

Hendricks Herald

HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2022



Prayers for a Faithful Search

By B.J. Hutto

In the first chapter of Acts, when the disciples find themselves needing to choose another for their team, Luke tells us that they did something that you and I might find unusual: *"Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles."* Casting lots, a practice similar to throwing dice, was used by the ancients—pagan, Jewish (see, for example, Proverbs 16:33), and here Christian—in order to discern the will of the gods in human decision-making. As the lots fall, so the god chooses.

Like those earliest disciples, as the fall approaches, Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church also finds itself looking for a new teammate. In July, at our quarterly conference, the congregation voted to approve a Search Committee for our new Associate Pastor of Children and Community Life. The members of the search committee are:

Anne England (chair)

Dawson McQuaig Jr. (vice-chair)

Patti Carson

B.J. Hutto

Elizabeth Spradley

Kevin Valent

Chelsea Weise

Melanie Wilson

This committee has already begun meeting together, working together, and networking within the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Individually and collectively, this committee represents some of the best of HAB. They will be diligent in seeking out and evaluating possible candidates, and they will represent us well as they do so. I am grateful for their willingness to be servant-leaders in this process, and I hope that you are as well. Please, when you see them next, thank them for their commitment to this process and to HAB more broadly.

At the same time, they cannot do this work alone. Just as the earliest disciples in Acts 1 knew that they needed their Lord's input in their search, this committee needs the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help direct them to the pastoral candidate who will best serve HAB. Hence my request: *Please, in the coming weeks and months—and even right now, as you finish reading this note—please be in continual prayer for this committee, this search, and the candidates whose paths they will cross.* Pray for diligence. Pray for patience. Pray for wisdom. Pray for discernment. Pray that everyone involved in this

(continued on next page)

B.J. Hutto, Ph.D.

Thomas M. Shapard, D.P.M. • Britt Hester, M.Div.

Laraine Humbert, B.M.E. • Mike Svada, B.A. • Darrell Mitchell, M.B.A.

H. Kendell Smith, Dip.C.M., Minister of Music Emeritus

(B.J. Hutto, continued)

process—both from our side and from the possible candidates' sides—will listen for the Spirit's call and will humbly and faithfully submit themselves to the Spirit's leadership.

As the search progresses, updates on its progress will be shared with the congregation and congregational leaders as appropriate. In the meantime, however, trust that this committee will be diligently searching for our church's next associate pastor, and pray that they—and that all of us—will actively seek out and follow the Spirit's guidance.

Kind regards,

B.J.

News of the Church Family

Sympathy to...

...Sylvia McQuaig in the death of her husband, Dawson McQuaig Sr., on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Dawson and Sylvia's children are Dawson McQuaig Jr., Kim DeLong, Erin Dunkley, Rae Avery, Russell O'Dell, and Blair McNabb. Please pray for these and their entire families. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, October 1, at 11:00 a.m. in our sanctuary, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

...Susan & Dick Clark in the death of Susan's mother, Betty Markham, on Thursday, July 28, 2022. The funeral service will be Friday, August 26, at 11:00 a.m. at Murray Hill Baptist Church, where Betty was a member.

Thank you...

A great big thank you for the overwhelming expressions of care and love during Alan's hospitalizations and surgeries. Most especially, thank you for your continued prayers, which uplifted and sustained us. He is doing better and starts outpatient physical therapy next week. Thanks also to B.J. for his visits. —With love, Mary Jane & Alan Cooper

To the Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church family: The Rosamond and Sutton families would like to express their sincere thanks for the compassion and concern shown over the loss of our father, father-in-law, grandfather, and great-grandfather (Tom Rosamond). While he will be greatly missed, we take comfort in the memories we have, in the knowledge that he has no more pain or sorrow, and in the expectation of seeing him again one day. The expressions of love and kindness received have also helped to ease our grief and sorrow. —Love in Christ, the family of Tom Rosamond
 "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).



Sunday, September 25, at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Tammy Snyder, the new Executive Coordinator for CBF Florida/Caribbean Islands, will be preaching.

