



Happy Summer, HAB!

By B.J. Hutto, Pastor

Friends,

As the school year ends and all of our individual families begin to prepare our summer calendars, I for one am excited about everything that'll be happening in the life of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church over these next few months!

One of the most exciting things that we have to look forward to this summer is a deepening of our relationship with The Institute for Worship Studies (IWS), as its president, Dr. Jim Hart, and one of its students, Mira Smetaniuk, will join us in worship leadership for several of our summer combined services. Tommy's article on page 3 goes into more detail, but this collaboration is an outgrowth of conversations that he and I have been having with Dr. Hart since last year, and it will also count towards Mira's requirements for her master's program at IWS. In addition,

beginning on June 12, Mira is going to be offering brief **morning prayer services** on Sundays as a part of her coursework, so be sure to mark your calendars and join in those, too! Finally, plans are also in place for HAB and IWS to upgrade our sanctuary's audio, video, and lighting setup this summer. This will enrich our experience of worship in the church's sanctuary, but it will also greatly enhance our ability to stream our services on Sunday mornings!

Our youth will have a busy summer to look forward to as well! Due to Britt's good leadership, our youth group is large, vibrant, and growing, and—alongside local activities and day trips within the area—its life together this summer will be highlighted by a **local mission week** that'll focus on loving and serving our friends and neighbors here in Jacksonville. The deadline to sign up for this good work is Sunday, June 5, so be sure to have any young people in your life registered and ready to go, and please reach out to Britt to learn about all the other opportunities as well!

Once again this summer, our children's ministry will be quite active with a group headed to PassportKids Camp, held again at the beautiful 4H Camp in Eatonton, Georgia. There will also be a cooking class—for children and parents—being offered in July, and a back-to-school pool party in August. However, the thing I'm most excited about is that the Children's Team has also put together a **Parents' Night Out** on Friday, June 17, from 5:30-9:00 p.m. For a small fee, there'll be childcare offered at the church, and there will also be a planned activity for young parents to take part in. *That being said...* everyone involved knows just how precious time away from little ones can be, so if any couple decides that they just need a date night, alone, that night, that'll be just fine, too! Our Children's Team has been working very hard these last few months to care for and love on and help raise our children in the Faith, and I could not be more grateful for the time and energy that they've dedicated!

Finally, we know that the life of the church this summer will extend well beyond the lines of Duval County, and that's why we're once again encouraging everyone to take part in our **"Where in the**

(continued on next page)

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
Vickie M. Landers, B.B.A., Church Administrator • H. Kendell Smith, Dip.C.M. Minister of Music Emeritus

(B.J. *continued*)

World Is HAB?” campaign! On page 5 of the *Herald*, you’ll find a copy of **Echo Saunders’** sanctuary drawing, but we also have laminated copies ready for pick-up in the narthex. This will help us stay connected wherever our travels may take us!

Indeed, wherever you travel this summer, please be safe, and please know that your church’s love and its prayers go with you as well! And if you happen to visit another church on your travels, grab some materials—worship orders, bulletins, and whatnot—and bring them back to share with the church staff. It’s always good to be able to learn from brothers and sisters in other places!

Kind regards,
B.J.



Stillness Is the Key

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

I have been reading a lot of work on the ancient philosophy of Stoicism recently. I am not sure what piqued my interest, but nevertheless, here we are. In short, I have been reading a lot of Ryan Holiday’s works that are rooted in and inspired by Stoic philosophers such as Marcus Aurelius, Seneca, and Epictetus. As disciplines, Stoicism and Christianity are an interesting mix. There are many similarities between these two schools of thought, yet they derive from different origins and arrive at different conclusions in terms of answering the question: “How then should we live?”

One area where there is clear overlap between these two schools of thought, however, is the notion of stillness. In fact, Holiday wrote a book entitled *Stillness Is the Key*, in which he highlights the importance of disciplining our minds for the purpose of intentional living. In the book, Holiday argues that stillness is not merely inactivity, but the doorway to self-mastery, discipline, and focus. While the world spins madly on, we learn how to be steady and calm, which impacts our ability to make quality decisions for ourselves and others.

