

The Herald



Happy Christmas!

By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

It's official: Christmastime is almost here.

Now, some of y'all probably think I'm saying that as a pastor because we just celebrated All Saints' Sunday and Advent's just around the corner. However, I'm actually just saying that as a dad. And the reality of it hit me as I was driving Hannah Ruth to school this morning. We were going along, cruising through the radio stations (do any of y'all still listen to FM radio?), when all of a sudden we came across Brenda Lee singing "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," and in that moment, I knew: The switch had been flipped. The local radio station that goes all-Christmas-music-all-the-time had transformed into its holiday-themed self.

Unfortunately, they made the poor decision to follow that up with "Last Christmas" by *Wham!*, so Hannah Ruth and I moved on down the dial, but not before the music had started a conversation between us about Christmas. About how Christmas, around us, is really two things. One is the Church's celebration of Jesus'

birth in worship, mission, and fellowship; and the other is a broader winter festival that's focused on decorations, gift-giving, and parties of all kinds. Certainly, the two are related and overlap, but these days they pretty clearly have different emphases.

Now, some of you might be expecting me to use the rest of this article to talk about how this second, broader, celebration of Christmas is all wrong, but fortunately for everyone involved we're not that kind of Baptists. While I certainly believe that the Church's celebration should take the front seat this time of year, there's nothing intrinsically wrong with giving gifts, throwing parties, and snuggling up on the couch to watch traditional Christmas movies like *It's a Wonderful Life* or *Die Hard*. In fact, those things can indeed be *very good*, and I'm going to tell you why.

This past weekend, Britt led a group of about 30 of us in our church's first "Come, Let Us Reason" study. We read Scot McKnight's book, *A Fellowship of Differents*, and discussed it over a meal together. One of the things that I walked away with was McKnight's account of the "invisible" people who are a part of every congregation, folks who can too easily fall through the cracks or fade into the background of a congregation's life. He lists some groups whose members can inadvertently become "invisible" within a congregation's life: widows and widowers, single young adults, folks in assisted-living homes. Even plain-old introverts, he says, can find themselves isolated in the life of a congregation. There are others he names, but this should give you a sense of what he has in mind. "To the degree that folks are invisible in our church, we don't have the right view of the church and the right view of the Christian life," he writes, "In fact, *the success of a church is first determined by how many invisible people become visible to those not like them.*"

Over the next several weeks, HAB is going to offer a number of opportunities for us to celebrate Christmas and our shared joy at Jesus' birth. Go to Britt's article on page 3, and you'll see many of them listed. And, at the same time, many of us will celebrate Christmas in other ways, too. We'll decorate our homes, write cards, give gifts. Who knows? We

(continued on page 3)

B.J. Hutto, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

Thomas M. Shapard, D.P.M., Associate Pastor for Music & Worship • Britt Hester, M.Div., Associate Pastor for Youth & Christian Education

Laraine Humbert, B.M.E., Pastoral Assistant • Mike Suvada, B.A., Communications & Technology

Darrell Mitchell, M.B.A., Financial Manager • H. Kendell Smith, Dip.C.M., Minister of Music Emeritus

Make Plans to Join Us for Advent and Christmas!

Sunday, November 27

5:00 p.m. - Decorating the Chrismon Tree

Wednesday, December 7

6:30 p.m. - Christmas Concert with Brass Band

Wednesday, December 14

"Wear Your Ugly Christmas Sweater"

All Regular Activities

6:00-7:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18

11:00 a.m. - Combined Service

CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM

featuring Sanctuary Choir, HAB Singers, Master Ringers, & Christmas orchestra

6:00 p.m. - Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 21

Longest Night Service

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

6:00 p.m. - Worship Service



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



Sunday Worship during Advent

Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. *(except where noted)*

Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m. *(except where noted)*

November 27: First Sunday of Advent

December 4: Second Sunday of Advent

December 11: Third Sunday of Advent

December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Combined Service at 11:00)

December 25: Christmas Day (Combined Service at 11:00, no Bible study)

(B.J., continued)

might even go wassailing a time or two. But however we choose to celebrate between now and Epiphany—the end of the Christmas season—let’s all be on the lookout for folks in our family of faith (and, for that matter, in our neighborhoods, too!) who might find themselves in need of a little extra Christmas cheer, folks who might—if the rest of us aren’t careful—find themselves crowded out by the bright lights and loud music. Let’s look out for them and make sure that they know how loved they are, and how appreciated they are, and how integral they are to our church and our celebration of this Season. *And let’s be intentional about it:* make a call, send a card, bake a cake.

