



Happy (early) Birthday, Church!

By B.J. Hutto, Pastor

Friends,

Happy Birthday!

If you've ever read the first two chapters of the book of Acts, then you know the story of Pentecost: how, 50 days after Easter weekend, as the disciples gathered "all together in one place," the promise that Jesus had made to them—"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"—was fulfilled, and the Holy Spirit pounced. A wind swept through the room where they were. "Tongues of fire" rested on each of the disciples. And in that moment they ceased being a set of disciples and became something else altogether: a church. *The Church*. From that day until now, the followers of Jesus Christ have been guided by the power and presence of that Holy Spirit, and that first Pentecost is counted as the day of the Church's birth.

And that's us! So happy birthday! You and I are friends, and we're neighbors, and we're family, but first and foremost we're Church: The Body of Christ knit together in the Spirit's embrace, enlivened by its breath, and enlightened by its fire. The Spirit is whom we trust to guide us, collectively and individually, as we seek to be faithful Christians. And in a few weeks, on Pentecost Sunday (May 23), we will celebrate the gift of the Church and the ways in which the Spirit has guided us for 2,000 years and continues to do so today.

However, there's something else that HAB will be doing on Pentecost Sunday. In the combined service that morning at 10:30 a.m., I will be installed as this church's eighth pastor. As that date has grown closer, the idea of that service has grown larger, so in case I'm a bit overwhelmed on the 23rd, please allow me to say here: It is a deep honor to have been called to serve all of you. It is a deep honor to have been given the chance to work alongside all of you—and certainly my colleagues on staff—to further God's Kingdom in our congregation, in our lives, and in Jacksonville more broadly. But at the same time it has been deeply humbling and gratifying to have received gifts of love and service from all of you since my family and I arrived here. Like I noted in the service on Easter, as not just a pastor but also a new member, I can vouch for the fact that Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church is indeed "a place of grace."

I am grateful for that grace, and I am also grateful for the love, support, and trust that all of you have placed in me by installing me into this office. My deepest prayer is that the power of God's Holy Spirit—the same Spirit that tore through those first disciples on that first Pentecost and who, ever since, has guided the Church in its life and wisdom—will continue to lead me, and us, in our life together moving forward.

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

Coming soon...



When We All Get Together

By Britt Hester, Minister of Youth and Christian Education

Growing up, I remember singing from the *Heavenly Highway Hymns* collection on Sunday mornings at church. It was there that I learned many of the great hymns of our faith. One of those hymns, “When We All Get to Heaven,” came to mind

as I prepared to write this month’s article. You probably recall the lines, “When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be (rejoicing that will be). When we all see Jesus, we’ll sing and shout the victory (shout the victory).” I thought about these lines specifically because, while we likely will not be in heaven or seeing Jesus anytime soon, we will hopefully feel similar emotions on Sunday, May 9.

Why May 9? Well, that is the Sunday we have chosen to fully reinstitute adult Sunday Bible Study. For over a year now, we have gone without a traditional Sunday Bible Study structure on Sunday mornings. Early in the pandemic, we met on Zoom prior to our combined 10:30 a.m. worship service. Following our transition back to two worship services, we pre-recorded lessons that were uploaded to Facebook and YouTube. While these mediums are good outlets for connection, they are not viable substitutes for in-person gathering and communication. With the arrival of vaccines and COVID infection rates slowly diminishing, we feel now is the time to reintroduce adult Sunday Bible Study back into our Sunday morning rhythm.

Some have asked if we will return to the rotational model that we instituted in 2018. After careful deliberation, our Sunday Bible Study Team felt it was in the best interest of the congregation to revert back to a cohort-based model featuring seven classes. Our Sunday Bible Study Team has selected “point people” for each class to begin the

regathering process. Many of you have probably already heard from some of these leaders. For those who do not belong to a class currently, we will be happy to assist you. The goal of regathering at this point is simply to get us back in the habit of attending Sunday Bible Study and reconnecting with our classroom communities. During the summer months, we will develop teaching rotations, order curriculum, and supply materials for each class. For the time being, we want to provide everyone the opportunity to reconnect following a long absence.

