

Hendricks Herald

Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church



October 2023



HAB, Making a Difference

By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

One aspect of church life that every congregation has trouble figuring out is how to communicate the breadth of its life across its membership. Some of you might've heard me compare a church's life to the ancient parable of the blind men and the elephant. Feeling around in the dark, each man only touches one part of the elephant's body—the ear ("a sail!"), the trunk ("a snake!"), the tail ("a rope!"), a leg ("a tree!")—and is therefore convinced that an "elephant" is like only that part that they've felt. That's what a church is like, too: a complex community that's more than its worship life, or its Bible studies, or its youth and children's programs, and yet—because so many people only ever come into contact with one or two of these areas—all the many ways that the church contributes to its family and its community can easily go unknown or unappreciated. This, by the way, is why gifts like *The Herald* are so important. They're opportunities for our congregation to learn about areas of our life together that they might not otherwise come in contact with!

Today, I want to share one of those areas with all of you. It's a story that some of us know, but it's also one that *all of us should know*, because it demonstrates a deep part of who HAB really is. For several years now, our church has been helping a neighbor of ours whose housing and home life have been terribly unstable. I could tell you any number of things about him—he grew up in the neighborhood, played ball at HACAA when he was young, served in the military including several tours in Iraq—but, at base, the most important thing about him is that he's a neighbor of ours who's needed help.

For several years now, we've helped him along and along, but two months ago he called and let us know that he had finally found permanent housing and would be able to move in sometime in September. This was a big deal! But there were two problems. First, while he has a steady income from his disability, between putting down the deposit on the apartment and paying to have the electricity turned on, he had tapped out all of his money. And secondly, while he had finally secured an apartment, it wasn't coming furnished, and the only things that he owned were his clothes.

Finally having somewhere to live, of course, was a huge deal—a roof over his head, a reliable shower and bathroom, heat and AC for the weather, and so on—but this man finally had an opportunity for life to be more than that. He had a bedroom but no bed to sleep in. He had a kitchen but nothing to cook with, nothing to eat with, and (for that matter) little to no food to cook or eat!

And this is where HAB—not the staff but the congregation—comes into the story. Working with Caroline Welkley, church members rallied and helped this neighbor of ours fill out his new home. Money was found to help him get through the weeks until his next check came. One church member secured a table and chairs for him to eat at. Another donated a bed and mattress for him to sleep in. One of our Sunday Bible Study classes took it upon themselves to equip his kitchen: plates, cups, utensils, pots, pans, a microwave, and on and on. Caroline, for her part, is continuing to help him navigate the Veterans Affairs system so that he has access to his full complement of benefits through it. While this gentleman gets all the credit for finding and securing his new home, there were some things that he simply could not do for himself, and our family was able to step in and help. What's more than that, though, is that our family was *willing* to step in and help, materially: to donate furniture and figure out how to deliver it, to collect kitchen items and stock his shelves. And that says something about who we are!

My friends, this is one instance where I can genuinely say that HAB has changed one of our neighbors' lives. And there are others, too. Some of them y'all may know about, others you may not. (Hopefully we can all recommit ourselves to sharing stories like these across our congregation!) But know this: every day, of every week, of every month, our HAB family is shining more and more light—and sharing more and more love—into the lives of our church members and our neighbors alike. And that's something that we should be proud of and grateful for, because I believe that it's something that our Lord is proud of and grateful for too.

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
Chelsea Weise, B.C.E., Interim Director of Children & Community Life • Laraine Humbert, B.M.E., Pastoral Assistant
Darrell Mitchell, M.B.A., Financial Manager • H. Kendell Smith, Dip.C.M., Minister of Music Emeritus



HAB CHURCH

Fall Festival

OCTOBER 21

Home Run Derby — 1:00-3:00 PM

Fall Festival — 3:00-5:00 PM

Concert — 5:30 PM

Pony Rides | Food Trucks | Bounce Houses

CONCERT FEAT. THE RIVERSIDE





Dress Like a What?! Huh?

By Chelsea Weise, Interim Director of Children & Community Life

Peek-a-boo! It's October! This is my absolute favorite month of the year. It's all things pumpkins, football is back, the weather changes, and I celebrate a birthday! The main thing that would make it better is to see the changing of leaves, but October brings so much fun!

I am excited that Wednesday nights for Kids are back! Each Wednesday evening in the month of October children are encouraged to dress up!

October 3 is "Dress Like a Cow" Night! Children are encouraged to dress like a cow! We will have Chick-fil-a and then study Psalm 50:10.

October 11 is "Dress Like a Parent" Night! Children are encouraged to dress like mom or dad! We will have a fun fashion show and then study Ephesians 6:2.

October 18 is "Dress Like a Lifesaver" Night! Children are encouraged to dress like someone who saves lives. This could be a superhero or a community helper. We will study Romans 10:13.

October 25 is "Dress Like a Disaster" Night! Children can mismatch and create their own crazy outfit! We will have another fashion show and then study 1 Samuel 16:7.

Wednesday nights are in the STEAM Lab from 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Invite your friends for a fun October!

