

Hendricks Herald

FEBRUARY 2023



“All Things in Common,” Indeed

By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

Friends,

One of my favorite things about receiving *The Herald* each month is how it gives us a snapshot of our church's life together. There are notices about different fellowship opportunities. There are articles about different ministries and ways we serve our neighbors. There are blurbs that introduce us to new members, and this month we even get to celebrate the return of “The Church Mouse” column, which tells us about some of the other things in our congregational family's life that are worth celebrating. (By the way, if you think of any celebrations that we need to include in “The Church Mouse,” please remember to email them to churchmouse@habchurch.com!)

Again, one of the best things about *The Herald* is how it helps us all share in the missions and ministries of the church, be aware of the joys and sorrows of one another's lives, and “hold all things in common.” That last bit is in quotation marks because, well, it's a quote. It comes from Acts 2:44, where we're told that that's how the earliest church functioned. They held all things in common with one another.

You might also notice, as you read *The Herald* this month, that there's **an infographic on page 7 advertising an upcoming conversation that's also titled *All Things in Common***. That's because, during the month of February, we've decided to use the Sunday Bible Study hour to have a conversation about our church's life and its resources. Now, when you come to that infographic, don't let the fact that this conversation is being guided by members of the Budget and Finance Committee confuse you. **This isn't, ultimately, a conversation about dollars and cents. Rather, it's a conversation about missions and ministries and how they are affected by the resources available to them.**

Thus, on the first three Sundays of February, we will have guided conversations in each of our SBS classes about these things, and we will also have space for a conversation in HAB's chapel for those who don't currently have a Sunday School home. All of these will be guided and will cover the same material week by week. Then, on Sunday the 26th, we will all convene in the fellowship hall for a time to discuss what we've looked at, what we've learned, and what questions have come up in our conversations.

We are all invited and strongly encouraged to prioritize these four conversations. Ultimately, this entire thing is a conversation about stewardship: about what it means for us to be good, responsible stewards of what all has been entrusted to us. And, to be sure, the main piece of that will be how the ministers, staff, and lay leaders have been stewards of congregational resources over the years, and therefore how the missions and ministries of HAB have grown, shrunk, and changed over the last several years. However, another aspect of this conversation will be how we are all stewards of church resources seven days a week, 12 months a year. Because the resources of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church aren't just those things that reside at 4001 Hendricks Avenue in Jacksonville, Florida. They are, in reality, what God has given to each of us, *since we are the Church!*

I look forward to seeing you all in February!

Kind regards,
B.J.

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



The Gospel According to the Jaguars

By Britt Hester, Associate Pastor for Youth & Christian Education

Chemistry is not my thing. It never has been, to be completely transparent. In high school I got by okay, but in college it was chemistry that nearly caused me to drop out. The lectures were fine, but time in the lab made me realize I would never be a pharmacist. The formulas, chemicals, and the way it all worked together was simultaneously fascinating and overwhelming. What a great and glorious day it was when I realized I had passed the course. Never again would I have to interact with a Bunsen burner against my will.

There is, however, another type of chemistry I connect with and appreciate on a deeper level. Most of us know about “team chemistry.” You have likely at one point or another heard commentators rave about successful teams with great “team chemistry.” The 2021 Atlanta

Braves had it. The 2020 Alabama Crimson Tide had it. The Golden State Warriors dynasty of the past decade had it. There are many other great teams I could mention on this list, but there is one more I will include: the 2022 Jacksonville Jaguars.

Prior to this season, the Jaguars had a record of 3-14 in a year that was rife with both on- and off-the-field controversies. The record was bad, but it was the optics of an organization in shambles that made fans and critics alike cringe. As a result, Head Coach Urban Meyer was fired, Doug Pederson was hired to replace him, and a new regime was born. And since that time the team and organization have completely flipped the script.

So what happened? We could probably draw our own conclusions and come up with plenty of talking points, but I think you only need to head over to www.jaguars.com and find the video of Jaguars defensive end, Josh Allen, mic'd up for the Jaguars first round playoff game against the Los Angeles Chargers. If you watched the game, you probably recall that star quarterback, Trevor Lawrence, threw 4 (!) first half interceptions, which allowed the Chargers to build a 27-0 lead. Social media and message boards lit up with critics and cynics announcing the end of the Jaguars season and dragging Lawrence's name through the proverbial mud.

