



## What Are We Doing Here?

By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

Friends,

From time to time, the modern world can make the Church seem superfluous. Who needs sanctuary choirs in the age of Spotify? Why bother with preachers when there are a-thousand-and-one podcasts? Why come to church to touch base with folks when you can keep track of their lives through Facebook and Instagram? The reality is that, in a digital age, churches can feel awfully analog....

But then, a few weeks ago, I had a conversation with someone here at HAB who was wrestling with questions that Google simply couldn't answer: *Why am I here, and what is my purpose? How can God forgive me when I keep doing the same things over and over again, even after I know they're wrong and harmful, and I've asked for forgiveness, but I keep doing them anyway? Can I actually \*be\* forgiven for what I've done? What if I can't forgive myself?*

All of y'all know this person. She's sitting in the pews every week right next to you, or right behind you. Heck, she might even be you. But the point is, even if this wasn't you this time, we all eventually find ourselves wrestling with these same kinds of questions. In fact, it's almost a guaranteed lock that each and every person reading this article has gone around and around with these questions at least once in life.

And that's because these kinds of struggles are universal. It's Martin Luther, reflecting back on his youth, admitting that he didn't love God as a young priest. In fact, he hated God, he says, because he kept trying and failing to be a perfect Christian, and he hated the guilt he felt. It's St. Augustine confessing that every time he would pray out loud, "Lord, make me chaste," something in him would quietly add, *"but please don't do it quite yet!"* It's each of us, struggling to live within a world that is beautiful but broken and recognizing that same brokenness in ourselves and our loved ones, too. And it doesn't matter how modern our world might be; these ancient questions aren't going anywhere anytime soon.

My friends, summertime is officially upon us. And as summer moves along, our social media feeds and our conversations with friends and neighbors will be filled with wonderful stories and beautiful images. Vacations to faraway places. Photos of happy, smiling families. And I'm not going to say that those stories and those photos aren't true, but I will say that they're at least incomplete. They don't tell the whole story, because the whole story isn't so simple, and it is rarely so beautiful. Life is messy and hard; you all know this. But what can be so easy to miss these days is that life is messy and hard for everyone, not just for you, and behind the smiling faces—and beyond the beautiful vacation spots—of your neighbors, there are real struggles. Everyone is fighting some great battle in life.

So: *Take heart!* Know that, whatever great battle you're fighting, you are neither the first one to fight it nor the only one in your community currently doing so. Know that, whatever it is, it is not bigger than God's love, and know that if you ever need reminding of that fact—*literally, the greatest, truest fact in the history of the world*—your family here at HAB is ready to be there for you. Because, as it turns out, that's what we're doing here: We're telling you that God loves you. We're telling you that God loves your neighbors. We're telling you the truth, and the truth these days—the actual, unvarnished truth—can be a rare commodity.

Kindest regards,  
B.J.

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

HAB family,

I am humbled and excited to share with you that I have accepted the position of Area Director for YoungLives, Jacksonville. YoungLives exists for expectant and parenting adolescents to grow in faith, grow in life, and grow in leadership.



As many of you know, our daughter, Maddie, is a rising sophomore at Stetson University. While there, she has gotten plugged in with YoungLife. Not knowing a lot about the organization, I decided to visit their website, where I found YoungLives, their ministry for teenage mothers. There was an opening for Area Director in Jacksonville, so I applied. After many conversations with those whom I value and trust, I decided to accept the position.

Most of you know my and Justin's story. Getting pregnant with Maddie as a teenager felt devastating. I was judged by many and shunned by those I thought were closest to me. Fast forward, and I now have the opportunity to minister to and mentor young women in situations very similar to mine.

I feel that my story has now come full circle. My experience having Maddie as a teenager has helped shape who I am. The Lord brought Maddie into YoungLife, which has introduced me to YoungLives and this opportunity to help give hope to these young women. The Lord works in mysterious ways, and I must follow his lead.

Please know that I am staying on as Children's Director at HAB. I will even continue to work out of the HAB office suite, just in a different office. I have absolutely loved this opportunity to minister to the kids and the congregation more broadly. I ask that you join me in prayer as I begin this new journey. I ask that you also pray about volunteering and helping me in different areas with my new ministry. There are so many ways to get plugged in. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Much love,  
Chelsea Weise

*See article from Little Friends board on page 6.*

*"Summer is like childhood; full of warm memories and gone too soon."—Kellie Elmore*

One of my favorite summer memories was when we took a cross-country road trip from Jacksonville to Spokane, Washington, and then came back. The sights we saw were incredible, and many took my breath away. When it was time to turn around and head home, the kids begged us to fly back. We told them we had more sights to see and more time to be together. Suck it up and look out the window!

