

Happy
Thanksgiving

A Great Story of Generosity

By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

Friends,

Each month, when it comes time to write a *Herald* article, I have to decide what aspect of HAB's life I want to highlight for y'all. Sometimes that can be a difficult decision—*Which mission? Which ministry? Which aspect of our life together?*—but this month, it isn't hard at all. That's because, this month, I want to tell you all a story.

Earlier this year, an individual in the church reached out and said that she wanted to talk, so we scheduled a meeting, and she came to the church. When we sat down, she told me that she was already a regular contributor to HAB but that she'd just come into some unexpected funds and had decided to

donate a tithe, a tenth of it, to HAB on top of her regular giving.

Immediately, I thanked her for her generosity as a consistent giver and also for this extra gift on top of that, and I told her that I'd be happy to help her figure this out. She said that, because of her and her family's long involvement at HAB, there were three areas that she wanted to focus on, but within those areas she wanted some guidance. First, she wanted her gift to support Chelsea's work with the children's ministry. Second, she wanted to help Britt out with the youth. And third, she wanted a portion of her gift to support one of our church's mission partners. After some emails and a few more conversations, I'm very excited to let y'all know what was decided.

First, this gift will make all of Chelsea's outside activities free for children and their families for the rest of the year! After talking with Chelsea and hearing about the exciting plans she has for our HAB Kids ministry, she told me that she really wants to focus on developing community, within both children and young families at HAB, and also that she really wants to encourage folks to invite their friends to her ministry's events. However, as a mom, finances are always in the back of her mind because she knows what it feels like to be overwhelmed by the costs of extra-curricular activities for her own children. Therefore, this is how she's decided to use her funds: For the rest of the year, all outside children's activities will be totally and completely free, so young families don't need to be concerned about their expenses, and they have every reason to invite their friends to come take part in these events, too! This will allow this busy, over-stretched part of our church's community to come together, get to know one another better, and not have to worry about deciding whether it's worth one more "charge" on their credit cards!

Secondly, this gift will allow our youth group to go on a mission weekend next spring for a *significantly* reduced cost! Since the pandemic, Britt has had the youth group's mission work focused on local partners and areas of need here in Jacksonville. Some of this has been strategic—it's important for young people to get to know their community and serve their neighbors who are close at hand—but, at the same time, some of this has been needed. Passport, the summer camp that HAB's youth have been going to for years and years now, is increasingly expensive, and Britt didn't feel right asking families (especially families with sibling sets, like many of ours) to pay for two expensive trips every year. This year, however, because of this family's generosity, he's going to be able to take the youth group to rural South Carolina next February to work with Together for Hope... and it's just about all paid for! This trip will be an extraordinary opportunity for our youth group, and this is a great gift to their families and their friends' families!

Finally, \$3,000 of the donated funds will be going to our community partner, UCOM. As I noted above, this woman wanted to support one of our community partners, and we settled on UCOM because of its important work in our part of the city. Now, some of you are likely wondering, "Why didn't she just give the money straight to UCOM? Why run it through HAB?" It's a fair question, but there's actually a good reason. First, this woman wanted to tithe this gift to her church, as an act not just of gratitude but also of devotion to God. Secondly, however, she recognized that her appreciation for UCOM's work was tied into her Christian faith *and therefore also tied into her life at HAB*. In other words, it was important to her that this was a part of our congregation's communal support of this ministry. UCOM will still get 100% of the money (and, yes, she'll still get the same tax write-off for the donation), but what this action signals is that—more so than we do as individuals—we love our neighbors and support our partners *as a church family*. To be honest, a part of me wishes that more of us would do this. It would be a little more

paperwork for Darrell (sorry, Darrell 😊), but it would better reflect our church's *actual* generosity towards our neighbors.

So that's my story. Isn't it great!? To the family who gave this gift: *Thank You So Much!* The good that this gift will accomplish will ripple out in ways that none of us can anticipate. And to everyone else: Know that the giver of this gift has asked to remain anonymous. But all that means is that it really could be anyone: The person who sits next to you in worship, or serves with you on a team, or breaks bread with you on Wednesday nights.

