around you either skip that Sunday or find something to distract you during the sermon (of course, none of us ever get distracted during worship).

For me it is Matthew 6:19-21. *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.*

I am not sure I can put my finger on why this passage is one I avoid, but it is. When I saw that this was going to be

one of the main texts for our family Lenten devotions, I was a little disappointed. However, as I read through the devotions, this passage started to change for me.

Over the seven devotions, our families are exploring spiritual disciplines that evaluate what our treasures of the heart are. Some of these treasures we can physically touch, hold, store, and give. Other treasures are invisible but still matter greatly. Our families are learning what kind of treasures matter to us, why we store them, and the power that these treasures have in our lives.

We all have treasures; we all have things that hold a special place in our lives and that help to define our lives. As we journey through Lent, we are journeying toward the cross, toward the resurrection. And we get there by re-defining our life with a posture toward Jesus.

As we explore the Matthew 6:19-21 text, we are being called to a life where our treasures draw us closer to Christ. What would our lives look like if we developed and practiced a spiritual discipline that allows us to evaluate our treasures? What would it look like if we understood our treasures: Which ones draw us closer to Christ, and which ones draw us away from Christ? Our treasures give our lives definition and purpose. As we journey through Lent, we are journeying toward a place where our lives matter, where our stories are a part of something bigger, where our treasures give immeasurable joy.

What is your treasure? What is your purpose?



News of the Church Family

Sympathy to...

...Brian, Sarah, & Logan Cooke in the death of Brian's grandmother, Gladys Hogan, who died Saturday, January 23, 2021 in Niagara Falls, New York.

...Shirley Udell in the death of her husband Jack on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

| The Offering Plate | For fiscal year beginning September 1, 2020 | | |
|--|---|-----------|--------------|
| | Sept-Dec 2020 | Jan 2021 | Year to Date |
| Offerings & Other Revenue | \$425,203 | \$76,827 | \$502,030 |
| Expenses | (392,126) | (109,069) | (501,195) |
| Operating Surplus/(Deficit) | 33,077 | (32,241) | 835 |
| Budgeted Offerings & Other Revenue | 433,362 | 108,341 | 541,703 |
| Above/(Below) Budget | (8,159) | (31,513) | (39,672) |
| # Days Operating Cash on Hand (period-end) | 29.09 | 21.2 | |

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



What: Dinner on the Grounds
When: Wednesday, March 17, at 5:30
Where: Outside between gym & E wing
 (central breezeway in case of rain)
Who: Children, youth, & adults

Reservations: Please reserve your meal by Sunday, March 14, by contacting laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745. Take-out meals are also available. Please specify "in person" or "take out" when making your reservation.

Cost: Adults \$8, children \$4, immediate family maximum \$19.

As always on campus, we will be following COVID protocols: Masks must be worn except when eating, and please share a table with those in your immediate social circle.



We extend a warm welcome to new members **Christine and Kyle Boyer** and their children **Holly and Jimmy!** Christine and Kyle joined HAB on January 17, 2021.

Kyle is currently stationed at NAS Jax as a chaplain, and Christine is busy managing two children with virtual school. Holly is in second grade and loves to be able to play with her friends outside and to boogie board. Jimmy is almost four and enjoys building with Legos and playing in the sand at the beach. And as a family they love to eat great food with good people!





From the Church Mouse

(This is a new column in which we share items of note within our congregation. If you have heard of something you think should be included, please e-mail churchmouse@habchurch.com. This is an opportunity to share “holy gossip.”)

Brothers and sisters at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, I think we may be seeing the light at the end of the (COVID) tunnel. And as the old joke goes, it is not a train! We were able to enjoy a Wednesday night meal together on February 10. Of course, we were outside, masked except when eating, and socially distanced. It was wonderful to see so many beloved faces gather in fellowship. COVID may be bringing some new habits into play. Of course, you could get a takeout if that felt safer. There were some who did that

and chose to gather in a smaller “bubble” on their own. One thoughtful husband came and got two dinners, went home, ate with his wife, then returned to visit with his friends—hopefully with a slice of that delicious red velvet cake. The word is we can look forward to enjoying a meal together once a month. A bright light might be not having to cook and getting to visit with special people at the same time. Who knows, we might even get to go to McDonald’s for a famous McRib sandwich.

A pandemic cannot stop amazing things happening at HAB. It is still an active “Place of Grace.” The **HAB youth** meet regularly under **Pastor Britt**’s leadership. In January they had lessons on the life-changing act of accepting Christ as your Savior and then celebrating that decision by being baptized. You might want to spend a few sweet moments thinking back on your own baptism experience. In February they studied the four different Greek words for love. Sometimes English is just not enough; God’s gift of love is so vast. What valuable lessons this could be for all of us.

The **children of HAB**, under **Pastor Claire**’s leadership, “buried their alleluias” in the community garden. She is leading them into an understanding of the coming Lenten season. A time of introspection, it is a time when we do not sing Alleluia! If you are in the choir, you probably already knew that. As we worshipped on Ash Wednesday, we pondered all the buried alleluias of this season, while anticipating the joy of resurrection.

