

Hendricks Herald

HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2025

Saying Goodbye to One of Our Family

By Anita Snell Daniels

My Army/Navy hymnal includes four full pages of precise instructions for the rituals of a Navy military funeral. Although majestic with ritual, I wasn't quite prepared for it at President Carter's funeral. You see, those trappings were not Jimmy Carter's usual setting—he was just a regular guy. Jack and I knew the Carters for many years, but our relationship was nothing unusual—they were open, approachable, comfortable folk in their relationships with everyone.

We first met Jimmy in 1969 when I was asked to sing at an event where he was speaking in his campaign for governor of Georgia. During his time serving as governor, we were privileged to be with the Carters on several occasions as Jack and Jimmy would be asked to help with events in the Newnan/Atlanta area. We spent a day at the opening of Power's Crossroads Art Festival in 1971. Jimmy was very encouraging to Jack as a young pastor, and a lasting friendship was formed. Through the years we stayed in touch through Habitat for Humanity and various trips to Plains with HAB folk.

We all paid attention to the continuing work that was being established through the Carter Center. The work was always for the betterment of humanity, but we saw the calling of Jesus Christ in the manner it was taking place. As a Baptist, Jimmy felt called to share the message of God's love, and he and Rosalynn chose action to share God's presence with the world.

When the wide spectrum of work of the Southern Baptist Convention imploded between the 80s and 90s, there was a call to form a new fellowship of Baptists. HAB sent a group of leaders to this first meeting in Atlanta. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) was formed, and Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter cast their lot with us as CBF Baptists. Since that time, they have been very supportive of The Fellowship.

Jack and I left HAB in 2000 to work with The Fellowship in Asia, developing partnerships to strengthen the work of Christians there. Our specific job, that held our visa in Singapore, was to help further train Baptist graduate students so that they would have the credentials and accreditation to train their own women and men to lead in their own culture. Yes, Jimmy Carter played a role in this area, too. I helped form delegations throughout Asia to visit our churches and institutions. President Carter helped by meeting large groups at the Carter Center and having me bring individuals to meet him in Plains. He was always an encourager. Throughout Jack's illness, Jack and I received a weekly letter from the Carters offering their prayers of encouragement.

As we watched all the pageantry and political swirls of the Carter funeral, the message was clear: Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly, and treat your neighbor as yourself.

Let us live out God's love!

We will miss you, brother—you were one of our family!



YOUTH ministry



children's ministry



Britt Hester, Associate Pastor for Youth



Chelsea Weise, Director of Children & Community Life



January 12 was Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Our youth and children worked together to create door hangings of blue ribbons, which were hung on the doors to the sanctuary. The blue streamers were intended to remind us of the water of our baptisms.

Chelsea and Britt talked to the kids about the importance of accepting Christ as Savior and how baptism is an outward expression of their inward commitment.

Coincidentally, this was also the Sunday of our pulpit exchange with the Temple, and Rabbi Maya Glasser preached on the Scripture, "When you walk through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:2).





Senior Adult Luncheon

"You Gotta Have Heart"

Sunday, February 23, 12:15 p.m.

Reservations are required by February 19 to 904-396-7745, ext. 103 or laraine@habchurch.com. If you're able, a \$15 donation is appreciated.

News of the Church Family



Sympathy to...

...Becky Sullivan in the death of her brother-in-law, Dr. William Curtright, in Mobile.