And who knows...the next time a gift like this is given, it might even be you!

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
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



Different Gifts, Same Spirit

By Britt Hester, Associate Pastor for Youth

I want to thank everyone who helped with our Fall Festival this year. Every year it is a team effort, but that has never been more evident than this year. With most of our staff now part-time, the need for volunteers is evident in all facets of our life together. Yet, as is usually the case at HAB, our members stepped up and helped make this a successful event.

It speaks volumes about this congregation's ability to show up and serve in unique ways. It may not seem like a big deal, but the truth is we all have time constraints and personal responsibilities that *could* prevent us from being present. But time and time again when something is needed, members of this family of faith emerge to make sure our community feels loved.

Truly, thank you for volunteering your time, talent, and treasure. We could not put on these events without you, and certainly we could not offer the quality of programs were it not for your creative gifts and servant hearts. I am reminded of Paul's words to the Corinthians when he wrote, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

God is at work in us when we share our collective gifts for a greater cause. While Fall Festival is a fun event, it is

ultimately about community and fellowship. It is about celebrating our shared life together and reminding ourselves that we belong to one another. In a world that is ever polarizing, gatherings such as these should not be taken for granted.

Perhaps Saturday's gathering will summon us to faithfully share the good news of our faith regarding God's reconciling love for the world that invites *all* people to join the party of grace. And the best way to do that is remembering Pastor B.J.'s sermon from a few weeks ago where he quoted St. Francis of Assisi's call to "preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary, use words." Thank you for preaching the Gospel with your lives and service. Let's keep it going together!



We welcomed Dr. Daniel Vestal to HAB on Sunday, October 1. Dr. Vestal preached in both worship services and then led a conversation on his memoir, This Treasure Within.



Stand Firm!

*By Chelsea Weise, Interim Director
of Children & Community Life*

We are armed and ready to stand firm! HAB Kids have had so much fun dressing up every Wednesday night to highlight some type of a themed lesson. We were cows, our parents, a superhero, and ended the month with a mismatched fashion show. We learned how to stand firm in our faith, obey our parents, and so much more. Thank you for sharing your kids with me on Wednesday nights!



November brings "All Things Thankful!" We will pack lunches for our homeless community and even have a thankful "Minute to Win It" game night! I am so thankful for all your kids! They are a true blessing to me.

I am excited to celebrate the Advent season with you as well! We hope to have the kids participate in our annual Christmas Eve service. If you will be in town, **please email me at children@habchurch.com so we can coordinate and have your precious children as part of our service.**

As always, I am in prayer for all of the families and look forward to see where the Lord brings us!

Have a blessed and thankful November!
Chelsea



Our Fall Festival on October 21 was fantastic, with a Home Run Derby, Trunk or Treat, bounce houses, a train, and more, including a concert on the lawn that evening featuring The Riverside band. Look for more pictures throughout this issue of the Herald.



Take 7

Growing up in church I was always told "prayer is important" and "pray without ceasing!" This is a great thing to say, but it is even more important to do. As I have gotten older, I have realized the true importance of prayer. A prayer can be something said in private, in a group, or even at a stop light. There is no wrong way to pray. We have a God who listens when things are bad, when things are good, and when we do not know what to pray.

With prayer on my mind, I was led to start a virtual prayer group. We all have busy schedules, but I thought if we took seven minutes a week and all stopped and prayed at the same time (no matter where we are), we could be together in spirit.

Starting on Tuesday, November 7, at 8:00 p.m., I invite all ladies to join me in 7 minutes of prayer. This prayer can be in your closet, it can be in your car, it can be anywhere. Just take seven minutes to join other ladies to stop and lift a prayer to our Lord. **Email me at children@habchurch.com to be added onto GroupMe.** GroupMe is an app where we can connect together as a group. I will send an update before we all begin together in prayer from wherever we may be.