On May 9, we will provide coffee and pastries in the breezeway next to the library and choir room at 9:30 a.m. We hope you will join us there for fellowship before going to your respective classes between 9:45-10:00 a.m. For the time being, we are asking class members to continue wearing masks on campus and inside classrooms to help us prevent the spread of COVID-19. While we are hopeful we can soon remove our masks, we also want to remain diligent in protecting our neighbors and ourselves. Please help us by following these guidelines until further notice.

While we are returning to a cohort-based model, we will also introduce a hybrid class in the fall. This class will feature in-depth studies provided by members of our congregation who have received formal theological training, or members who have a passion for teaching specific topics related to Christianity. This class will be housed in the chapel. More information about this class will be provided later, but we do plan to rollout this class in early September as school and fall activities ratchet back up.

I do want to take a moment to say thank you for your patience and dedication throughout this past year. I have been looking forward to this day for some time now, and now that it is almost here, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and hope. Being able to gather in-person to share life, study Scripture, pray for one another, and “bear one another’s burdens” (see Galatians 6:2) is truly a gift. I cannot wait for us to share it together on May 9. What a day of rejoicing it will be!



Community

*By Claire Chinn,
Minister of Children
and Mission*

When you think about sitting in our sanctuary, what do you see? Do you see images of the various stained-glass windows? What about the pipe organ or the big cross above the

platform? Or do you see people? Do you see the people that typically would sit behind you or in front of you? Do you see the faces of the ushers and our welcome team who greet you every Sunday?

Our sanctuary is absolutely beautiful. There is no denying that the beauty of sanctuary can draw people into a time of worship. However, the beauty of this place can only go so far. When I think about our sanctuary, I think about sitting in the fourth pew on the right side behind the Harpers. I think of Dennis and Virginia sitting in front of us. I see the relationships that are formed between the pews.

And those relationships are the ones that foster faith in our youngest members. We saw the evidence two Sundays in a row when Holly Boyer, Mac Shapard, and Kate Shapard made their professions of faith. This is a sign that we, as a congregation, are doing our job. It is a sign that they not only know about the love of Christ, but they feel and see the love of Christ from this community.

Children thrive in environments where they feel loved and cared for; they thrive when they know they are seen and heard; they thrive when they are a valuable part of the church. When we, as a congregation, take time to welcome our children with smiles, fist bumps, and joy, they feel included.

Relationships foster our youngest members in their faith journey. Relationships foster a place of belonging. When Holly, Mac, and Kate made their professions of faith and when they are baptized in the upcoming weeks, they are making a statement that this is the church—this is the faith in which they belong. They are claiming their worth as beloved children of God.

As we begin to regather in person for worship and other activities, take the time to see the faces that surround you; recognize that you and I are bound up in life together. You and I are beloved children of God; we belong to each other.

B.J. Hutto to Be Installed as HAB's Senior Pastor on Sunday, May 23

By Julie Mason

The installation service for **B. J. Hutto**, HAB's new senior pastor, will take place during a **combined service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 23, 2021**, which is also Pentecost. Although B.J., Rebekah, Hannah Ruth, and Elijah moved to Jacksonville last summer and B.J. has been in the pulpit since September of 2020, the official installation service was delayed because of the pandemic and the universal wish that as many of the congregation as possible could attend.

The service will be a celebration of B.J.'s pastorship and the coming ending of the terrible pandemic that has held the country and, indeed, the world in its grip. Pentecost, a moveable feast that occurs 50 days after Easter, comes from a Jewish harvest festival and is still important to Christians today because it represents the beginning of the Christian Church, commemorating as it does the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus. The color **red** is associated with Pentecost because it is the color

of blood and therefore of Christ's death. **Red** also symbolizes fire and the Holy Spirit. A "mighty wind" and the dove are also symbols related to Pentecost.

There will be *wonderful* special music throughout the service; the guest sermon will be preached by CBF's executive director, **Paul Baxley** of Atlanta; and both former HAB pastors, **Kyle Reese** and **Greg Pope**, will participate. This is a milestone moment in the life of HAB that you will not want to miss!

Temperature checks, the wearing of masks, social distancing, and other safety precautions continue to be practiced at HAB.

The service will be followed by a celebratory luncheon with individual boxed lunches under a big tent on the church's lawn. The tent will protect against possibly too-aggressive late spring sunshine or one of Florida's frequent rain showers, or maybe even both (though we hope not!).