But as you will see in the video, Allen and the rest of the Jaguars players remained calm, encouraged their struggling QB, and maintained a belief in themselves despite the insurmountable odds. It was their faith and trust in one another, their “chemistry” if you will, that allowed them to right the ship in the second half and ultimately come all the way back to defeat the Chargers on a game-winning field goal. It was one of the greatest comebacks I have ever witnessed!

What the Jaguars have is what every sports team, corporation, small business, nonprofit, and yes, even church, want. They all want excellent “team chemistry”—that deep belief in something bigger than themselves that has everyone rowing in the same direction and inspires individuals to renounce their personal desires for the greater good of the team and its collective vision. The thing about “chemistry” is that you don't just wish it into existence. As the Jaguars proved, it takes effort, discipline, patience, and perseverance. “Chemistry” doesn't just happen. It's cultivated, nurtured, and shared.

I believe our church has great “team chemistry.” I believe that we believe in God, one another, and the mission to which we have been called. And I also believe we are in a season where we will need that “chemistry” more than ever. We will need your commitment and contribution to the mission of being a “place of grace” for each other and for our community. There will be challenges along the way. Doubt and frustration may even creep into your mind. But don't give up. Don't lose faith. In the words of Hebrews 12:1b-2a, “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” And if we do, when we reach the finish line, I have a feeling we will be pleased with the result.



Mission Moments

By Alyson Lee, Mission & Witness Committee Member

Happy 2023 from your Mission and Witness Committee! It is our honor and privilege to serve HAB on this committee. Just so you know who we are: Deborah Crumb, Susan Howell, Laurie McDonald, Janet Metcalf, Alyson Lee, Eleanor Rogers, Stephanie Snell, and Maddie Weise. Please reach out to any of us if you have questions or comments about what we do as a committee. We meet monthly, usually on Mondays at 6:00 p.m., and we are glad to share any information you would like. This monthly article will attempt to explain some of the organizations that you help fund and highlight some of the people involved in those organizations.

You may recall that during December 2022, we asked you, as HAB congregants, to contribute to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Global Missions Fund. The fund—quite literally—helps folks all over the world. Our committee set an internal goal of \$3,000. Guess what?? You wonderful, generous people gave nearly double that amount! You gave \$5829.00!!! Our committee thanks you for helping our brothers and sisters across the globe. HAB is indeed a “Place of Grace.”



The HAB family is excited to have **Jana Johnson** join us as one of our newest members!

Jana is a third generation Jacksonville native. She has known long-time HAB member Victor Towns for years, and credits his example with leading her to HAB. She credits the warmth of the welcome she has received here with leading her to join us as a church member. She enthusiastically declares that she loves this church!

Due to a serious accident, Jana was confined to a wheelchair when she first started coming to HAB, before the COVID pandemic curtailed everyone's church attendance. Healthy now, Jana is back with us and eager to get involved in volunteering in various church ministries. She is retired now and particularly enjoys working with plants and gardening. She says she has the time and the will to be of service at HAB and can't wait to contribute to the work of the church! We are so delighted to welcome her to the family!



A warm HAB welcome to the most recent young family to join us, **Aaron and Allison Clausen!** Aaron is originally from Rhode Island and Allison from Jacksonville, but eventually both of their families moved to Orlando. Although they attended the same high school in Orlando (where Allison knew Aaron's sister) and although both went to the University of Florida (where their roommates dated each other for a time), Aaron and Allison did not meet until years later, when both were working in Jacksonville. Aaron is an engineer at the Naval base, and Allison had a career in food science and quality control before becoming a stay-at-home mom to their three-year-old Eve. They are expecting a sibling for Eve this spring!

Allison says she and Aaron are self-professed nerds who enjoy watching *Star Trek* episodes after Eve goes to bed at night. They are also big *Star Wars* fans, love going to Disney World, and soon after Halloween each year you'll find them beginning work on their annual Christmas light show! The Clausens enjoy traveling, and Eve already has a passport, as they hope to soon visit friends who are missionaries in Spain. At their previous church, Allison organized Jane Austen ladies-only movie nights. She hopes there might be interest at HAB in a similar activity, so all you Jane Austen fans, introduce yourselves to Allison and let her know you're on board!