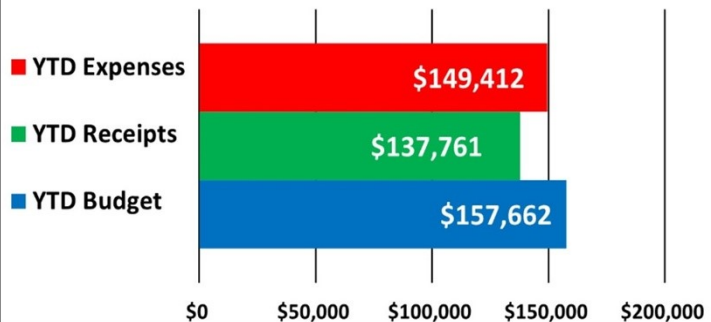
I hope that we can grow closer to our God and each other through this short time every week. Many of us have kid schedules, work events, or classes that we are taking, and then, when we actually have downtime, we want to be in our pj's at home. So, I thought this could be something we can do in our pj's and not have to go anywhere!

I look forward to sharing this time with you!
Chelsea

Blessing of the Animals & Fall Festival



Budget Year-to-Date at 10/20/2023



Thanksgiving Meal

Sunday, November 19
12:15 p.m.

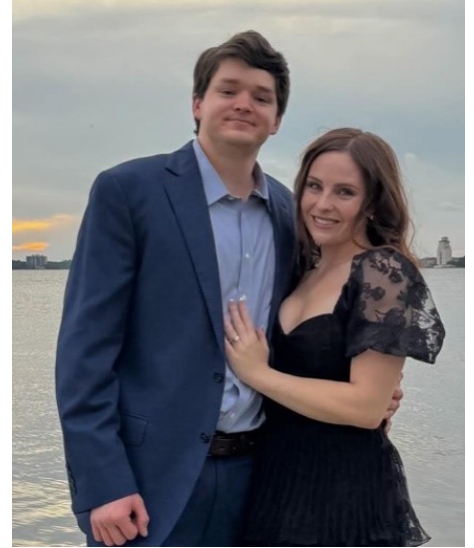
Reservations by Wednesday,
November 15 at 904-396-7745, ext. 103
or laraine@habchurch.com



From the Church Mouse

Hi there, HAB friends! It's your observant Church Mouse with more news you need to know. HAB members and family have been much more active this past month, and I have LOTS to share with you!

I recently learned that **Julia Cuthbertson** is engaged! The lucky gentleman is **Noah Short**. Julia received her degree last year from Florida State University. Congratulations, Julia!



Susan Howell, Debbie Hagan, and Karl Kronquist traveled to the **University of Florida** to hear **Caden Gackle**, Susan and Debbie's nephew, Karl's grandson, perform in the University of Florida orchestra. Caden plays the cello. Caden's parents are **Kay Kronquist Gackle & Greg Gackle**. That was one proud family!



John Roton

made an enjoyable trip to **Japan** this month. Some of you may have seen some of his great pictures on Facebook.



Hannah Reese

is back in Jacksonville and working for The Blue Zones Project as a project



MEET HANNAH

Project Manager

manager. This national organization's mission is "Empowering everyone, everywhere to live better longer." Hannah recently received her Master of Public Health from Brown University. Meanwhile, our former pastor, Hannah's father, **Dr. Kyle Reese**, has accepted a call to be pastor at First Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia.

On October 5, **Carolyn Hinckley** was awarded The Lifetime Achievement Award for over 4,000 hours of service at Volunteers in Medicine's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. That's a whopping lot of hours, folks!

And **Mark Scott** has been selected as the 2024 Recipient of the Florida Music Educators Association Hall of Fame Award. This award was

presented to Mark by FMEA President, Jason Locker. Way to go, Mark!

Joyce Hanson was in the office recently to tell the staff that, in an unprecedented and unfortunate case of illnesses, **Joyce, Debbie Crumb, and Julie Babcock** became the FIRST ALL-WOMEN team in the 20+ years that HAB has been cooking and serving for Sulzbacher



(continued on next page)

(Church Mouse, continued)



Center for the Homeless. Sulzbacher serves 250+ residents and homeless each evening. A team from HAB prepares the meal and serves at Sulzbacher once a month.