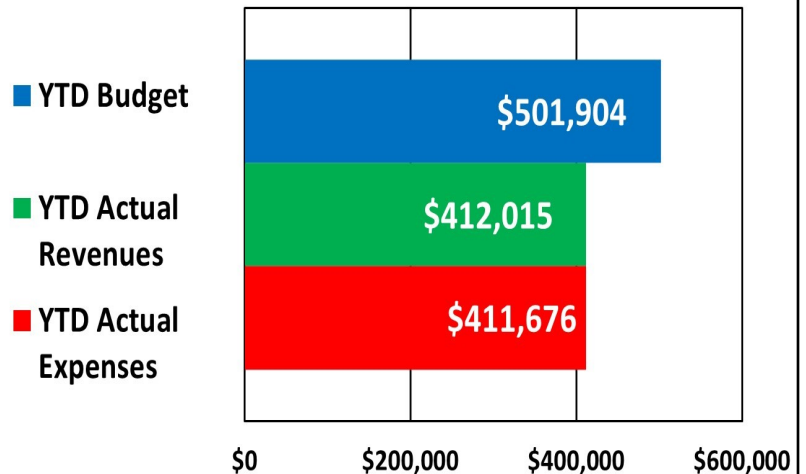
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YTD Financial Update as of 01/17/2025

Fiscal year September 2024 - August 2025





Community Engagement

dynamic guest speaker in November, several very talented choral groups throughout the Christmas season, and a very special Christmas Eve service.

Congratulations to B.J. for inviting sports journalist, author, and podcaster, Jason Kirk, for a discussion on his book,

God continues to work in and through our congregation as we welcomed our local community to join us for an evening with a



Hell Is a World Without You. HAB welcomed members and visitors from our community on Sunday evening, November 24, for a discussion led by Mr. Kirk. This opportunity was the first of what we hope will be many for our congregation and community visitors to join together and hear from talented guest speakers and authors.

Our Christmas season was enhanced and blessed by the performances of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts choirs, UNF choirs, and the Jacksonville Children's Chorus. A very special thank you to the HAB staff and members that brought these very special performances to our beautiful sanctuary for all to enjoy!

Our beautiful Christmas Eve service was attended by members and visitors alike and was a joyous experience for all. Thank you to our musicians—Tommy, our wonderful Sanctuary Choir, organist Andy

Clarke, pianist Laraine Humbert; our lectors and children; and B.J., Britt, and Chelsea. Each of you are a blessing each and every week, season after season to our congregation and visitors. Thank you!!

2025 rang in with a marvelous blessing! The Pulpit Swap with the Temple took place on Friday, January 10, with B.J. preaching the message for the Temple congregation, and on Sunday, January 12, we were blessed to host Rabbi Maya Glasser at HAB. This was a wonderful time of friendship and fellowship for all that were able to attend the services. A very special thank you to Carolyn Hinckley, Becky Sullivan, and others for the lovely reception for our Temple friends on Sunday following the service.





Mission Updates: Next Step Ministry

by Debbie Crumb, Mission Team Leader

The Next Step Ministry at HAB was formed in 2019 by a group including Caroline and Lee Welkley, Debbie Hagan, and Rev. Kyle Reese.

Since its formation, this ministry has provided our neighbors assistance with obtaining SSI disability benefits, SNAP renewal (food stamps), HUD housing/rental assistance, Veterans' Benefits, and addressing immigration issues. It has also helped individuals with more direct assistance as well. For example, this past Christmas, the Next Step Ministry was able to provide several Walmart gift cards (\$50 each) to help our neighbors in need. These neighbors included a 62-year-old partially disabled woman with a mentally challenged teenage son; an immigrant family, with two young children, who was facing ICE and immigration issues; a young, single mom (with an infant son) working at a low-paying job (but grateful to have found a job after much searching!); a woman who was totally disabled and has great difficulty just moving around for necessary healthcare; and a single mom with ten-year-old and four-year-old boys. This is just a tiny, recent glimpse into the good work that this ministry has accomplished over the years.

Since the pandemic, **Caroline Welkley** has been the point person for the ministry. It is with sadness (for us) and joy (for her), that we report that Caroline Welkley will soon be relocating to Dowling Park, Florida, to pursue her next phase of life.



During this transition period without Caroline, HAB plans to continue to identify individuals that may benefit from extra help (in addition to a bagged lunch) and help those individuals reach out to UCOM and/or the Urban Rest Stop bus from Sulzbacher for further assistance.