CALLING LADIES OF ALL AGES FOR A JANE AUSTEN MOVIE NIGHT! New member Allison Clausen invites HAB ladies to a Jane Austen movie night on Friday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m. at her home, 504 Basswood Court, St. Johns, FL 32259. Join us for a fun evening with a great movie, tea and cookies, and discussion following the movie. Please RSVP to Allison at a4rp11@gmail.com by Tuesday, March 7, so she knows how many people to expect. When you RSVP, please vote for your favorite Jane Austen movie.



Stay tuned for info about Chloe Holmes, who joined 12-4-2022



SUNDAY
SCHOOL

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

Wednesday Nights for Kids

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

On a recent Wednesday night Rebekah McLeod Hutto read the book *All the Colors of the Earth* to our HAB kids, and Rachel Gunter Shapard taught the children the first two verses of Mark Miller's song, "Child of God":

*No matter what people say,
 Say or think about me;
 I am a child, I am a child of God.*

*No matter what people say,
 Say or think about you;
 You are a child, you are a child of God.*

Rachel and Rebekah taught the kids that everyone—you, me, kids, adults—are God's beloved. We are loved, valued, and treasured by God. Even when we face people and circumstances that try to tell us otherwise, this remains true. What a beautiful message this is for the children of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, and for all of us.



DO YOU LOVE CHILDREN? We are looking for people who would be willing to sub from time to time when one of our children's Sunday Bible Study teachers or childcare workers is unable to be here. If you are willing to sub just once in a while, please contact Laraine at 904-396-7745, ext. 103, or laraine@habchurch.com.





The Photography of Richard “Rick” Snell

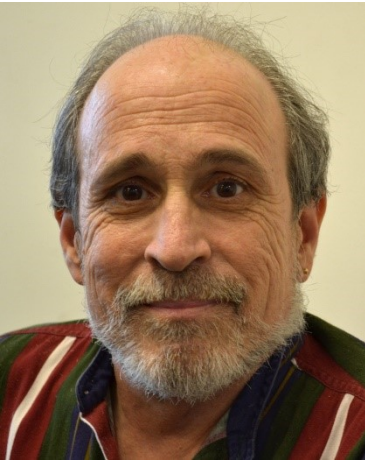
By Nancy Felton, Art Ministry Team Member

Rick was born in Panama City, Florida. It was apparent at a young age that he was an artist. He loved to sketch, draw, and paint and was considered very talented.

In 1982 he moved to Jacksonville and lived with his brother, Rev. Dr. Jack Snell, and his sister-in-law, Anita Snell (now Daniels). This was a time of reflection and drawing. He spent endless hours sketching amazingly accurate homes and commercial buildings from his imagination. After beginning studies in architecture at FCCJ (now FSCJ), he unfortunately was unable to pursue this

career path due to medical constraints.

Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church provided an outlet for Rick’s musical talents. He volunteered to work the soundboard for worship services and weddings. When the early service began, his rich basso profundo voice added depth to the praise worship leaders ensemble. Eventually, Rick joined the church staff as custodian and later served as facilities engineer.



Rick loved photography and this became his avocation. Although expensive camera equipment and distant travel were not an option for Rick, he took family photos of his son and his pets. On vacations he was invariably drawn to natural habitats and wildlife, which he thoroughly documented in photographs. In the early years of The Well at Springfield, Rick also served this congregation as the “official unofficial” photographer.

Upon retirement and moving to Westminster Woods on Julington Creek (WWJC), Rick’s passion for the wild beauty of Florida wetlands was unleashed. He realized photography outings were a daily option. Soon he was known to the residents of WWJC as the Bird Man. A major portion of the present exhibit in the HAB gallery is drawn from Rick’s keen observation of his own “backyard.”

After spending a day at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm and Rookery, a friend asked Rick if he had taken many pictures. He said, quite seriously, “No, only about 1,000.”

Rick was fascinated by the ever-changing moon. He posted his moon photos on Facebook along with interesting moon facts, which drew a large following.

Encouraged by a fellow resident, Rick entered one photograph in the annual Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation Art Show, which incorporates entries from 21 Westminster communities. Rick’s entry entitled *Toleration* won the esteemed Residents’ Choice Award.

Always modest and humble about his photos, Rick said that it wasn’t the photographer; it was the camera. Survived by his devoted wife, Joyce, and son Andrew, Richard Lee Snell passed away March 4, 2021.