The luncheon is free, but **reservations for the luncheon are required by Wednesday, May 19**, by contacting Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 333.

Watch your mail for an invitation!

Here's what you need to know about the installation service and luncheon:

DATE: Sunday, May 23, 2021

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: HAB sanctuary

LUNCHEON: To follow the service, held under the big tent

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCHEON BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, by contacting Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 333.



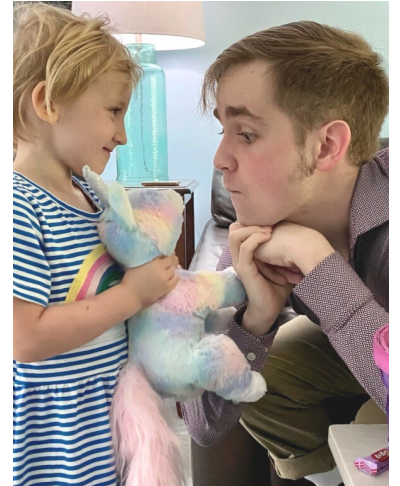
Hannah Gray



Hailey Hartle



Reese Jett

Cleveland
Mills-Conrad

Dinner on the Grounds

What: Dinner on the Grounds

When: Wednesday, May 19, at 5:30

Where: Outside between gym & E wing (central breezeway in case of rain)

Who: Children, youth, & adults

We will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. No reservations are needed for this casual meal. Cost: Adults \$8, children \$4, immediate family maximum \$19.

Women of the Church

For Mother's Day we want to celebrate all the women of the church.

Claire is making a slide show, and we need your help!!

Please send photographs of women of the church to Claire at claire@habchurch.com.

May Bookworms Special Benefitting the Reading Lab at Little Friends

By Julie Mason, Little Friends board chair

Everybody loves pizza! Now there is **ONE MORE CHANCE TO SUPPORT LITTLE FRIENDS WITH REAL DOLLARS AND SATISFY YOUR TUMMY AT THE SAME TIME!**

Use the QR code below and order your own pizza kit—these include classic pizza kits, regular or thin crust, personal combo kits, Italian bread kits, "Crazy Bread" kits with "Crazy Sauce," breadsticks, chocolate chunk cookie dough, and oatmeal raisin cookie dough. And here's the best part: you just order, and they deliver!

Every single kit purchased gives Little Friends **\$6!** Yes, **SIX smackeros** to go toward books for the kiddos! And

the books are being collected for the **Little Friends Reading Lab** that is in its future!

Click on this link—

<https://fundraising.littlecaesars.com/login/join-fundraiser/be69b149-34c1-4a7f-9e62-c4effb7476ec>

or use this QR code to be sure the money gets deposited to the Little Friends account.

Here's how to do it:

Open the camera on your phone, then center the camera over the code and you will see a link pop up at the top. Touch the link, and it will lead you to the pizza information.

A delicious way to help the community's best daycare and preschool!



Welcome New Members



Holly Boyer

accepted Christ and made her profession of faith on Sunday, April 11, 2021. Holly is the daughter of Christine and Kyle Boyer and the sister of Jimmy.



Mac Shapard accepted Christ and made his profession of faith on Sunday, April 18, 2021. Mac is the son of Rachel and Tommy Shapard and the brother of Drew and Kate.



Kate Shapard accepted Christ and made her profession of faith on Sunday, April 25, 2021. Kate is the daughter of Rachel and Tommy Shapard and the sister of Drew and Mac.



Sympathy to...

...to Becky Sullivan in the death of her sister-in-law on March 18, 2021.

...Jan Isbell in the death of her mother, Hazel Mock, on Saturday, March 27, 2021, in Georgia.

...Becky Sullivan in the death of her friend, John

"Rip" Van Winkle, on Sunday, March 28, 2021. There was a memorial service in our sanctuary on April 6.

Thank You...

