



Hendricks Herald

December 2021



Happy Advent!

By B.J. Hutto, Pastor

Friends,

While I find it hard to believe that the holiday season is now upon us, I am very excited that we will all have the chance to celebrate Advent and Christmas together this year. While last year was special, our celebrations—both at HAB and also with family and friends more broadly—were impaired by a pandemic that was still surging around us. And while the threat of COVID-19 has not completely disappeared, due to rising vaccination rates within our community this year we are in a much better environment to come together and celebrate the love of God as it is shown to us in the advent of Jesus Christ! Therefore, please be sure to look on page 2 of this month's *Herald* for an introduction to the

upcoming opportunities for worship and fellowship: concerts, Christmas parties, mission opportunities, you name it!

I also want to take a moment to highlight three of these opportunities. First, just as we did last year, on the night of the Winter Solstice, **December 21**, HAB will again host a **"Longest Night" observance**. As in years past, this service will give each of us individually—and our church family collectively—a chance to step away from the hustle and bustle of the season and reflect on those areas of our life together that still bear the scars of sin and brokenness. Like last year, the sanctuary will be open from 5:00-6:30 p.m. for a time of private reflection and prayer. We will have ministers available for anyone who would like to be prayed with, and we will also have reflective piano music playing throughout this time. Please feel free to come and go as you are led. Then, at 6:30, there will be a brief corporate service where we will turn to our Lord together in grief, remembrance, and hope.

Secondly, at **5:30 p.m. on December 24**, our church will gather all together to celebrate Christmas Eve as one family. Through deliberations as a staff and conversations with lay leaders, it was decided that, instead of having different services at separate times, this would be a good year to come together as one, celebrate as one, see one another, and with one voice give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ. No longer needing to socially-distance—and without any kind of mask-mandate upon us—our hope is that this will be a joyous, celebratory time as we connect with one another and reconnect with friends and family who have traveled home to celebrate!

Finally, I also want to highlight that, on **Sunday, December 26, at 10:30 a.m.** our combined worship service will be led by **Maddie Weise**. If you were around for Maddie's sermon on Youth Sunday, then you know how wonderful it was, and I am very much looking forward to hearing her preach again! Because of where it falls on the calendar, the service that morning will be joyous but also relaxed, so please plan on being there on that First Sunday of Christmas, supporting her in her leadership, and giving thanks for the greatest gift that any of us could ever receive!

Kindest regards,

B.J.

Make Plans to Join Us for Advent and Christmas!

Wednesday, December 8

6:30 p.m.—Christmas Concert with Brass Band and FSCJ Choir
Night of Caring bags available for distribution

Saturday, December 11

4:00 p.m.—"Anticipation" Concert featuring UNF Choral Ensembles
(Suggested Donation \$30)

Sunday, December 12

6:00 p.m.—Youth Christmas Party

Saturday, December 18

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.—Children's Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 21

Longest Night Service

5:00-6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary open for prayer & meditation

6:30 p.m.—Service



Friday, December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service at Twilight
5:30 p.m.



December 26

First Sunday of Christmas
Combined Service at 10:30 a.m.
Maddie Weise preaching
No Sunday Bible Study

Sunday Worship during Advent

Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study (regular classes) 9:45 a.m.

November 28: First Sunday of Advent

December 5: Second Sunday of Advent

December 12: Third Sunday of Advent (*Night of Caring bags avail. for distribution*)

December 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent



A Note of Thanksgiving

By Rev. Britt Hester, Minister of Youth & Christian Education

When Laraine told us our *Herald* articles were due this time, I was not sure what to write. Sometimes even we ministers run out of things to say. But I started thinking and the first word that popped into my mind was thanksgiving. Perhaps that is because as I write this article, we are only a few weeks out from celebrating actual Thanksgiving. Or perhaps it is because as I reflect on the past year, I cannot help but be thankful for so much.

It is not a secret that this past year—really the past two years—have not been easy for any of us. We all have stories, trauma, and scars from what has taken place. But I recall a quote I overheard once on the show *Criminal Minds*. Detective Dave Rossi, played by Joe Mantegna, says, “Scars remind us where we’ve been. They don’t have to dictate where we’re going.”