We want to thank Caroline for the passion, love, and hard work that she consistently demonstrates in the mission of providing a helping hand with the "next step" for our neighbors. She has truly been the hands of Christ in the lives of these people!

Medical Debt Relief Update

The total amount that HAB raised to forgive our neighbors' medical debts was \$21,498.27. We will hear soon from Undue Medical Debt just how much debt we were able to forgive with that amount. Stay tuned!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS ARE GREAT!



You're invited to join us each Wednesday for a wonderful meal (that you don't have to cook!) and great fellowship. Please make reservations by Monday each week by contacting Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 103. Adults are \$12, children \$8, and immediate family maximum \$30. Children's menu is chicken nuggets and fries. Please specify adult or children's meal when making reservations. If you'd like a permanent reservation, let us know; then we'd just ask you to cancel on weeks when you can't be there. Meal is served beginning at 5:15 p.m.

February 5

Joharen's special chicken
Red rice
Other sides TBD
Cook: Sharon Maszy

February 19

Fried chicken
Mashed potatoes
Italian green beans
Banana pudding

February 12

Baked ham
Sides TBD
Cooks: Janis & Steve Price

February 26

Roast pork loin w/gravy
Baked apples
Mashed potatoes
Broccoli
Chocolate cherry cake

All meals include a dinner roll and salad, plus tea, peach tea, lemonade, coffee, or water.



From the Church Mouse

Good day, fellow HAB members! This is your lowly Church Mouse with another edition of “What’s everybody been up to?” My mailbox runneth over with news from our church family, I am happy to report. We have all been busy with comings and goings that you might not have heard about. Soooo, here’s the latest news!

Anna & Kevin Valent and children, **Riley, Sawyer,** and **Mary Parker**, were able to take an unforgettable trip to Peru over Christmas break. While in Lima, they visited Museo Larco (private collection of Peruvian, pre-Columbian art) and the Husca Pucllana Incan pyramid. They



then traveled to Cusco where they spent several days in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, visiting Incan sites at Ollantaytambo and Moray, the Maras salt mines, and learning about local farming and Andean agriculture from the Huayllafara community in Lamay. The pinnacle of the trip was taking the Hiram Bingham train to visit Machu Picchu. This most famous Incan site is absolutely spectacular, providing breathtaking views from its perched elevation in the Peruvian Andes.

Melanie & Brad Wilson and sons, **Henry** and **Jonas**, also recently visited Peru, where, among other things, they climbed Rainbow Mountain, 16,522 feet above sea level. Melanie says, “Four-hour hike, seven kilometers. Started in the snow, but shed layers. We could only see about half of the rainbow because of the snow, but still incredible. It was tough!!! We have been drinking coca tea to help with the altitude for days. Inhaled spritzed agua de Florida herbs to vasodilate the lungs and help with headaches. So proud we made it up!! Not going to lie, it was very hard; the altitude was rough for us Floridians.” Seems like Peru is a popular vacation spot this year.

In other news, **Anna Mayo**, daughter of **Jennifer & Michael Mayo**, is a production assistant for the *Tamron Hall Show* on ABC. She is living in New York City. Way to go, Anna!

Chelsea Weise is pursuing a dual degree—Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work—with Western Theological Seminary’s online program. Please pray for Chelsea as she expands her skills to better serve the Lord and HAB!

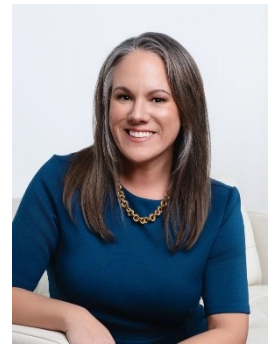


Lacy Mahon, daughter of **Mark Mahon** and granddaughter of **Nancy Mahon**, married **Andrew Mabry** at HAB on December 28, 2024. Dr. B.J. Hutto performed the ceremony.