Tammy has 21 years of ministry experience in both church and parachurch organizations. Thirteen of those years were spent at Bayshore Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida, completing her tenure there as associate pastor. As part of a military family for 23 years, she lived and traveled throughout the United States and the world. Tammy has learned that it is most important to focus on similarities rather than differences, while recognizing the gifts and learnings other cultures bring to our faith development. Originally from Pennsylvania, Tammy and her husband Tanker have two children.

Budget Year-to-Date at 08/19/2022



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Torches Together

By Britt Hester

Meeting in the dark is not fun. During the pandemic, our meeting options were limited. Due to the contagious nature of COVID, our students and I could either meet outside or not meet at all. And because we love each other and couldn't stand the thought of going weeks, perhaps months, without seeing each other, we decided to

meet outdoors.

The only problem with meeting outdoors, particularly in the fall and winter months, is sunlight disappears early. As a result, you are left meeting in the dark. And meeting in the dark is not fun. That is unless you have a light source. After getting approval from the Properties Committee, we set up a fire pit between the gym and E-wing. The fire pit provided both illumination and warmth for our meetings, and after a while it became our preferred meeting location.

One night while we gathered, I instructed the students to find firewood. We had run out of firewood, and I could not find any at nearby stores, so we searched our woods. After a while each student brought back various sizes of sticks and twigs. Before you knew it, we had enough to build a decent-sized fire. Shortly after, more students brought more firewood, and quickly our fire turned into a blaze!

I thought, "This is where I lose my job. Our bonfire is going to destroy the church property!" Thankfully that didn't happen. But it did cause me to ponder. I considered how each student, represented by their contribution to the fire, set a fire that brought significant light and warmth to our meeting space. With each contribution, our students built a fire that sustained and provided all we needed for our meeting.

Our theme for the 2022-23 school year is "Torches Together." It comes from the mewwithoutYou song by the same name, and our focal text is Matthew 5:14 which states, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hid." Like our fire pit, one log or stick ablaze provides light, but not much warmth. And unfortunately, by itself, it burns out rather quickly. Yet when we burn together, our light is expanded, providing light and warmth to one another and those beyond us.

Perhaps in a world that often feels cold and dark, the best thing we can offer as followers of Jesus is light and warmth. There is enough cynicism and pessimism in the world, yet hardly enough hope and optimism. There are reasons for this, of course, but as people of faith who know the future belongs to God, we need not fear. We need only shine our light. And when we shine together, it provides all the light and warmth needed to navigate an at times dark and uncertain world. Will you shine with us this year?





CHILDREN'S *Sunday School*

Grades 1-4

Sunday Mornings

9:45-10:45 a.m., room E-14

Teachers: Laraine Humbert
& Linda Nelson



Thank you to our wonderful

Children's Team:

Patti Carson

Julie Carter

Anne England

Courtney Hester

Ansley Parfitt

Rachel Shapard

They have been working hard planning
fun and meaningful activities for our
children!





More Than...

By Tommy Shapard

I have a colleague in Dallas who oversees a music ministry at one of the largest United Methodist churches in the country. For this upcoming choir season, he has identified the theme, “More Than a Choir,” which speaks to the bigger ideas around the purpose (and benefits) of choral singing. Perhaps one can also look beyond the choir and see the entire span of music-making in the church. We sing and play instruments to share in beauty and holiness that moves us beyond words. We sing and play instruments to share in Christian community, blessing and serving one another. We sing and play instruments because it nourishes our souls and sharpens our minds. We sing and play instruments to worship God and express our adoration for the Holy Trinity. We sing and play instruments not because we’re just another music program; we are the Body of Christ, and we cannot keep silent.

If you want to start (or restart) making music for God and neighbor at HAB and discover moments of joy and wonder, I invite you and your family members to join us in one of our ensembles. If we don’t have something you are looking for, reach out to me. I am having informal conversations with people now about what music ministry at HAB looks like 10 years from now. (Where will you be in 10 years? Okay, maybe don’t answer that...!)

