

# A Place of Grace

Hendricks Herald

November 2021



## HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 75 YEARS!

October 23-24, 2021

By Susan Stepp

What an amazing 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend! THANK YOU to everyone who did the hard work of planning and implementing all the opportunities for fun and fellowship. Also, thank you to all those who participated in some or all of the festivities. We hope you left the weekend with warm memories and excitement for what lies ahead for Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church.

The HAB campus was alive and hopping on Saturday with an edge-of-your-seat finish to the Home Run Derby. The Reflections & Fellowship gathering brought stories of our past, many shared by those who lived them. A vintage reel-to-reel film of the early church added to the nostalgia, along with a video of *HAB on Broadway*. You couldn't miss all the games, inflatables, and food trucks on our front lawn as

kids of all ages from our community enjoyed our Fall Festival.

Sunday was just as wonderful with pictorial and historical displays everywhere on campus—so many pictures of wonderful people from the life of HAB both past and present. The sanctuary was filled for a worship that was overflowing with praise and gratitude for all that God has done in this place over these many decades. We closed out the weekend with a time of fellowship over one of Gene and Sharon Maszy's amazing meals.

As we reflect on God's goodness to us over the past 75 years, may that goodness and grace continue for the next 75 at HAB.

*P.S. from the Pastor: "I was about to write a 'thank you' note for this month's Herald when I saw that, once again, Susan Stepp was already on it. Honestly, I should've known better! As she has already thanked everyone for all of their hard work, good spirits, and dedication in pulling off what was a full, lively weekend of celebration, we all owe her and her leadership team—in particular Anna Valent and Anita and Lad Daniels—a deep debt of gratitude. Many people may think they know how hard they worked to pull all of this off, but I can assure you that the four of them worked even harder! The love and service that they've shown over this last year have been tremendous, and they have borne witness to the kind of spirit that has enlivened HAB for these last 75 years. Thank you so much, Susan, Anna, Anita, and Lad!"—B.J.*

B.J. Hutto, Ph.D., Pastor • Thomas M. Shapard, D.P.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. Kendall Smith, Dip.C.M. Minister of Music Emeritus



## Ten Thousand Years Won't Save Your Life

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

Years ago I discovered the musical duo Hammock. This ambient rock duo is made up of Marc Byrd and Andrew Thompson, former members of the alternative rock group Common Children. After their venture with Common Children ended, the two began creating instrumental pieces that they initially decided not to publish. After creating some 40 or so musical arrangements together, however, they decided to go public with their music.

Since going public, they've gained quite a following. I first discovered them while viewing an Alabama football video on YouTube (surprise, surprise) and hearing their song "All Is Dream and Everything Is Real." After researching their music, I immediately fell in love with their sound. Their calm, meditative renderings make you feel something in the soul that is difficult to articulate. For me that means they create music that is spiritual in the best and deepest sense of that word.

While researching the song from the YouTube video, I came across another song called "Ten Thousand Years Won't Save Your Life." It was one of the recommended songs on iTunes, and I was drawn to it for that reason and also the strangeness of the title. After giving it a listen, I was immediately captured by its beauty, but also because it's one of the only songs on their album that includes lyrics. The lyrics are simple, yet haunting: "It takes so long for you to realize, ten thousand years won't save your life."

I've probably spent too many hours meditating on those lines wondering exactly what Marc and Andrew are trying to convey. Through my own deliberation and research I've come to believe they are trying to say something Jesus himself expresses in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke). In Matthew 16:26, Jesus proclaims, "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

*(continued on next page)*

## (Britt, continued)

In other words, we get one shot at this thing called life. And throughout most of our life, we will be instructed to extend the longevity of it. Of course, there is nothing wrong with living a long life. Yet, in a culture obsessed with superficiality, the concept of mortality is not welcome table conversation. While living a long life is a worthy goal, it seems Jesus is more interested in the depth of our living rather than the years we accumulate. After all, ten thousand years won't save your life. But a life well lived doesn't need such endurance. Instead, a life well lived sounds a lot like Psalm 90:12: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."



## Grateful

*By Rev. Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Mission*

How do you mark time? Do you mark it by the day, hour, meals, or something else? I would venture a guess to say that most of us mark time by anniversaries. Celebrating one year of marriage or birthdays or for some, days sober. Anniversaries help us to see all that has happened in that time span, everything that we have loved, everything that we have survived, everything that we have championed. Anniversaries help remind us of how grateful we should be.

We, as a family of faith, just celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over our anniversary weekend we had the opportunity to reflect on 75 years of faith formation, worship, community building, relationships, and more. I don't know about you, but our celebration weekend was something that my soul needed.

Over the past 18 months we have been spread out, isolated, and yearning for some sort of in-person community. We have been worshipping virtually or at a distance from each other, missing moments of connection. But this weekend we gathered and sang together. We fellowshipped with each other in ways we have not done in a long time.