In this season of gift-giving—when we celebrate the greatest Gift any of us could have ever been given, when we remind one another that God did not forget us, did not leave us isolated on this earth, when we assure one another that we are well and truly loved—let’s pay all that love and attention forward. Let’s share it with our neighbors, particularly those who we think might need it a little more this year.

Acts like that cost us so little, and yet I don’t think any of us truly realizes just how much they can mean to our neighbors.

Happy Christmas!

B.J.



Opportunities to Give and Serve During Advent

By Britt Hester, Associate Pastor for Youth & Christian Education

Advent, as we know, is a season of preparation and anticipation. It is also a season of reflection and remembrance. For us followers of Jesus, we reflect on Christ’s coming into our midst while also remembering the story of those who journeyed to Bethlehem to honor and worship our Immanuel. And in our reflection and remembrance, we are perhaps called to consider how we too can honor and worship Christ during this season and beyond.

The good news is there are plenty of opportunities available for us to share our lives, resources, and gifts this Advent season. One of the primary ways you can give this Advent is through the **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s (CBF) Global Missions Offering**. The theme of this year’s Global Missions Offering is “A Place at the Table.” When you give to CBF’s

Offering for Global Missions, more than 50 field personnel in 18 countries cultivate beloved community, bear witness to Jesus Christ, and seek transformational development as they invite one and all to the table. You will see and hear more about the offering throughout December during worship, on social media, and in our weekly programming. Please consider contributing to the good work God is doing throughout the world through CBF.

There are also ways to contribute locally. Each year **United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM)** collects **Christmas bags** for families in need. You can find the list of items needed on page 6 of this newsletter. Your contributions to these Christmas bags provide a meal for a family that might not otherwise have the supplies or money this holiday season. This a wonderful opportunity to help feed a family. Additionally, you are supporting one of our local mission partners whom we have served alongside since its founding in 1979.

Our church will serve as a **toy collection site** for Safe Haven Ministries. Deborah Crumb, a member of our Mission & Witness Committee, introduced us to this ministry and the work they do to assist needy families. The toy drive will directly benefit the children of refugee families from Myanmar. Beginning on Sunday, December 4, you can drop off toys in the boxes provided in the narthex. Toys should be for children ages 0-17 and new (\$25 limit) or gently used, clean, and working with all their parts. If purchasing or re-gifting for teenagers, suggested items include sports balls and equipment, Walmart gift card (limit \$25), nail polish kits, lip gloss, facial masks, bath bombs, crafts, colored pencils, paint sets, socks, pajama pants, board games, puzzles, Legos, and Rubik’s cubes.

As you can see, there is no shortage of ways that you can get involved this Advent season. I hope you will join me in taking advantage of these opportunities to share our gifts and resources so that the light of Christ’s love might shine through our collective giving. After all, is there any better way to respond to receiving the greatest Gift the world has ever known?

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Thank you to our wonderful
Children's Team:

Patti Carson
Julie Carter
Anne England
Courtney Hester
Ansley Parfitt
Rachel Shapard

Please say a word of
appreciation to this
hard-working group
when you see them!



Children's Christmas Party



Wednesday, December 14
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Wear your ugly
Christmas sweater!

Wednesday Nights for Kids



5:30—Supper (by reservation)
6:00-7:00—Children's choir
& other fun activities



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Mornings
9:45-10:45 a.m., room E-14
Facilitator: Shirley Dasher
If you can volunteer to teach or be a
helper, please contact Rachel Shapard at
rachel@tfhope.org

News of the Church Family



Congratulations to...

...Elizabeth & Cody Sims on the birth of their daughter, Aspen Rebekah, on October 28, 2022. Aspen weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18 inches long. Proud grandparents are Rebekah & John Duvall!

Sympathy to...

...Dawn, David, & Hannah Gray in the death of Dawn's cousin, Nancy Wright, who died Thursday, October 27, 2022.