Jesus also taught the importance of stillness. In the Gospels, Jesus instructs his disciples to “come away with him and go to a place and rest for a while” (Mark 6:31). Further, the Gospel writers highlight Jesus going off to pray in seclusion, especially before or after he encounters a crowd of people (Luke 6:12; Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35). For Jesus, stillness was necessary to fulfill his mission. Jesus knew the demands of the crowds were too much to handle without pausing to remember why he came in the first place. Jesus frequently took inventory of his soul to stay centered and true to who he was and what he was sent to do.

Perhaps this is why Paul proclaims in Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” It is difficult to discern when we are not still. It is hard to make good decisions when we are stressed and burned out from an unsustainable pace. Stillness is the key to calming our minds and steadying our souls. Stillness reminds us that our work and activity, while important, does not and should not define us.

As we begin our summer, I think it is wise for us to use this time to be as still as possible. Like most of you, I am tired. All of us have been living and working under stressful conditions for the past two years or so. Our bodies are tired, but so are our souls. As we transition to these summer months, many activities will pause or look different. Perhaps we should too. Not because we are inactive, but rather because we are *purposely* stilling our minds and souls for life and service to God and our neighbors. Be well this summer, and know that we are grateful for you and your presence in this family of grace.

Be still,
Britt



Summer Musings: Combined Worship, IWS, Rehearsals, and Travel

By Rev. Tommy Shapard, Minister of Music & Worship

Here are a few updates about happenings in the music and worship ministries this summer:

Combined Worship. Combined worship services for the upcoming summer begin May 29. In 2019, as a result of conversations around Imagine 2020, we started combining for one worship service in the months of June, July, and August around the longstanding pillars of Christian worship: Word, Table, and Pool. This decision was also based on annual struggles with such practical matters as summer attendance patterns, summer staff responsibilities, and various summer activities on campus, all of which typically demanded a different focus, energy, and rhythm of the staff and lay leaders in June, July, and

August. In the summer of 2019 we were able to successfully integrate a variety of musical styles and instrumentation into combined worship services.

The pandemic, of course, changed this outlook. In the summer of 2020, we moved to online worship only; however, we were still able to include musicians from our 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. service at separate times. Many of these services were prerecorded around the travel schedule of our interim pastor, Matt Cook. In the summer of 2021, while having returned to in-person worship, other challenges such as A/V staffing and quality, availability of musicians, COVID protocols, and a skyrocketing Delta wave made it difficult to recreate what we were able to accomplish in 2019.

This summer, however, we are able to bring a variety of music and liturgy into our summer combined worship services. Jim Hart, president of the Institute for Worship Studies (IWS) and Mira Smetaniuk, IWS student from Ukraine, will collaborate with HAB staff to plan and implement music and prayer for some of our summer worship services. Currently, these Sundays include June 12, June 26, July 17, and July 24. For a number of reasons related to Jim and Mira's schedules, August dates have not been determined yet. Additionally, Mira and Jim will also offer a brief prayer time on Sunday mornings beginning June 12 (separate from worship and prior to Sunday Bible Study) as part of Mira's internship requirements for her Master of Worship Studies degree (due to the war, Mira is unable to complete this portion of her studies at her church in Ukraine). I am thrilled to partner further with IWS, a unique institution and one of a kind in North America. As the IWS website states, the school is exclusively "designed for graduate studies in worship with the commitment of forming servant leaders in worship renewal." Our hope and prayer are that this partnership not only benefits students at IWS, but that it also inspires further creativity in our 11:00 a.m. worship and renews our worship at 8:45 a.m. this fall.

Music Ensembles. Typically, groups in our music ministry have extended breaks during the summer months. This summer, however, the Sanctuary Choir, Master Ringers, and the HAB Singers/Ringers (6th-12th grade) will continue meeting as much as holidays and travel calendars allow. Since our ensembles have missed so much time together in the past two years, we hope to regain a foundation of sorts that prepares us for a strong start in the fall. Our plan is that these groups will participate in worship throughout the summer. Stay tuned!

Summer Guest Artist Series. We will continue with our Summer Guest Artist Series at the end of the summer. We appreciate the financial support that enables us to invite such high-quality musicians into our worship services.

The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. This summer I have the honor of being a presenter at The Hymn Society's 2022 Annual Conference in Washington D.C., July 17-21, "Sing the World God Imagines." This will be the first in-person gathering since 2019, and we are commemorating the organization's 100th anniversary. I'll share more later in the July *Herald*.