There are times when I find myself wishing the past two years away. While I had some high moments such as the birth of our son Micah, our youth trip to North Georgia, and reconnecting with many of you, most of my experiences were not pleasant. Like many of us, I have come out of this season exhausted and delirious. Yet, as I sit here today, I cannot help but be thankful for all that I have encountered and endured. While it has not been easy, it has been illuminating, challenging, and clarifying. And while they are not wrapped in a bow and placed beneath a tree, these are the gifts of struggle.

Sometimes pain, grief, and hardship reveal to us a path. Like a machete clearing the way along an overgrown trail, strife has a way of unveiling things we did not know existed within ourselves. Or perhaps it removes the elements that keep us blind or hidden from seeing our true selves. Whatever the case, rarely do we hear someone say, “I was the same after adversity.” While it is not delightful, adversity makes us stronger. Struggle unites and inspires us to overcome together. Hardship makes us mindful of what is truly important; it forces us to reevaluate our priorities.

While none of us would like to revisit the past year or two, perhaps we will spend time recalling the moments we endured to get to this point. Perhaps we will take inventory of our lives and wonder what lessons we have learned and how we have grown and changed as a result. Perhaps we will remember that we might have scars, but they do not have to dictate where we are going. And I have a feeling if we do, we might just see the hand of the One who promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). Thanks be to God.



Music and Worship

By Tommy Shapard, Minister of Music and Worship

Whew! We have been busy these past several weeks. From the amazing efforts celebrating the 75th anniversary to working through the latest season of a two-year pandemic, many in our church are contributing to a reenergized congregational life at HAB. Our work, while not perfect, is sacred and significant. Thank you, HAB, for all you are doing right now in these days as we head into Advent and Christmas.

In the area of music and worship, I am thrilled to see more members of the Sanctuary Choir in the loft on Sunday mornings. Wednesday night rehearsals are filled with more sounds, laughter, and people traffic than they were a year ago. Our HAB choral community is reforming, and this is good. These are significant moments we do not take for granted any longer as we steadily regather from the scattered corners of pandemic life. For now, we continue to distance, mask, and limit rehearsal time to one hour, following guidance from the professional choral world. Rehearsal remains in the sanctuary for more space and better ventilation. We continue to monitor all numbers and guidance for choirs, hoping that soon we might inch toward mask-free choral singing. The choir understands firsthand how quickly COVID-19 spreads, as more than a dozen HAB choir members were infected following rehearsals in late-February, early-March of 2020, spreading the infection during that time to others in the congregation.

As we head into Advent 2021, I am thankful for a full force of singers. I am thankful for activity and life moving forward while also remaining reasonably cautious. I am thankful that the choirs, including children and youth, will sing extra music throughout the season. Bells will be ringing, and instruments will sound. The sanctuary will transform, and candles will be lit. Preparing for Christ’s presence in our lives will be met with beauty and anticipatory hope.

(continued on next page)

(Tommy, continued)

Other special occasions will highlight the season, too, featuring musicians from our community. I encourage you to attend. On **Wednesday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.**, the **Ancient City Brass Band and the FSCJ Choir** will present a brief concert in our sanctuary. On **Saturday, December 10, at 4:00 p.m.**, the **UNF Chamber Singers** will present Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, and a carol sing-a-long.



Finally, we are extremely grateful for our new HAB choral scholars program supported by a gracious designated gift. **Isabella Altenbach** (*alto*), a Mandarin High School alum, studies vocal/choral music education at the University of North Florida. She is currently completing her teaching internship at Bartram Trail High School and will graduate in December. **Julian Morris** (*tenor*) is a Bolles School alum. He is a sophomore in the Bachelor of Science in Music program at Jacksonville University, studying music technology, entrepreneurship, and recording.

Rejoice! The dawn of grace is coming...