...Dee Bumbarger in the death of her sister, Carol Gay.

Thank you...

To the staff and congregation of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church: The Rosamond and Sutton families would like to express their sincere thanks for the compassion and concern shown over the loss of our mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and great-grandmother. While she will be greatly missed, we take comfort in the memories we have, in the knowledge that she has no more pain or sorrow, and in the expectation of seeing her again one day. The expressions of love and kindness received have also helped to ease our grief and sorrow. (*"The people the Lord has rescued will come back singing as they enter Zion. Happiness will be a crown everyone will always wear. They will celebrate and shout because all sorrows and worries will be gone far away."* Isaiah 35:10) —Love in Christ, The Rosamond & Sutton families

Dear Church Family, Thank you for caring and loving both of us during Morris' recent illness. We have been showered with prayers, cards, and notes. We have been cared for with delicious meals, soups, salads, cakes, cookies, and muffins. We have some of the best cooks of any church in town! We received many calls and visits with true concern for Morris' health. All of you have helped him to get stronger and get back to church, and that is where he wants to be on Sundays. —With much love, Diane & Morris Berry

Welcome New Members

HAB welcomes new members **Mary Nell & Gary McCoy** to our church family! Mary Nell, a Kansas farm girl, and Gary, a city boy from Missouri, met in college where both were pursuing music degrees. Having been involved in mission service during their college years, both were committed to becoming missionaries. They married after graduation and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning Master's of Church Music degrees, and in 1974, with their first child in tow, were deployed as music missionaries to South Korea. They spent 17 wonderful years there, teaching

We also welcome **Kameron Arnett**, who joined HAB on November 6, 2022. Stay tuned for more info next month!



and providing spiritual leadership in a number of capacities, in addition to serving as ministers of music in Korean churches. They completed their family there, having two more children. While serving in Korea, Gary completed a Doctorate in Musical Arts through Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He subsequently taught in the areas of composition, voice, and church music ministries at Korea Baptist Theological Seminary.

When they returned from Korea, Gary accepted a professorship of worship and church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (now Gateway Seminary) in San Francisco. The seminary had a considerable number of Korean students who would particularly benefit from Gary's past experience in their country. During this time, Gary also served as minister of music at a local Korean Baptist church. Mary Nell taught elementary school music in the Bay area and became co-chair of the music department in her school district. The McCoys lived in California for 28 years before retiring to Florida, where their eldest daughter is a physician in Jacksonville. They have a son who is in social work in Ft. Worth, Texas, and a daughter who is an opera singer (married to a concert pianist) who lives in the UK, near London. Gary and Mary Nell have eight grandchildren and live in St. Augustine.

Mary Nell continues a life of service through her involvement with the American Red Cross as Disaster Spiritual Care Lead. In this capacity, she works with several organizations, including CBF, as a disaster relief chaplain, ministering to disaster survivors and serving as spiritual leader to teams providing disaster relief.

The McCoys became aware of HAB through the Institute for Worship Studies (IWS), through which Gary earned a Doctor of Ministry and Spiritual Formation in the Arts degree, as well as through involvement with CBF. We are so blessed that they found their way to us!

—by Carol Campbell, New Members Team



LITTLE FRIENDS

AT HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas, the Season of Hope

By Chelsea Weise, Little Friends Principal

"This is Christmas, the season of perpetual hope."—*Home Alone*

Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. How many times have I told my children, "I HOPE you have a great day!"? Those that play the lottery HOPE they will be the lucky winner. Football players HOPE they can score that winning touchdown. Children HOPE Santa will come down that chimney. These are all things that cannot be seen or have not happened yet.

Scripture tells us in Romans 8:24-25, "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

This Advent season, the word "hope" has popped into my head a hundred times. As I think about the coming of Christ and the celebration of birth, hope permeates my soul. The excitement of Christmas is full of this. And, hope is for EVERYONE. Hope does not exclude. The birth of Christ gives us a reason to hope.

One of my favorite lines from the movie *The Santa Clause* is "Seeing isn't believing; believing is seeing." Again, for children, this is so easy. The childlike faith that they show us every day brings a huge smile to my face. They have hope, and just by believing they can see. They can see a world full of possibilities. They know that by hoping with faith, they will be rewarded (whatever that might look like for them.)