Eleanor Rogers faithfully visits and takes care of HAB's homebound folks. Recently she delivered fall goodies. Wow! These treats look amazing! We're grateful for everything Eleanor does in ministry at our church.

You may remember **Co'Relous Bryant**, who left HAB to go to McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University. He recently became senior pastor at The United Church of Lincoln, Vermont. Well, I heard through that proverbial grapevine that Co'Relous now has a roommate. He has adopted a nine-week-old red standard poodle named C.J. Bryant. Co'Relous is madly in love with his new little boy!

Until next month, buh-bye from your faithful church mouse!



Congratulations to Tommy Shapard on his 15th anniversary at HAB!



Everyone here at HAB loves Tommy Shapard! A talented musician and thoughtful worship planner with a big heart and great sense of humor—what's not to love? Thank you, Tommy, for sharing your many gifts with us for the past 15 years!





Sympathy to...

...Brenda & Mark Scott in the death of Bob Vostrejs on Friday, September 22, 2023. Bob was the husband of Brenda's sister, Denise.

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

...Carle & Nancy Felton in the death of Carle's mother, Sara Ellis James, on October 3, 2023. She was only 11 days away from her 100th birthday. Her service and interment were October 8 at First Baptist Church of Baxley, Georgia.

...Denise Thomas in the death of her father, Benjamin Carpenter, on September 29, 2023. His service was Friday, October 6, at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

...the family and friends of Jack Williams, who died October 10, 2023. The memorial service was in our sanctuary on October 19 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

Thank you...

Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, cards, and other expressions of concern during my recent illness and surgery. You are a very caring congregation, and I am grateful to be able to call you "family." Love, Judy Baggett

Thank you so much for the prayers and cards. It made me feel homesick. I miss you all. I'm doing better and will be doing rehab until 10-20-2023. God bless you.—Al Rogers

I have been remiss in thanking HAB friends for your prayers and concerns for our son Tommy who has been going through bladder cancer treatments for several months. He finished chemotherapy, and the bladder, lungs, and liver are clear. However, a PET scan revealed cancer cells in the lymph nodes in the pelvic area. He will undergo surgery on October 20. We are grateful to God and friends for your prayers and ask you to continue remembering our family. On another note Jim is doing well—his personality has not changed; however, the dementia continues to take his memory. I am taking care of him in our apartment. Our oldest son comes every week and is only 30 minutes away so we are blessed. I wanted to be sure to let the staff and HAB know how grateful we are for your support. Blessings, Etta Booros



by Margaret Douglass, New Members Team

We welcome **Cindy Marling** as HAB's newest member. She officially joined us on October 8, 2023. Cindy is another of Alyson Lee's friends, and she has found HAB a good fit. Her previous memberships were in non-denominational churches. She lived in Jacksonville most of her early life, with Virginia as her home before returning to Jacksonville in 2011. Cindy was blessed with two children and three grandchildren. Sadly, she lost her son when he was 25 years young.

Cindy is office manager for Dr. Louis Akra. She enjoys walking and other forms of exercise. She is looking forward to learning pickleball.

In the past, Cindy was a facilitator for a survivors of suicide support group. Unfortunately, the group did not survive the effects of COVID. Cindy is interested in the formation of another survivors of suicide support group.

Please welcome Cindy when you see her!



Welcome to new member Logan Cooke, who joined HAB on August 27, 2023, and will be baptized soon. Logan was dedicated at the church and has now professed his faith in Jesus Christ!

Logan is nine years old and is in fourth grade at Pine Forest School of the Arts. He is the son of Sarah & Brian Cooke and the grandson of Suzanne Jenkins.

Logan enjoys playing the piano, acting in school productions, playing video games, and swimming. He is also active with his two-year-old twin brothers, Salem and Dean!

We hope you will welcome Logan and say "Hello."



Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church
4001 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6321
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 2725

ADDRESS LABEL HERE

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—



IN THIS ISSUE:

A Great Story of Generosity

Spread the Light!

Daniel Vestal Visit

Children's Ministry

Take 7

Church Mouse

Tommy Shapard 15-Year Anniversary!

News of the Church Family

New Members

Blessing of the Animals

Thanksgiving Meal