If you were to ask them today, they would tell you that they would like to do this trip again now that they are older. The experience would be different. The intentional time spent together would be different.

Intentional time spent together is something I pray we all do this summer. Take a moment and go for a walk. Watch a sunrise or sunset. Choose something you have always wanted to do and do it!

Take time to be silent. Be in the moment. See what the Lord wants to reveal to you, AND teach your kids how to do this. Even in moments of silence we begin to understand that we are never absent from God.

As each year seems to get shorter, stop and take moments to create sweet memories with your children. We have some exciting things happening this summer, and I am looking forward to spending time with your kids. Check out our summer calendar! I hope the kids can invite friends and join us in summer fun!

As always, you are in my thoughts, and please let me know if you need anything!—Chelsea

**Summer 2024  
Upcoming  
Events**

**14 JUNE**  
**INSIDE OUT 2**  
Join us as we watch Inside Out 2 at Sunray Cinema (more details to come). All are welcome!

**1 JULY**  
**V PIZZA-MAKING PARTY**  
Reservations are needed no later than June 21. \$20 per child. Space is limited so let me know! Starts at 4:30 p.m. Adults welcome!

**20 JULY**  
**SPLATTER PAINT**  
A fun time to get messy while we paint a masterpiece! \$30 per participant. RSVP needed! Starts at 1 p.m.!

**21 JULY**  
**BEACH AFTER CHURCH**  
Bring your beach gear to church and then we will head to the beach for an afternoon of splash and fun! Bring your sunscreen!

**2 AUGUST**  
**POOL PARTY/FALL KICKOFF**  
Join us at the England home for food, fun, and a pool party! I will hand out the fall calendar and answer any questions you may have!

**SAVE THE DATES!**

Please join us on the Remind app. Use code <http://www.remind.com/join/habkid>

**904-610-3443**





### Sympathy to...

...Mary Nell McCoy in the death of her husband Gary. Gary died Thursday, May 9, 2024. The memorial service was Thursday, May 30, in our sanctuary.

...the family and friends of Sylvia Hoskins, who died Saturday, May 4, 2024. There may be an inurnment in July.

...Dot & Ralph Chambers in the death of Dot's sister, Beverly Barry, on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. The graveside service was Thursday, April 25, at the National Cemetery.

### Congratulations to...

...Joyce Hanson, whose great-granddaughter, Callie Joy Closson, was born on May 17, 2024. Proud parents are Mackenzie & Hunter Closson. Callie's grandparents are Jennifer & Scott Closson.

### Thank You...

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits during Sandra's stay in the hospital and rehab.—Sandra Hurst and Judy Baggett

I am grateful to all the HAB friends who have prayed for me and sent cards. Each one is much appreciated.—Yvonne Weinstein



**Ryan Chandler** made his profession of faith on May 5, 2024, and will be baptized soon. Ryan first came to HAB through the baseball program. After spending a couple of years on the baseball fields, he began attending children's ministry activities and then worship services with his family. His parents are Neil and Allison, and he has an older brother, Aidan.

Ryan is now in middle school, and he loves being a part of the HAB youth group. His favorite things about HAB are the great people and everything he gets to do with the youth group. In particular, he's excited about Passport Camp.

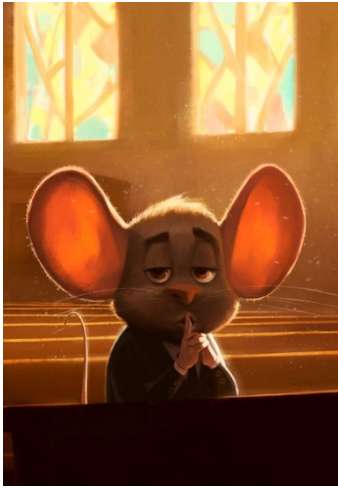
These days Ryan's favorite sport is soccer, and he wants to play on the school team this year. His favorite subjects in school are geography and science.

Welcome, Ryan!

We welcome **Jackson (Jack) Trimble** to the HAB family! Jack came to Hendricks through his friend, Jonathan Yost, and has become a part of Jon Yost's men's Bible study class ("That Class"). Before HAB, Jack had no experience with church. He recently made his profession of faith and will be baptized at the end of May.

Following graduation from high school, Jack attended trade school for automotive technology. Although he enjoyed the work for a period of time, he did not find it to be fulfilling. After trying several different jobs, he decided to join the military. He appreciates the structure of a military lifestyle and has great respect for veterans he has met. Both these factors played a part in his decision to enlist.