I am so appreciative of those who lead music-making at HAB, the people in the Sanctuary Choir, Master Ringers, HAB Singers/Ringers, Growing in Grace Choir, as well as Jim, Mira, Laraine, and Andy. I am also thankful for the resources that enable us to benefit from community partnerships and relationships that bring in some incredibly talented instrumentalists and vocalists from the community. Thanks be God!

Getting to the church and rehearsing takes some effort—but not a lot. I hope to see or hear from you soon. You really will discover that we are “more than.”

Not staying silent,
Tommy





Who in the World Is HAB?

We have many wonderful HAB folks who serve God by working behind the scenes. You may not see them or realize everything they do, so we want to take turns highlighting some of these people who make our church family so great!

Marshall Hill

“How did you come to HAB?” I joined HAB as a young child along with my family, which had relocated to Jacksonville from Knoxville, Tennessee. When I reflect on my early days as a member, I’m always thankful for the continued relationships that I have with many of the people who made us feel welcome so many years ago. (Some of them may even admit to being my Sunday School teachers when I was in elementary school.)

“How long have you been at HAB?” Almost 25 years.

“What do you do at HAB?” I’m currently a deacon, and I serve on the Budget & Finance Committee. I’m also on the board of Little Friends alongside a tremendous group of HAB members.

“What’s your favorite thing about HAB?” Perhaps a cliché answer—but it’s the sense of community. We’re a diverse congregation in so many ways, yet still share a common love for God and one another. It’s a gift to experience relationships with so many people that start when we worship together, but ultimately extend to life beyond just Sunday mornings.

“What’s something about you that most people don’t know?” As a teenager I spent time during summers working on my aunt and uncle’s farm in Tennessee. I love getting the chance to return a few times a year, and I still take great pride in my ability to drive a tractor.





Cookie Davis

Art Ministry Features Artist Cookie Davis' **"PONDS AND PARKS"**

By Nancy Felton, Art Ministry Team Member

As September begins, the transitional art gallery of Hendricks Avenue Baptist will be awash in the colors, textures, and shapes of our regional landscape. Veteran artist Cookie Davis, whose work was exhibited in a Jacksonville Artist Guild Juried Show at HAB in 2013, is a curious observer of her native habitat. Her affinity for natural environments has taken her all over the southeastern United States, where she preserved her fresh impressions through the eye of her camera. From her photographs, Cookie Davis has created original images, moods, and moments in time in acrylic paint on canvas. Our featured exhibit, **"PONDS AND PARKS,"** drew inspiration from a

lifetime of family outings, which have encompassed three generations of the Davis family.

Davis' own words reveal the heart and soul of the artist: "The **'Park Series'** has been brewing for many years. When my children were small and we couldn't afford fancy outings, state parks were free. My dad gave me a book on all the parks in the State of Florida, and the kids and I planned to visit them all. Well, today that book (I have a new one) is three times the length of our first book. We have visited many parks throughout the years, but have hardly made a dent—they keep buying more land to preserve—we couldn't keep up. Good for the State of Florida and for my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren! All of the paintings in this series are painted from photographs we have taken over the past 50-plus years on our visits. Get out and enjoy a State Park!"

"While visiting the Harn Museum in Gainesville, Florida, I came across what I thought was a lily pond, but on closer inspection I realized it was something I'd not seen before. The maintenance crew informed me that I was looking at a Giant Lotus. I was taken by the color of the



leaves, the textures and dynamics of the seedpods, and the size of the flowers. And the whole cycle of their being was right there in the pond. Well, it was too good to pass up, and so began the **'Pond Series.'**"

The exhibit **"PONDS AND PARKS"** will remain at HAB through November 29, 2022. If you are captivated by this artist's authentic renderings of the gifts of creation in our particular corner of the globe, please take a brochure placed on the narthex consoles. You may contact Cookie Davis directly with questions about her paintings.





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