Award-winning photo by Rick Snell, *Toleration*, 2019, Turtle Lake



From the Church Mouse

Hi! I, your honorable Church Mouse, have just returned from an extended (and well-deserved) vacation. My mailbox was really full of things that have already happened, so I am just going to start with what I've heard since coming back. Some very good and interesting news—**Robbie Matteson**, son of **Christi Matteson** and grandson of the **Cynthia & C.W. Goff**, was ordained October 23, 2022, at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. In this picture you see C. W. and Cynthia participating in the laying on of hands—a very special day for that family.

Deborah Crumb was

instrumental in the toy drive that HAB sponsored at Christmas for Safe Haven Ministries. Several boxes of toys were collected during the month of December. I even saw a real cute doll dressed as a ballerina—she had purple hair!

The church staff was privileged to enjoy an open house at the home of **Jackie and Bob Brann**. You can't believe the Christmas decorations Jackie and Bob have! I snuck into Britt's pocket because I wasn't really invited, but I wanted to go and see how our staff acts in public! Village after village of buildings, several Christmas trees, stuffed animals that move or dance or sing, and much more too numerous to mention had my eyes wide open, looking around. You need to ask Bob about his mermaid and mermen collection.

I read on Facebook that **Co'Relous Bryant** was honored to preach at the Watch Night New Year's Eve Service at the legendary Riverside Church in New York City. In the words of Co'Relous, "Tomorrow night will usher in an honor of a lifetime! My feet will stand where Dr. King's feet stood. My hands will grip the same pulpit that Nelson Mandela's hands gripped. And my prayer will echo the prayer of every preacher who has preached at the Riverside Church in the City of New York: 'Speak, Lord! For your servant is listening.'"

In very recent news I have heard while hiding in the sound booth of the sanctuary, **Drew Shapard**, who is a junior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and son of our own **Rachel & Tommy Shapard**, made the Florida All-State TTBB (that's music talk) Choir. The choir rehearsed and performed as part of the Florida Music Education Association's annual conference in Tampa, January 12-14, 2023.

Something I overheard this past week while scuttering around the church office was that **Allison & Aaron Clausen** are expecting a new arrival in April. They are waiting until the baby is born to let big sister, **Eve**, know if she has a little brother or a little sister.

In a run I made by Principal **Chelsea Weise**'s office, the great news is that our **Little Friends Preschool** just hit their largest enrollment EVER, of 55 students, with several more inquirers waiting to see if they can be a part of that super program.

Well, that's about all the tidbits I have heard since I got back, but I'll keep listening, keep my eyes open (and my tail hidden) until next month. I hope you're glad I'm back—I know I have missed all the news and gossip around HAB. Until you hear from me next month, I'll just squeak on over to the youth room and the choir room to see what's up over there!



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 recognitions!



All Things in Common: A Sunday Morning Conversation about HAB's Life and Resources

Acts 2:44 tells us that the earliest Church "held all things in common." We tend to read that as a statement about finances, but it's really a statement about life and, more specifically, about life shared in community.

In this same spirit, our congregation will have a conversation about our shared life and resources during the month of February.

- Three Sundays: February 5, 12, & 19 at 9:45 a.m.
- Members of the Budget & Finance Committee will facilitate conversations in each of our Sunday Bible Study classes. Discussions for those not currently in a SBS class will take place in the chapel and cover the same material.
- A congregational/group discussion will take place in the fellowship hall on February 26 on the past, present, and future of HAB's life together.



DID YOU KNOW?

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An additional way to give your offering is by scanning this QR code:



Budget Year-to-Date at 01/20/2023

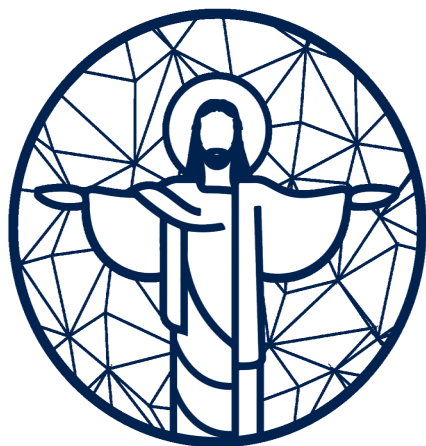




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