Welcome, Jack. Your faith will serve you well as you step into a new life, serving your country.



## From the Church Mouse

Good day, **HAB** friends! I, your lowly Church Mouse, have several exciting pieces of information to share this month!

Here is a mouse-sized bit of **HAB** history.....You may have noticed the rustic cross used in our sanctuary during the Easter season and wondered where it came from. Here's the story, shared by **Jon Yost**: After the 2007 catastrophic Christmas fire, a portion of what was left of the Christmas tree in the burned sanctuary, and a section of the intact tree from the fellowship hall were recovered. From those two Christmas trees, the cross was fashioned as a reminder of all that the cross represents, and of that monumental event in the life of our church.



Jon Yost & Dee Bumbarger

**Dee Bumbarger** and **Jon Yost** had a wonderful time at the CBF Georgia Senior Adult Retreat hosted by First Baptist Church, St. Simon's Island, earlier in May. It was a great time of reconnecting with old friends, making new friends, enjoying learning in the numerous and diverse breakout sessions, participating in worship, and, of course, experiencing beautiful St. Simon's Island. We'd love to see more **HAB**'ers participate in this fantastic event next year! This Church Mouse wonders, even though I am not quite old enough to be a senior, if I could sneak a ride in Jon's duffle bag, and just see what goes on that Dee and Jon had so much fun doing!

**Carolyn Hinckley** reports information about the **SOS (Sisterhood of Survivors) Anniversary Celebration!** "This support group for those who have lost a spouse or partner met on May 10 to celebrate our one-year anniversary! We study, share, and pray, but most of all, we love and support each other on our own grief journey. Happy first year, Sisters!"



Sisterhood of Survivors (SOS)

**Drew Shapard** was the recipient of the Director's Choice Award at the recent Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Awards Event. Proud parents, **Rachel & Tommy Shapard**, were there to cheer him on. Way to go, **Drew**!

We have a new great-grandmother in our

midst! **Joyce Hanson's** grandson **Hunter** and wife **Mackenzie Closson** gave birth to baby girl **Callie Joy** on May 17. Joyce is, of course, ecstatic!

**Isaac Clausen** just turned one on March 28, 2024. Congratulations to Isaac and his parents, **Allison & Aaron**!

**Sylvia McQuaig** went on a camping trip with her daughter, **Erin Dunkley**, and more family to the **Okefenokee Swamp** over spring break. She saw, and took pictures of, alligators galore! **Sylvia** reports that a good time was had by all!

At the Annual Convention of the GFWC FLORIDA Woman's Clubs a few weeks ago, **Julie Babcock** received second place in the State Poetry Contest. Congrats, Julie!



Isaac Clausen

*(continued on next page)*



## (Church Mouse, *continued*)

**Alyson Lee** had a fantastic trip to Ireland. The text in the picture to the right says, "The baptism of King Aengus by St. Patrick, c. 445



Debbie Crumb

A.D." You might want to grab Alyson when you see her and ask to see more pictures from her trip.

Speaking of travel, **Debbie Crumb** just returned from a fabulous (and lengthy) trip to Australia and New Zealand! She's another one you may want to ask about travel pictures! Or if you are on Facebook, she has quite a few pictures posted there. That was surely a trip of a lifetime, Debbie!



Alyson Lee

**Mary Bridgman** has been elected to the board of Penney Retirement Community (PRC). A little bird told me that Penney Farms residents, longtime HAB members Bob and Laurena Fisher, might have had something to do with that. Mary and Ben live at Kingsley Lake, about 12 miles west of PRC. James Cash Penney, best known as the founder of J.C. Penney retail stores, established PRC in 1926 as a community for retired ministers. The community continues to welcome anyone who desires to share their Christian beliefs in retirement.

**Marilyn Langston** reports that, after three years of study, her granddaughter, **Lydia**, graduated from the University of South Florida on May 5. Her major was communications—advertising and PR. Now all she needs is a job in the Tampa area!

## Sunday, June 23, 11:00 Combined Worship The Rev. Dr. Reginald (Reggie) Gundy, Preaching Senior Pastor of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church



We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Reginald Gundy** will be preaching on Sunday, June 23. Dr. Gundy will be with us as a part of Dr. Ken Meyers' Sunday Bible Study series in the Fresh Encounters class. Dr. Gundy is well known in Jacksonville, and he and Ken Meyers (former Associate Pastor at HAB) are long-time friends and colleagues.