And as always, HAB is active in the greater Jacksonville community. **Maddie Weise** is a member of our youth group and a talented athlete. She plays varsity basketball at Episcopal High School. Kudos to the team for recently coming in second in their district play-offs. They won the opportunity to compete at regionals. You go, girl!

Speaking of the greater Jacksonville community, **Margaret & Robert Hill** are being honored by OneJax at this year’s Humanitarian Awards on April 15. Congratulations to both of you for your important work in our community!

Dawson McQuaig Jr. is a teacher in the senior high of Harvest Community School. He recently brought several students to HAB for a service project. They worked in our community garden. Now, if you have some free time and are blessed with a green thumb, you can follow their example. The garden is a wonderful place to be in the spring.

Finally, let’s all celebrate with the **83 (that we know of!) HAB members** who have already received their COVID vaccinations! Congratulations! If you, or your loved ones, receive yours, please let us know so that we can celebrate with you too! And if you’re still waiting, hang in there! Help is on the way!

That’s all for this month! The plan is for this “holy gossip column” to appear in the *Herald* so that we can all know about and celebrate our congregation’s good news together! Therefore, if you have something you’d like to celebrate—or if you know of something in someone else’s life that needs celebrating—e-mail me at churchmouse@habchurch.com! Surely we’ve only scratched the surface this month, so let’s work together to make sure we gather up all the crumbs moving forward!

With my ear to the ground,
Your HAB Church Mouse

Kitchen Korner

By Sharon Maszy

HAB kitchen ministry is alive and well! We had a wonderful afternoon cooking for our church family in February. A big thank you to the following folks for sharing their time and cooking expertise: **Dee and Buzz Bumbarger, Elizabeth Spradley, Lynne Galbraith, and Dawson McQuaig Jr.** **Lad and Anita Daniels** came in to help us package the meals and serve them—such wonderful help. And always our staff, Joharen Gallardo and Vladimir Lagodny, do a great job with willing hearts and spirits. In many ways it is a different world because of COVID, but your kitchen ministry team is up to it. We are looking forward to Dinner on the Grounds on a monthly basis until the summer. Hope to see you there.

This month I want to share a recipe I took directly from the *Wall Street Journal*, February 6-7, 2021, edition. Chef Eleanore Park took up a whole page with this recipe, along with a beautiful picture. I'm going to try to condense it, but I agree with her premise—there is nothing better, or more versatile, than a good roast chicken! Spoiler alert: ideally this process takes 1 day and 2 hours. Most of the instructions are my shortened ones.



Baked Chicken

Serves 2-4 with leftovers

- 1 (3-4 pound) whole chicken
- Kosher Salt (use about 1 teaspoon per pound of chicken)
- Freshly ground black pepper, optional
- 1 whole head of garlic, halved crosswise
- 1 lemon, halved
- ½ Tablespoon olive oil or melted butter

Pat the chicken completely dry with paper towels. Season inside and all over outside with the salt and pepper. Put a folded paper towel in the bottom of a Pyrex dish or pie plate. Put the chicken on it. Put it in the refrigerator for 24 hours, **uncovered**. I know this bothered me, so I Googled it. By all reports, it is safe. She says you can leave it in the refrigerator for up to three days.

To cook the chicken, transfer it to an iron skillet. Let it sit for an hour to come to room temperature. Meanwhile preheat the oven to 450 degrees, yes, 450 degrees. Put the garlic and the lemon in the skillet around the chicken.

Roast the chicken for 25 minutes. Take it out. Turn the oven up to 550 degrees, yes, 550 degrees. Brush the oil or butter on the chicken. Continue roasting until a thermometer inserted at the thickest place reads 150 degrees, about 10-13 minutes. Let the chicken rest at least 20 minutes before cutting. The internal temperature of the chicken will rise to 165 degrees.

Gene made this first in his pizza oven. I made it in the conventional oven. Gene's chicken was prettier than mine. I think I should have given it a few more minutes in the oven. Both were so tasty and so moist. Literally the best roast chicken we have ever made! It is good right away and the leftovers are delicious.

Bon appetit!

Little Friends Celebrate Dr. Seuss Week!

By Julie Mason, Little Friends board chair

Do you like them in a box? Do you like them with a fox? Do you like dear Dr. Seuss? Do you like him with a moose? Yes, I like him, Little Friend! Yes, I like him to the end!

Our beautiful kiddos are having a ball with Dr. Seuss during the first week in March, wearing every color possible on Monday (in honor of *My Many Colored Days*), wearing funny hats on Tuesday (in honor of *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*), having wacky hair on Wednesday (in honor of *Wacky Wednesday*), wearing red and blue on Thursday (in honor of *The Cat in the Hat*), and wearing silly socks on Friday (in honor of *Fox in Socks*).

They celebrated “100 Days of School” in January, marking the half-way point in the year—astonishing! Can this school year be half over already?