Enjoy these summer days, and I hope to see you in worship when you are in town!

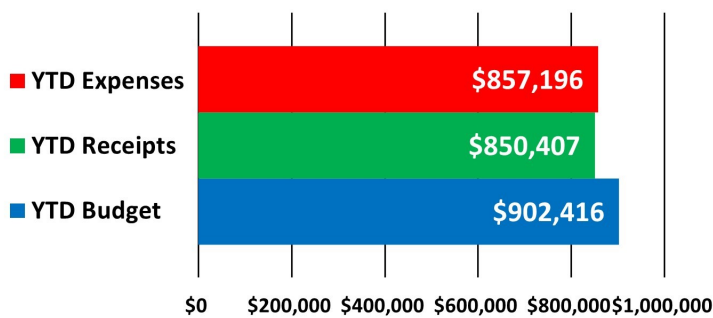
Tommy



Sympathy to...

...Sylvia & Bill Whitley & family in the death of their son, Bryan Whitley, on Friday, May 20, 2022. The funeral service will be on Saturday, May 28, at 11:00 a.m. in our sanctuary, officiated by Rev. Dawson McQuaig Jr.

Budget Year-to-Date at 5/20/2022



"Take B.J. with you!"

Sermons are available for download at
www.buzzsprout.com/225151

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



Make plans to join us for our Independence Day Luncheon on Sunday, July 3, following our combined worship service at 11:00 a.m. Please make reservations by contacting Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 333.



cartoon submitted by Gene Maszy



The Church Mouse is taking a little break this month. In the meantime, if you know of events that need to be celebrated (yours or others'), please e-mail the Mouse at churchmouse@habchurch.com so your church family can rejoice in these milestones and special



“Where in the World Is HAB?”

Wherever you are this summer, take HAB with you!

In each place you visit, take a photo of your family holding the sanctuary drawing (laminated copies are available in the narthex, or print and cut out the picture below).



Then post your photo on social media with the hashtag

#HABOnTheMap

Safe travels!



drawing by Echo Saunders

The HAB staff has been having fun ministering to our Little Friends over the last few weeks. Here we are acting out the story of the Good Samaritan for Little Friends chapel:



That robber really had it in for our poor traveler on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho!



The Levite just walked on by without helping!



But thankfully our Good Samaritan stopped to help the injured man.

Little Friends Is Growing! *By Julie Mason, Little Friends Board Chair*



center—continues to develop and enrich the entire campus. Little Friends children use it every day, and it is used by Sunday School teachers, for children's groups, for music education, and even by adults from time to time.

The new playground is a lovely, secure space, safe from cars or other vehicles that could endanger the children. There are benches in the shade, too, for parents or others who want to be with the kids.

Seven of our 10 VPK graduates participated in the Baccalaureate Service at HAB on Sunday, May 15, and while all the graduates were beautiful human beings, the VPK kiddos clearly won the "cuteness" award.

Little Friends is ending its second full year with Chelsea Weise as principal and the current board of directors as governors. The preschool is now totally in the black financially and has completely repaid its debt to the church from its first year of operation (2018-2019).

Enrollment is up and registrations for the next school year (which begins in August) exceed anything we've experienced in the past. With the new expansion plans, Little Friends will use two classrooms in E wing for the threes and the VPK students, while the ones and twos expand into the classrooms in B wing. Infants remain where they are for the time being, but will be expanding, too, next year.

The new playground is in place behind the gym, and the beautiful S.T.E.A.M. Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)—housed in the space formerly occupied by the media



The Little Friends summer program commences on June 6 and will run for five weeks, ending on July 8. Registration is \$100 per child, and tuition varies according to the child's age. Inquiries should be addressed to principal@littlefriendsathab.com or to 904-610-3447.



Rex from *Toy Story* participated in Little Friends' Storybook Parade and then did a little promotion on Hendricks Avenue. (Can you guess who is playing the part of Rex?)



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Happy Summer, HAB!

Stillness Is the Key

Summer Musings

News of the Church Family

Where in the World Is HAB?

The Story of the Good Samaritan

Little Friends Is Growing!

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for more information.