As worship began and we processed in, I was overwhelmed at the sense of worship I felt. I was overwhelmed with immense gratitude as we sang the new hymn that Tommy Shapard crafted for us. Hearing the room fill with laughter before and after the service made my heart happy.

Our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary helped to remind me that even through a global pandemic we are connected far more deeply than being gathered together in a single space. We are knit together through the love of Christ who celebrates with us every single day, and for that I am grateful.

I am grateful for you, for the love and passion you have for this family of faith. I am grateful for technology that connected us during the pandemic and am even more grateful for medical intervention that allows us to meet in person again.

Most of all I am grateful for the 75 years of this congregation. For every single person that has stepped on our campus and for every single person who has gone out into the world to share the love of Christ, I am grateful.

I am grateful for a church that is ready for another 75 transformative years.

## Welcome, Mike Suvada!

We are excited to welcome Mike Suvada (pronounced soo VAH duh) as our new communications director. You may have already met Mike, as he has been running the camera and the live stream for us during worship for the past several months. Mike is responsible for our website, social media, technology, and other communications elements.



## Little Friends Expansion Approved by Florida DCF and New S.T.E.A.M. Lab Opens! *By Julie Mason, Little Friends Board Chair*

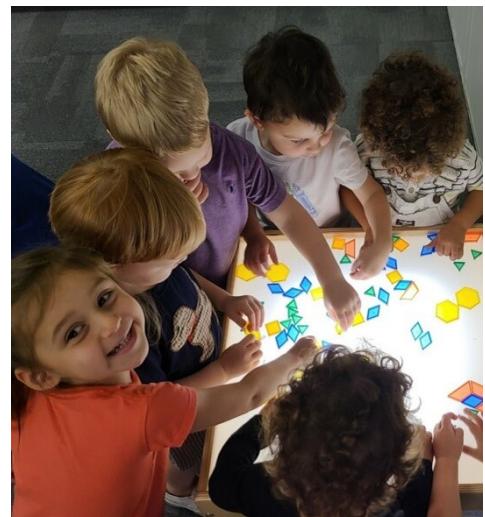
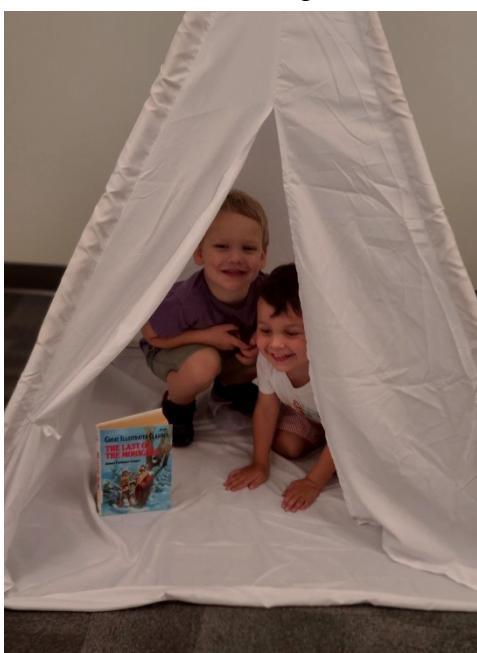
The Florida Department of Children and Families has approved the expansion of Little Friends daycare and preschool! This exciting news means that Little Friends will begin increasing its enrollment with the 2022-2023 school year that will begin next August.

Things may seem topsy-turvy at first, but everyone will soon get used to the new locations. The infants will take over two classrooms in B wing (the daycare and preschool wing), displacing the three-year-olds and the VPK class, both of which will move to the E wing, to rooms E-7 and E-8. The rooms are roomy and will be much more comfortable for these older children.

The conversion of the former media center into the new S.T.E.A.M. Lab was completed in October, just in time to participate in Open House during HAB's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, October 24. You will remember that S.T.E.A.M. stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, all of which will be taught in the Lab. The heart of the Lab focuses on reading, with a children's library front and center. There are child-high shelves with a big, comfy rug in

the center for the children to sit on as they are read to and as they read to themselves. There will be reading nooks for the children to crawl into, with books and a reading tent.

The Lab also houses four computers for the children's use as they learn all kinds of subjects, from reading and language, to math, to science, to nature, and "on beyond zebra," as Dr. Seuss put it. The science center within the Lab will have elements such as a sand and water table, a light table, a magnification table, a beautiful globe, ant farm, worm farm, and hydroponic fish tank. The teaching area has a wall-mounted television with sitting squares for small bottoms, and the big whiteboard will have stick 'em letters, numbers, landscape items, and assorted other fun shapes for creative little minds to put together.



Enrollment for the next school year of 2022-2023 will open after Thanksgiving. Those interested should e-mail Principal Chelsea Weise at [contact@littlefriendsathab.com](mailto:contact@littlefriendsathab.com).



The Church Mouse will be back next month.