Save the date for Saturday, October 21. (See all events on page 2.) We will have our annual Home Run Derby, Fall Festival, and our first "Life on the Lawn" with a concert by the band, *The Riverside*. Food

trucks, trunk or treat, bounce houses, and so much more will all be set up and ready for a fun day! We hope to see you there!

Remember that you are all FANG-tastic! I love you more than candy corn, and you are all my boos!



Grades 1-4, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the
STEAM Lab (former library)
Taught by Shirley Dasher & Lee Gautney

Mission Moments

Sulzbacher

More than 20 years ago, when Sulzbacher began its program to feed the homeless, HAB was among the first groups to volunteer to assist with the project. We have been serving ever since. This year, for the first time, funding for the meals is not in HAB's budget but will come from donations which were pledged, over and above the tithes and offerings already being given to HAB, by members of our congregation. Eighteen members have pledged to contribute to provide the \$800 a month needed to purchase ingredients, which are then prepared, cooked, and served to between 250 and 300 homeless people each day that it is our turn to volunteer. The menu includes a tossed salad, applesauce, a stew of ground beef in tomato sauce with corn, beans, and onions over rice. Each month—and September is the first month under the new church budget year—HAB is responsible for the meal the third Monday of the month. This year there are 18 volunteer cooks and 12 servers. Cooks arrive at Sulzbacher at 3:00, and servers come at 5:00. Without these volunteers and contributors, Sulzbacher would not be able to feed their homeless that night. Those of us who volunteer are pleased to be able to do our part in this small way to help the homeless of Jacksonville.





News of the Church Family

Sympathy to...

...Dave, Dawn, & Hannah Gray in the death of Lee Gray on Wednesday, July 22, 2023. Lee was Dave's father and Hannah's grandfather.

...the family and friends of Jeanette Allen, who died Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Jeanette's service was September 8 at HAB.

...Art & Teri Mills in the death of their daughter, Traci Mills Welden. Traci died from COVID on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. The funeral service was September 18 in HAB's chapel.

...Jo, Allen, Jessica, & Allison Hagan in the death of Jo's mother, Virginia McWilliams, on Wednesday, September 20, in Huntsville, Alabama.

Sunday, October 8, 4:30 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals



**Saturday
Oct. 21
3:00-5:00 P.m.**

Invite your friends!

If you can provide a trunk,
contact Susan Howell at
susanhowell22@comcast.net



**MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS
NOW FOR OUR**

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL

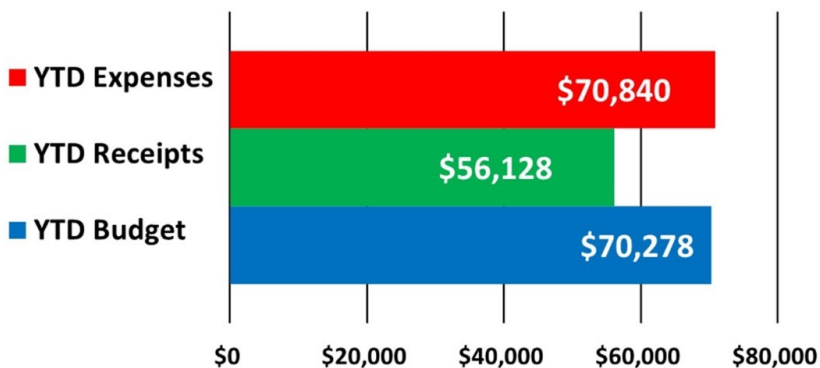
5:30 p.m.

RSVP to Laraine at
laraine@habchurch.com
or 904-396-7745, ext. 103,
each week by Monday.



We welcome **Logan Cooke**, who made his profession of faith in Jesus as Savior on Sunday, August 27, 2023. Stay tuned for more information about Logan in our next *Herald*.

Budget Year-to-Date at 09/22/2023





From the Church Mouse

Hi, sweet members of HAB! This is your lowly Church Mouse with “all the news you can use” from my mouse house in the church office. Things better pick up soon, or I will be out of a job! It’s simple to send me your news: just click on the link in Laraine’s weekly overview of church activities, or email churchmouse@habchurch.com.

Big news among our youth! **Aidan Chandler**, son of **Allison & Neil Chandler**, finished first place in the Junior Varsity 5000-meter run finals for **Bolles** at the Katie Caples Invitational! **Jonas Wilson**, son of **Melanie & Brad Wilson**, made the **Landon** Cross Country Team, and **Ramona Carter**, daughter of **Julie & Dennis Carter**, has been chosen to play the part of the Snow Queen in **Episcopal’s** production of *The Nutcracker*. Congratulations, Aidan, Jonas, and Ramona!

Ann & Bob Tomlin celebrated their **50th Anniversary** by cruising to **Hawai’i**. Their children also honored them with a church-wide reception on September 24, which was followed by a **Renewal of their vows** in the chapel. Congratulations, **Tomlins!**

Carolyn Hinckley and her friend celebrated Carolyn’s birthday at the **Ed Sheeran Concert** in Minneapolis recently. The tickets were a gift from her children. Carolyn really enjoyed this special treat!