This holiday season, what do you hope for? Do you hope to be cured from a disease? Do you hope to receive forgiveness from a past friend or family member? Do you hope your kids will come home for Christmas? I pray that as we continue our journey, you may find the joy that Christ brings and long for the hope that brings a smile.



Little Friends acted out the story of "The Three Little Pigs." Hmmm...I wonder who played the part of the big bad wolf?



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 by Tuesday, December 13. Poinsettias are \$15 each, and you may pay online

or by check to the church; please be sure to designate for "poinsettias." Names will appear in the worship bulletins on Sunday, December 18, and on Christmas Eve, and you may take your poinsettia(s) home following worship.

UCOM Christmas Bags

Please place items in narthex by Sunday, December 11

☐ \$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



Remember to Count HAB Among Your Blessings

by Lad Daniels,
Budget & Finance Committee Chair

We are in the season of Advent. For 76 years HAB has been "A Place of Grace." Whether the youngest or the most elderly, each of us can count numerous blessings we have received this year following two years of COVID restrictions. Certainly, one of this year's greatest gifts as a community of fellowship is our gathering again in person, visiting one another, and offering support in time of need. This sense of community and care for one another is the foundation of HAB.

As you consider giving this holiday season, please put HAB at the top of your list. Remember that charitable contributions may qualify as a charitable deduction for tax purposes, dependent on your tax situation.

If you are 70½ or over, you have an added bonus. You can gift an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). The benefits include: 1) Fulfill the IRS's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD); 2) Exclude the gift from your gross income for federal tax purposes; 3) Support HAB and its missions. Please consult with your tax advisor for your individual situation.

Our Home: A Place of Grace

Your church home continues its ministry to serve its members, its neighbors, and its community. We ask in the season of giving that each of us prayerfully consider a contribution to HAB. Our community, our home, our HAB is truly "A Place of Grace."



OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

BECAUSE **PRESENCE** MATTERS

During December we will be receiving gifts to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions Offering. These gifts support the long-term presence of CBF field personnel around the world.

Our church goal is \$3000.

Wednesday Night Suppers

5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Reservations are required by Monday for the following

Wednesday by contacting Laraine at

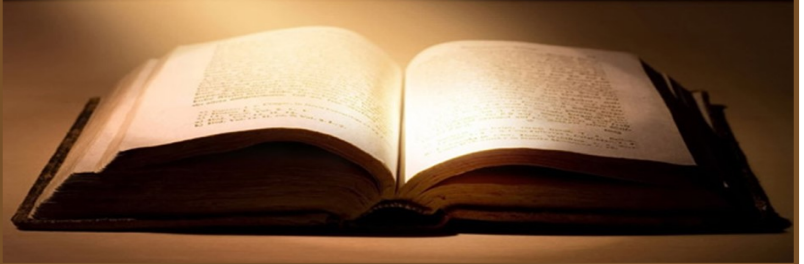
laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745. Adults \$10, children \$6, immediate family maximum \$25.

There will be no meals on
December 21 & 28 and January 4.

Wednesday Bible study with B.J.

6:15 p.m. in the chapel

We're currently studying the book of Genesis

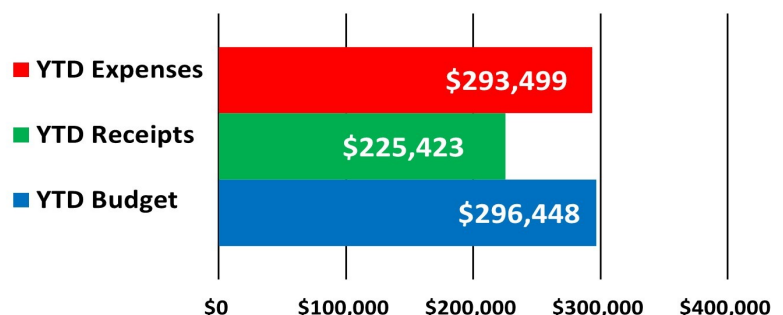


DID YOU KNOW?

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online at
habchurch.com;
choose "Giving"
and then choose
"Donate."



Budget Year-to-Date at 11/18/2022





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