Tommy



Superpower

By Rev. Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Mission

A common question that children are asked is “What superpower would you want to have?” Their answers typically follow whoever their favorite superhero is at the moment. Kids also have a knack for not letting adults

means we sip our coffee a little slower in the quiet mornings or we sit in the grief that meets us this season. Being present can be difficult when our brains are always spinning ahead of us. I hope that this holiday season you will allow yourself, your mind, your body to move more slowly than normal so that you can have a superpower—the superpower of being intently present no matter where this holiday season finds you.



around them escape without answering the same question.

My answer to this question usually changes based on what I want at the moment. When I am cold, I would love to have the superpower to always be at the perfect temperature; when I want to travel to visit family and friends far away, give me the superpower to travel at supersonic speed.

But if I were honest with myself, I often wish I had the superpower to slow down or stop time. Not forever, but just long enough to close my eyes, take a deep breath, and truly and deeply appreciate the moment. Yet I typically only remember those moments after they have passed.

I especially recall those moments once the new year begins—spending relaxed time with family and friends around the holidays, watching the joy on my niece's and nephew's faces when they open Christmas gifts, and quiet moments in nature with my husband.

Yet these reflections often leave me wondering what happened to the intentionality and the patience we learned and practiced during Advent. How did I speed through the Christmas season after spending a month practicing patience!? So yes, I wish I had a superpower to slow down time—or at least I wish I had Hermione Granger's Time-Turner!

Maybe we can't slow down time, but we can work on being present with each moment in front of us, whether this

UCOM Christmas Bags

**Please place items in narthex
by Sunday, December 12**

☐ \$20-\$35 grocery gift cards

-OR-

☐ Stuffing mix

☐ Corn

☐ Green beans

☐ Mushroom soup

☐ Canned pumpkin

☐ Condensed milk

☐ Canned sweet potatoes or yams

☐ Mashed potatoes

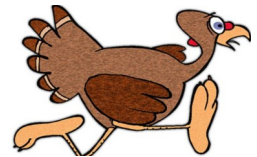
☐ Gravy

☐ French fried onions

☐ Chicken broth

☐ Cranberry sauce

☐ Pie crust mix



News of the Church Family



Sympathy to...

...Jordan, Anne, Elizabeth, & Charlotte England in the death of Jordan's stepfather, Bob Burchette. Bob died on November 8, 2021. His service was November 12 in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Thank you...

Thank you all for the sweet cards, phone calls, and visits. Your thoughts and prayers were heartfelt for our loss of Ken's mother. We are so grateful for our church family. Teri & Ken Higgs



A warm welcome to our new members **Nancy and Al Ricker**.

Although Al was originally from Vermont and Nancy from Texas, they met years ago in Washington, D.C. They were a great match from the start, and it didn't hurt



that Nancy was bemoaning being a young woman in Washington with no means of transportation and Al had a car and a motorcycle! They made their way to Jacksonville in 1990 with Nancy working for the Department of Labor and Al an electrical engineer. They live in the Orange Park area.

Married for 53 years, they have two daughters and three grandsons. Now retired, Nancy loves to read, and Al has found a new hobby, wood turning. His specialty is bowls, which he loves to create and give to others. They found Hendricks through their friends and previous HAB members, Etta and Jim Booros. Welcome, Al and Nancy. We are so grateful you chose Hendricks Avenue as your new church home.



Mark and Brenda Scott have a history with HAB and its music ministry that goes back many years. Although their ministries led them to other churches for years at a time, we always hoped they'd be back at Hendricks one day!

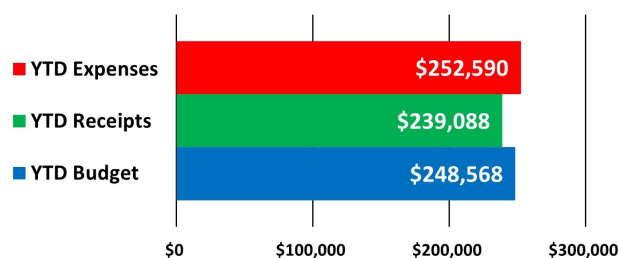
Brenda met Mark at JU when she was getting a degree in music education. Together they raised two sons, Adam, who lives in Jacksonville, and Matt who lives in Chicago with his wife Tara. Interestingly, Matt lives just three blocks from where Mark lived until his family moved to Florida when he was 10 years old.