On August 20, we were blessed to participate in the dedication of baby **Aleighna Michaela Abood**, daughter of **Nikki & Anthony Abood**. Aleighna’s

big brother is **Angelo**.

Last Wednesday I decided to check out our **Wednesday Night Suppers** in the fellowship hall. So when **Garry Andriesse** came into the office Wednesday, I jumped in his apron pocket and hitchhiked a ride over to the kitchen. The first thing I noticed was that the meals are being prepared by our own volunteer members like the Maszys and other church members used to do. I am delighted to let you know that the meals I was able to sample have been **outstanding!** Our own members are back cooking and serving under the direction of **Garry Andriesse**. Garry helps plan the menu, shops for the groceries, and sees that there are **HAB members** to cook and serve. He has the recipes that the Maszys used, thanks to **Sharon**, so cooking, I hear, is just easy-peasy—follow the 1, 2, 3. I decided to sneak around under the tables that night and see what was being said by those who came. The folks were raving about the food. There was **poppyseed chicken** one week with yummy **chocolate delight** for dessert, and **company chicken** another week that was delicious! It surely would be nice to have the large crowds we had before COVID to gather on Wednesday nights for excellent meals, activities for all ages, and great fellowship! Contact Laraine (laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 103) for reservations by Monday—I’ll bet you’ll be glad you did! By the way, if you would like to volunteer to cook or serve, Garry will welcome your participation!

That’s all I have overheard or seen for this month. I am sure I am missing out on some very worthy information. Just send any juicy tidbits and news to me so that we can get it in the next *Hendricks Herald* in November. I look forward to hearing your exciting news! So long for now.





Under Construction!

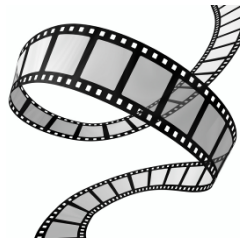
By Tommy Shapard, Minister of Music & Worship



Recently I had a conversation with a number of the youth who participate in our HAB Ringers and Singers. We talked about Sundays, both mornings and afternoons. We recounted how many gifted people we had in the room. And, we also shared how our schedules are so busy, and how sometimes sports, school, family, health, or just plain life pulls us in different directions on the weekends. After identifying these gifts and struggles, we brainstormed how we might faithfully continue contributing our many and varied creative gifts in our worship of God.

The current group of youth is amazing. They are singers, actors, dancers, painters, technicians, and one wonderful flute player! I'd argue one or two of them are even comedians. By the end of our discussion that Sunday afternoon, we decided to change our group name from the HAB Ringers and Singers to the HAB Worship Artists, redirecting our mission to something more flexible, varied, yet representative of the talents in our current youth group. We will meet from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Sundays, but sometimes our creative tasks may call for a smaller group to meet at 4:30 to practice lines, another group to gather on a weeknight to create artwork for Advent, or perhaps a larger group to join our adults in choir rehearsal one Wednesday night to combine forces on a song or two.

Look for us in December worship services. Until then, we will be hard at work!



Artist Lisa Lofton Evokes Florida's Vivid Past

By Nancy Felton, Art Ministry Team

Two-dimensional artist Lisa Lofton began painting and drawing as a youngster during her early Kentucky years. Her enthusiasm for Florida was sparked by childhood visits to grandparents. Enticed by vivid billboards and a dazzling state-line Welcome Center, Lisa fell under the spell of sunshine meeting water, orange groves, and magical tourist attractions.

Eventually Lisa relocated to Florida, studied architecture at the University of Florida, and then developed a career in computer technology, including a stint in graphic design. However, the focus of her professional life shifted dramatically in 2018 with a decision to create art full time. Lisa uses acrylic on canvas as her primary medium. "I do like to create mixed media pieces as well, combining ink, charcoal, and acrylic. My images are illustrative and vibrant. With a background in architecture and drafting, I have a fondness for old buildings and functional objects with history, with a story."

The exhibit in HAB's narthex gallery, opening in October, features iconic images of mid-century Florida, including both original paintings and signed prints. The artist's intention is to engage the viewer personally. "My bright, illustrative style invites an emotional connection to a time and place."



"My current series, *Vintage Florida*, was born out of a pandemic and the reminiscence of a carefree and joyful time of discovery in my life. [A diner placemat depiction of Florida was Lisa's specific inspiration for these images.] As a transplant in childhood, I saw the State of Florida as a wonderful adventure with so much to offer a visitor. Born in the 60's, many of my Florida pieces reflect memories of objects and places that have brought me a sense of happiness and peace. For me, painting is like reading a well-loved book, a vehicle for escapism when needed, and always a path to understanding myself and my surroundings.... I hope to revive fond memories for each viewer with my current series. Welcome to Florida and a Sunshine State of Mind!"

To find out more, go to lisaftonart.com



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VISIT habchurch.com
for more information.

As we travel throughout the year, let's remember that the work of HAB will continue. Please take advantage of online giving to continue supporting our ministries. Or, **before you go, set up a recurring gift** so that you won't have to remember! It's easy!

Go to bit.ly/HABGiving or scan this QR code—



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