We are so appreciative of the outpourings of love and

concern from our church family. The prayers, cards, and calls have truly been sustaining.—Janet & Frank Metcalf

Dear fellow ministers :-) !!! and HAB family! I remain deeply touched by the thoughtful and gracious service yesterday. I was honored, humbled and profoundly grateful. My family is also very thankful for the care and love that was put into the service. You guys are the cream of the crop! For the cause of Christ and for the sake of the Gospel!—Minister Co'Relous Bryant :-)

Dear church family, Words will never be adequate to express my thanks to you for all you have done for me as I have journeyed through these recent days. Your messages, cards, phone calls, but mostly your prayers, have been what have sustained me.—Nancy Mahon

The Offering Plate	For fiscal year beginning September 1, 2020		
	Sept '20-Feb '21	March 2021	Year to Date
Offerings & Other Revenue	\$568,114	\$83,827	\$651,941
Expenses	(591,093)	(86,413)	(377,506)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(22,980)	(2,586)	(25,566)
Budgeted Offerings & Other Revenue	650,044	108,341	758,384
Above/(Below) Budget	(81,930)	(24,514)	(106,444)
# Days Operating Cash on Hand (period-end)	21.20	13.96	

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



Summer Sunday Schedule Begins Soon!

**Beginning Sunday, May 30,
we will resume our usual
summer schedule of one
combined service at 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday Bible Study
will begin at 9:15.**



Kitchen Korner

By Sharon Maszy

Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast” (John 21:12). It is a wonderful picture, the cool, calm water; the light of a rising sun; a welcoming beach. The disciples must have been tired, hungry, and discouraged. They have been fishing all night with no luck. They come up on the shore and catch sight of a man cooking over an open fire. The enticing aroma of fresh, fried fish and warm bread wafts out to meet them. It only gets better! They recognize Jesus, their Lord and Master. We learn so much from this account of Jesus’ third appearance to the disciples after his resurrection. He is the perfect example of warm, loving, welcoming hospitality. To me there is nothing like someone you love cooking for you! There is also nothing better than cooking for someone you love!

The members of HAB, like the rest of the world, have experienced the frightening unknown of a pandemic this last year. Like the disciples we have been discouraged; like the disciples we, too, are welcomed to a warm “fire” of food and fellowship at our church as we navigate the reopening process. One sign of progress at HAB is we are cooking, and eating together, again! On Wednesday, April 21, the kitchen was a busy, productive place. A favorite menu was chosen, the supplies and ingredients were purchased, recipes were posted over workstations, and cooks (vaccinated, thank you, Jesus!) were hard at work creating a delicious meal for their church family. One noteworthy gift of grace at HAB is that one of our cooking teams is our pastoral staff! It is a real treat to spend an afternoon cooking with B.J., Claire, and Britt. Lad and Anita Daniels did a great job with the chocolate delight. Thanks to Dawson McQuaig Jr. and Lynne Galbraith for their continued dedication to the kitchen ministry of Wednesday night dinners. We look forward to welcoming our church family for a Wednesday night dinner again on May 19.

Chicken broth is a necessary staple in your kitchen. It is great for soups, vegetables, and casseroles. Homemade chicken broth brings everything up a notch or two, and it is easy to make. This is my recipe, but it is very flexible—use up your ugly carrots, wilted celery, and dried-up onions. You can even use the carcass from a roasted chicken.

Chicken Broth in the Crock Pot

Makes 2 quarts

- 3-quart crock pot (that’s the one that’s been around forever)
- 2 pounds chicken backs (Publix is the only place I can find them)
- 2 stalks of celery and their leaves, washed and cut into about 3 pieces
- 2 large carrots, washed and cut into 3-4 pieces, you don’t need to peel them
- ½ of a large onion, cut into 2-3 pieces
- 4 sprigs of fresh parsley or 1 heaping Tablespoon of dried parsley
- 4 sprigs of fresh dill or 1 heaping teaspoon of dried dill
- 1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
- 1-2 dried bay leaves
- 2 teaspoons salt (leave out the salt if you want to salt the recipe in which you are using the broth. Either way, taste it for your level of salt preference)
- 1 Tablespoon of dried chicken flavor bouillon or 3 cubes
- 2 quarts of water

Put all the ingredients in the crock pot. Stir. Cover. Cook on high for 1-2 hours. Cook on low for 5-6 hours. Let it cool some. Strain the broth into clean jars. Or I often measure it into gallon and quart-sized zipper bags in 6-, 4- and 2-cup portions. Push out as much air as possible, label, and lay flat to freeze.