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





## News of the Church Family

### Sympathy to...

...Marilyn & Richard Langston and family in the death of their son, Alex Langston, on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The service was October 9 in our sanctuary.

...Ken & Teri Higgs in the death of Ken's mother on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

### Thank you...

Dear Friends, We have been overwhelmed by your love for us as shown by your cards, notes, food, visits, hugs, and prayers. We greatly miss Alex but know that you share our grief and are keeping us in your prayers. Please continue praying as Richard still has two small malignant spots in his brain. Many, many thanks. We love you. —Marilyn Langston and family



**A PLACE OF GRACE**  
YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

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

### Budget Year-to-Date at 10/22/2021



## Kitchen Korner By Sharon Maszy

"A Place of Grace, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"—that was our theme for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. HAB was busy place preparing for all the festivities. The HAB kitchen ministry was all in too. We have so many people to thank for making this celebration successful. We are blessed to have the volunteers we do in our HAB kitchen. Thank you to Gary Andriesse for shopping; cooks were Sissy & Dawson McQuaig, Janis & Steve Price, Henry Kahler, Trent Fisher, Marilyn Langston, Joyce Hanson, Mary & Ken Maszy and Ken's friend Joe Newel. Serving on Sunday were Anne England, Charlotte & Rick Haines, Joe Stepp, Trent Fisher, and Dawn Gray. There is so much time and effort required to have a lunch like this—planning, shopping, cooking, and serving—you need a fearless leader. Thank you, Gene Maszy; we couldn't have done it without you!

This celebration was the result of the hard work of many people as it touched every ministry, outreach, and milestone event in the life of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church. I've only mentioned the kitchen ministry team, but they were only one group in a huge team of volunteers. So if you gave your time and energy to the art installation, the history and memorabilia displays, the Fall Festival, and so much more, your church family sincerely thanks you!

The HAB kitchen ministry welcomed a new cook on October 13. Angela Bell has been hired to cook our Wednesday night suppers. She comes to us from St. Paul United Methodist Church on Lone Star Road. She prepared their Wednesday night suppers for eight years.

### 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."

### November Menus

**November 3:** Beef stroganoff, vegetable medley, garlic bread, salad, and peach cobbler. Kids' meal: cheeseburgers, French fries.

**November 10:** Poppyseed chicken, rice, green beans, dinner roll, salad, and chocolate cake. Kids' meal: chicken tenders, French fries.

**November 17:** Pork loin, mashed potatoes, corn, dinner rolls, salad, and banana pudding. Kids' meal: chicken tenders, French fries.

**November 24:** No meal.

St. Paul cancelled their suppers due to COVID and will not be starting them up again. We found Angela through our good friends at St. Paul, Emily & Richard Norton. Emily has bragged on Angela and her cooking for years. When she heard we were looking for a cook, she highly recommended Angela to us. A little personal history... The Nortons are the people we began cooking with at church. When our boys were in the youth group at St. Paul UMC in the 1980s, we cooked snack suppers together almost every Sunday evening for five years. Around that time, Gene was recruited to oversee the Wednesday night suppers at St. Paul, and Emily was one of his original four cooks. We were each assigned a Wednesday meal, and Emily introduced us all to poppyseed chicken on her first Wednesday night. As they say, "The rest is history!" I can promise you are going to love Angela and her cooking. She is continuing the Wednesday tradition of menus full of comfort food, yummy desserts, and lots of Southern favorites. Reservations are required by Monday. We begin serving at 5:30 p.m.

The holidays are already in our thoughts and plans. We'll have our annual Thanksgiving lunch on Sunday, November 21. We're looking forward to cooking and serving a traditional Thanksgiving repast of roast turkey and all the trimmings. Make your reservations for this meal too. You don't want to miss it! It is such a blessing to continue the celebrations with your church family.

It's apple season, so I'm including a simple applesauce recipe I'm making this week adapted from *The Pioneer Woman*.

### Easy Applesauce

3 pounds apples, peeled, cored, and chopped

½ c. apple juice, cider, or water

2 Tablespoons lemon juice

¼ cup brown sugar

½ teaspoon cinnamon

Optional ingredients to taste: Nutmeg, maple syrup, honey, allspice, butter



Combine all ingredients in a large pot and cook over medium heat for 25 minutes, stirring often.

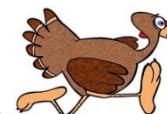
Puree in the blender, food processor, or with an immersion blender until it's as smooth as you want it to be.

Store in the refrigerator. (I put it in glass jars in the fridge.) Serve it on ice cream like it's an apple crisp. Pile homemade applesauce onto toast with almond or peanut butter. Swirl it into your oatmeal. Or better yet, just eat it with a spoon as a healthy snack.

### Thanksgiving Meal

**Sunday, November 21**

**following 10:30 combined service**



Reservations are required by Tuesday, November 16, by contacting Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 333.



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