Brenda has served as church organist in several churches, including twice at HAB. She taught music for 48 years, retiring from St. Johns Country Day School the end of the 2021 school year. Mark served in the music ministry of Island View Baptist Church and worked on the transition team when Island View merged with the Springs Church. He served as executive director of the Florida Vocal

Association for 12 years and is currently acting as a consultant. At the end of 2022, Mark will have spent a total of 50 years in music education!

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

Budget Year-to-Date at 11/19/2021





From the Church Mouse

What an exciting month we have had at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church. It's not often we get to celebrate the 75th anniversary of anything, much less our beloved place of worship. And didn't you love the theme, *A Place of Grace: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow?* So appropriate for this loving church family. Take a look at habchurch.com in case you missed something. Look under "home" or follow this link: <https://habchurch.com/hab-75th-anniversary/>. There is a slideshow and clips from the historic *HAB on Broadway*. The "must see" is a great video done by our own **Carson Haines**, daughter of **Charlotte and Rick Haines**. That girl is going places!

On a serious note, 12 members donated blood on the anniversary Saturday. With this selfless donation 30 lives are saved. Thank you if you're one of those special 12, and thank God for people who serve our community in this way.

Maddie Weise, daughter of **Chelsea and Justin Weise**, will be in the pulpit on Sunday, December 26. If you remember, she preached an incredible sermon on Youth Sunday some months ago. What a blessing is in store for us! You don't want to miss that Sunday!

Justin Weise just completed his first year as middle school football coach at Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Ramona Carter, daughter of **Julie and Dennie Carter**, performed in the play *Into the Woods* at Episcopal High School on November 11-13.

The **Valent family** is having a stellar fall season. Daughter **Riley** won the Home Run Derby for 14U at MSA's Fall Festival on October 30. Haskell Company announced the promotion of Dad **Kevin** to the role of Chief Electrical Engineer. Kevin has been with Haskell since 2006, in the role of Electrical Engineer, Senior Electrical Engineer, and Group Lead Engineer before earning his recent promotion to Chief. He serves in many areas at HAB: Kevin is the assistant treasurer, is on the Budget & Finance Committee and the Light & Sound Committee, and fills in as drummer in the worship band at the 8:45 a.m. worship services. Warmest congratulations to the Valentis!

The Mouse received a real-life joke from **Victor Towns**. Quoting Victor, "I went to work, and everybody was laughing at me. When I asked why, they told me to look down. I had on one brown shoe and one black shoe. I just finished the day hoping no one else would notice, but I'm sure they did." The Mouse thinks that could happen to any of us getting dressed on a dark winter morning. Send your "real life" events and even jokes to the churchmouse@habchurch.com so they can be shared with your church family!

That's it for this month!
The Church Mouse



E-mail the Mouse
at churchmouse@habchurch.com
so your church family can celebrate
the joys, milestones, and
special recognitions in your life!



POINSETTIAS will be used in the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. To order poinsettia(s) 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 14. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Names will appear in the worship bulletins on Sunday, December 19, and on Christmas Eve, and you may take your poinsettia(s) home following worship.

LITTLE FRIENDS TEACHER NEEDED:

Little Friends Preschool is seeking an infant teacher. If you know of someone who enjoys loving on babies, is vaccinated, and wants to be part of an amazing team, please contact Chelsea Weise at principal@littlefriendsathab.com for more information.