From the Church Mouse

(In this column 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.”)

This school year has been a challenge for many of our HAB folks, children, youth, parents, and teachers. But they have overcome those challenges, even thrived, and are looking forward to the summer break and a fresh start next year. Many of our children (almost youth) will go on to middle school next year. That is a milestone! **Joseph Edmondson**, grandson of **Shirley & Lonnie Dasher**, will be in sixth grade at Kernan Middle. **Kate Shapard**, daughter of **Rachel & Tommy Shapard**, and **Hannah Ruth Hutto**, daughter of **Rebekah & B.J. Hutto**, are going to

LaVilla. **Ramona Carter**, daughter of **Julie & Dennie Carter**, will be attending Episcopal. And **Bella Smith-Sosa**, daughter of **Lou Gena Sosa-Dedman & Drew Dedman**, will be attending Mandarin Middle. HAB has known several of these kids since they were in the nursery. They have our love, prayers, and support.

Daniel DeLong, son of **Kim & Frank DeLong** and grandson of **Sylvia & Dawson McQuaig Sr.**, took top honors at the science fair held at Episcopal School. (This was in late January, but the Mouse just heard about it!) Daniel's project was titled “A robotic arm with computer vision to manipulate objects.” Sounds amazing. Don't you wish you could have seen his demonstration?

More school news: **Jenna Wilson**, daughter of **Sue & Frankie Wilson** and granddaughter of **Pat & Frank Wilson**, graduated from FSU *magna cum laude*. Wow, what an achievement!

Another noteworthy achievement—congratulations to **Michael Mayo**! He received his Doctor of Health Administration. Our church family and the whole community will benefit from Michael's dedication to his profession. And congratulations to **Jennifer** for supporting him through it all!

There are surely more HAB college grads out there. Let the Mouse know so we can give them a congratulatory shout-out.

Allison Chandler is the new Social Studies Chair at The Bolles School. She is the first woman in the role, but she has a great example to follow. **Bill Babcock** (1934-2012) was chair for decades and is chair emeritus. He taught at Bolles from 1966 to 2007.

Bolles' students featured **Julie Babcock** in their monthly magazine. They detailed her influence on the school and created a cover that you just must see. She taught there for 42 years. You can search bollesbugleonline.com and click on NEWS; then the name of the article is “Women Lead the Way: The History of Female Leadership at Bolles.” It is a great read.

The Mouse loves announcing a blessed event in our church family. **Caroline & Justin Letchworth** are expecting a baby! **Dash** is the big brother, **Poppy** the big sister, **Claire & Sam Chinn** the happy aunt and uncle, and **Judy & Robert Kermitz** the loving grandparents.

Happy Birthday to **Dean Denmark**. He will be 90 on May 8. Dean and his wife **Mary Ann** have been longtime members of HAB. Their story is amazing and inspiring. A couple of years ago Mark Woods, *Times Union* reporter, wrote an in-depth feature on Dean and Mary Ann's life together. The title says it all, “Days of Innocence, Nights of Interrogation, Years of Love.” You should Google that too. And if you can read it without tearing up, you are a better Mouse than me! Dean has even published a book. It is a collection of his poems, *The Poems of My Life*, by Iler Dean Denmark.

Other significant birthdays: **Ann Carter** turned 95 on April 15. (You'd never know she's 95!) And **Mary Harper** celebrated her **105th birthday** on April 28!!! Now that is a milestone that deserves a big congratulations!

Congratulations to **Drew Shapard** for earning his learner's permit. Heads up out there!

In closing this month, the Mouse wants to mention it has been so nice to gather on special Wednesday evenings, to see your smiling faces and hear the friendly chatter, not to mention sharing a lovingly prepared meal. Our ears will be open for your good news at our May 19 dinner, or please feel free to e-mail me at churchmouse@habchurch.com.

Your HAB Church Mouse





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IN THIS ISSUE:

Happy (early) Birthday,
Church!

When We All Get Together

Community

B.J.'s Installation

Congratulations, Graduates!

Dinner on the Grounds

Little Friends Fundraiser

Welcome, New Members

Church Family News

The Offering Plate

Summer Sunday Schedule

Kitchen Korner

The Church Mouse