And MORE news! **Dr. Karla Kronquist Repper** opened her own private psychology practice in Jacksonville in January. Congratulations, Karla!



HAB is proud to partner with **Sulzbacher’s Urban Rest Stop** bus, which parks on our campus once a month to help our neighbors with such things as housing assessments, social security, food stamps, personal ID cards, and other resources.



FSU grad and fireman EMT, **Ryker Jett**, son of **Genni Jett**, recently joined the Nassau County Fire Department. Congratulations, Ryker!

Our annual pulpit exchange with Congregation Ahavath Chesed was well attended and well received. Our own **Dr. B.J. Hutto** was guest minister at the Temple that Friday night, and **Rabbi Maya Glasser** gave the sermon here at HAB that Sunday. Our wonderful organist, **Andy Clarke**, incorporated traditional Hebrew music into the Sunday service. He almost had us dancing in the aisles with “Hava Nagilah.” I, your lowly church mouse, tried real hard to find a yarmulke for the service but couldn’t find one small enough! Maybe by next year someone will crochet one to fit me.

That’s all for now! Let me know of your many accomplishments by sending me an email at churchmouse@habchurch.com. So long!





Enduring Jacksonville: The Ghosts and Enduring Icons of Jacksonville



Our next art exhibit, beginning January 29, features the works of **Lisa Lofton**. About this exhibit, Lisa says, “From the movie palaces to our favorite eateries, Jacksonville’s cityscape is as fluid as the river that flows along its banks and the ocean that washes on its sandy shore. With the recent closure of the San Marco Theatre and the Sun-Ray Cinema in Five Points, celebrating our love for and the individuality of such places is more important than ever. We also want to celebrate the enduring icons of Jacksonville and our First Coast. I hope to inspire viewers to recall, relive, and relate stories about their experiences in some of these landmarks that we cherish and those that have disappeared.”

Lisa Lofton is serving as the President of the Jacksonville Artists Guild and the Immediate Past President of The Art Center Cooperative, Inc.

Lisa has developed a distinctive style as a 2-D artist, primarily working with acrylics on canvas. Her artwork reflects her love for Jacksonville and Florida, drawing inspiration from the region’s architecture, people, landscapes, and industries. Lisa’s bright and illustrative style fosters emotional connections to specific times and places, effectively capturing the essence of her surroundings.

Lisa’s work has garnered recognition, as evidenced by features in the Jacksonville *Historic Life Magazine* and her selection to exhibit at Jacksonville City Hall. Through her art, she continues to celebrate the beauty of her community, enriching the cultural landscape of Jacksonville.

Lisa’s commissioned works include many local businesses and institutions, such as MOSH, the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus, and Vystar. For more information, visit her website lialoftonart.com.



Art Reception: Meet the Artist
Wednesday, February 12
6:15-7:00 p.m. in the narthex

Marsha Hatcher, One of Our Previous Art Gallery Exhibitors, Receives Award

Marsha Hatcher, a multidisciplinary visual artist who has exhibited her work and helped to build a more vibrant arts community in Northeast Florida for three decades, has been honored with the 2024 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award.

Marsha has traveled the world, and her art captures these diverse experiences. She has mastered several artistic media including oils, acrylic, wood and metal. She has exhibited her work in the Ritz Theatre & Museum, the Beaches Museum and History Park, Yellow House, and the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, among many others. She learned of the award in the fall at a surprise announcement at the office of The Community Foundation.

“I was elated, I was happy, I was thrilled,” said Hatcher. “My first thought was, ‘Why me?’ I realize I do things for the community that I think are required. If you’re part of the community, you know you have your roles in the community, so I do what I can to lift it up.”

This year, the award provides a \$20,000 unrestricted grant, the largest of its kind in the region. It is bestowed annually in recognition of a gifted local artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida.





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Thomas M. Shapard, D.P.M., Associate Pastor for Music & Worship • **Britt Hester**, M.Div., Associate Pastor for Youth
Chelsea Weise, B.C.E., 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