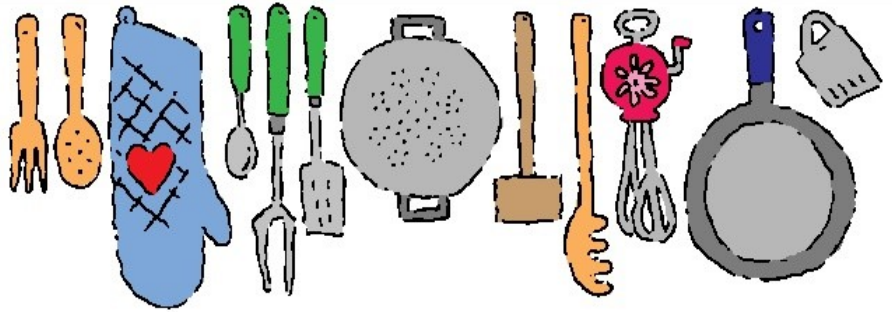


Kitchen Korner

By Sharon Maszy

Can you think of a time when you have lost something valuable? Maybe it was costly or just dear to you. After trying so hard to remember the last time you held it, after looking everywhere you could think of, there it is. You found it! Rejoice! Celebrate! Thank God! And from then on, that object is even more precious to you. I've recently had this experience, and it made me think about the Christmas season. During the COVID pandemic many Christmas traditions that were precious to us were lost. This year we have them back. I hope you will take every opportunity to participate in the joyous experience of celebrating the birth of our Savior. We live in a wonderful city. Go see all the lights! We are members of a wonderful church. Come to the Hanging of the Green, Wednesday night dinners, and vespers; find a Sunday Bible Study class to be part of, attend Advent worship each Sunday, celebrate Christmas Eve with a special service of joy. The birth of the baby Jesus has always been a magical time of year for Christians. This year I pray we all experience the deep meaning of a holy Christmas.

We celebrated a uniquely American holiday at HAB with a traditional Thanksgiving lunch on Sunday, November 21. The kitchen ministry team had a great time preparing the turkey, ham, and all the trimmings for their church family. Many, many thanks go out to



Marilyn Langston, Carolyn Hinckley, Henry Kahler, Stephanie Snell, Trent Fisher, Sissy & Dawson McQuaig, and Garry Andriesse. And special thanks to our support staff, Vladimir Lagodny and Joharen Gallardo. They work so hard to prepare and clean up every time we have something going on at HAB.

It's that time of year when the kitchen is really the heart of our home. What fun to pull out the old favorite recipes and try some new ones, too. These two recipes are perfect for gifting.

Apple Dip

- ¼ cup sugar
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup chopped, toasted pecans

Process first three ingredients in the food processor until smooth. Add the vanilla and pecans. Process again to blend thoroughly. Serve with apple slices.



This next recipe actually came from my dentist in a holiday newsletter. I guess we should all get a new toothbrush in our Christmas stocking!

Georgia Rocky Road

- 16 ounces almond bark
- ½ cup creamy peanut butter
- 1½ cup crispy rice cereal
- 8 ounces unsalted peanuts
- 1 cup mini marshmallows

Place the almond bark in a microwave-safe bowl. Cook on high for 30 seconds. Check and stir. Cook for 30 more seconds. Check and stir. Heat a few more seconds, if necessary, until mixture is melted and smooth.

Stir in peanut butter. Stir in peanuts. Stir in rice cereal. Fold in marshmallows.

Using a tablespoon, spoon little blobs onto a cookie sheet. Refrigerate until firm, 15 minutes or so. Package in a festive bag and share!

Weekly Wednesday Suppers 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Reservations are required by Monday for the following Wednesday by contacting Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 333. Cost: Adults \$9, children \$5, immediate family maximum \$20. You can pay online at habchurch.com; then choose "Give" and then "Donate" and designate for "Meals."

December Menus

December 1: Fried swai fish, potato salad, steamed zucchini, salad, dinner roll, apple dump cake. Kids' meal: chicken tenders, fries.

December 8: Spaghetti with sausage, corn on the cob, salad, dinner roll, pineapple upside down cake. Kids' meal: cheeseburgers, fries.

December 15: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, salad, strawberry cake. Kids' meal: chicken nuggets, fries.

December 22 & 29: No meal.



4001 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6321
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 2725

ADDRESS LABEL HERE



A PLACE OF GRACE

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

The church office will be closed
on Monday and Tuesday,
December 27 and 28.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.habchurch.com

for more information

IN THIS ISSUE:

Happy Advent!

Advent and Christmas Events

A Note of Thanksgiving

Music and Worship

Superpower

News of the Church Family

New Members

Financial Report

Church Mouse

Kitchen Korner

Wednesday Menus