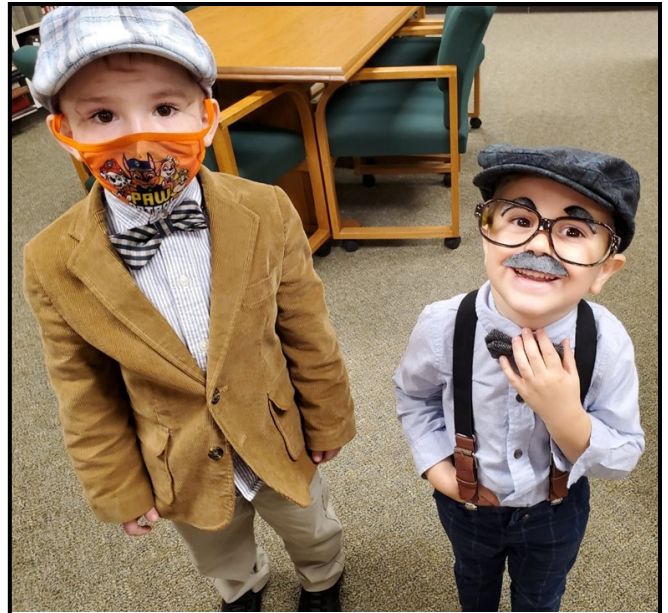
We are thrilled finally to be able to invite guest readers for Library Day again. If you have been fully vaccinated and you'd like to spend 15 minutes reading to our Little Friends, e-mail **Chelsea** at littlefriends@habchurch.com and let her know. Library Days are on Mondays at 10 a.m. in the church library. We observe all safety precautions—in addition to having been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you must be masked, we observe social distancing, and there is no touching.

The Little Friends Board is delighted to announce the election of **Rev. Rebekah Hutto** to its ranks. Rebekah will finish the remaining term of **Caroline Welkley**, who, though she served the organization faithfully, now wishes to move in a different direction since the recent death of her husband Lee, also a beloved church member known to so many of us.

An exciting **Summer Program** will be offered this year to the children in Little Friends, beginning June 7 and running through July 9, every day from 9:00 to 3:00, for five weeks. Watch this space for more details!

Spring break dates are March 8-12, so school will be closed then.

Unbelievably, Little Friends' graduation will be Thursday, May 29!



*Celebrating 100 days of school.
(Does this make me look older?)*



Our beautiful babies!



How fun is this!

So many people go out of their way to be kind to our Little Friends! Here are just a few of our **HEROES!**

Judy Kermitz, who has managed to keep the garden going in spite of the lack of an organized gardener.

Vickie Landers, who is so, so, so valuable in helping us keep our finances straight.

David and Dora Orr, who paint, fix things, use their incredible imaginations to solve problems, and substitute whenever needed.

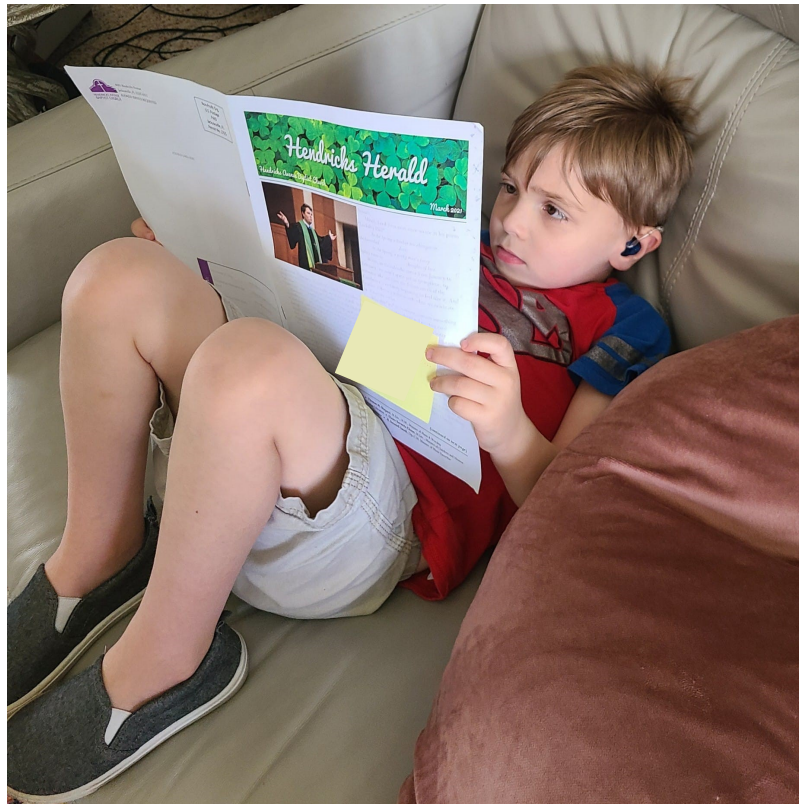


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Elijah Hutto likes reading the *Herald*. You should too!



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