Born in Jacksonville, Dr. Gundy is a graduate of Troy State University and holds two master's degrees, one in Pastoral Ministries and the other a Master of Divinity. This year Pastor Gundy earned and was awarded his doctorate from the New York Theological Seminary (associated with Union Seminary in NYC). He is a retired public-school teacher and is also retired from the U.S. Army with two Meritorious Service Awards. Pastor Gundy is the recipient of the "Congressional Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition," the Mayor's Distinguished Award, Trailblazers Award, and Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Gundy is currently the Pastor of the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church and is State President of the Florida Southern Christian Leadership Conference and past president of the Jacksonville chapter. Dr. Gundy has 14 years of experience in working with nonprofit organizations specializing in advocacy for juvenile justice and civil rights issues. He is married to the dynamic and successful businesswoman, Wallethe Williams-Gundy, and they have a son named Andrew and two grandchildren.

**Ms. Wallethe Denise Williams-Gundy**, wife of Dr. Gundy, is the First Lady of the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Gundy says she is very astute, wise, intelligent, and clever. Wallethe, working alongside Dr. Gundy as reader, editor, and advisor, has earned every degree he has. She graduated from Stanton High School in 1972 and attended Troy State University.

Wallethe was the first American of African descent to model at the old May Cohens department store. She served as a retail manager and business owner of a hair salon until she retired. She is an advocate of peace and love for elders, children, and the world. She believes that women should have a voice in their lives and women must demand respect from others. For 20 years, she has served as the chairperson for the Sinai Sisters in Christ of Mount Sinai, which conducts retreats and women's conferences.







### “WHERE IN THE WORLD IS HAB?”

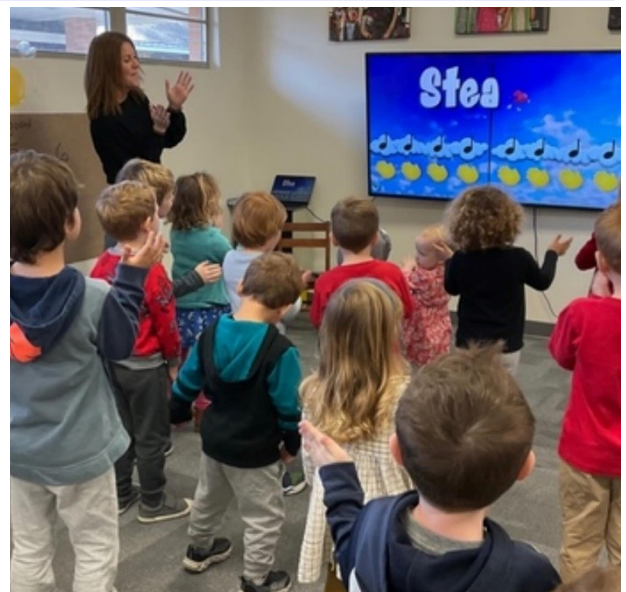
Wherever you are this summer, take HAB with you! Laminated copies of **Echo Saunders’** beautiful drawing of the sanctuary are available in the narthex and printed below. In each place you visit this summer, take a photo of you or your family holding the sanctuary drawing. Then post your photo on social media with the hashtag **#HABOnTheMap**—or email the photo to [laraine@habchurch.com](mailto:laraine@habchurch.com).



### Thank You, Chelsea!

*By Anna Valent, Little Friends Board Chair*

On behalf of the entire Board of our Little Friends Preschool, I want to thank Chelsea for her wonderful leadership of our school. With fortitude and good cheer, she led Little Friends through growing pains and COVID concerns to become one of the premier preschools in our area. Chelsea, we love and appreciate you! Our very best wishes in your new endeavor. For the Board, this is an exciting time as we seek God’s wisdom in selecting a new Little Friends principal. Please pray for our search committee and all involved in the decision-making process.





## Mission Moments

By Debbie Crumb, Chair, Mission & Witness Committee

**Breaking News...** *The local mission partners who will receive a portion of the funds raised during the “Spread the Light” Banquet have been identified!*

We are excited to announce that the offerings raised by the “Spread the Light” banquet will be added to previously budgeted funds to support the following HAB programs and partners through the end of the budget year (August 31, 2024).

United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM)—\$16,000  
 Reserved for urgent, walk-in needs—\$1,246  
 HAB Bag Lunch Ministry—\$1,000  
 HAB Next Steps Ministry—\$500  
 Jacksonville Campus Ministry—\$500 (which will sponsor two meals)

In addition, the Mission and Witness Committee elected to hold a portion of the money raised by the banquet to kick off the 2024-2025 budget year in September. All monies will be disbursed in 2024!

Thank you again to all who supported the “Spread the Light” banquet and associated activities to raise a little over \$22,000.

## More exciting mission news...

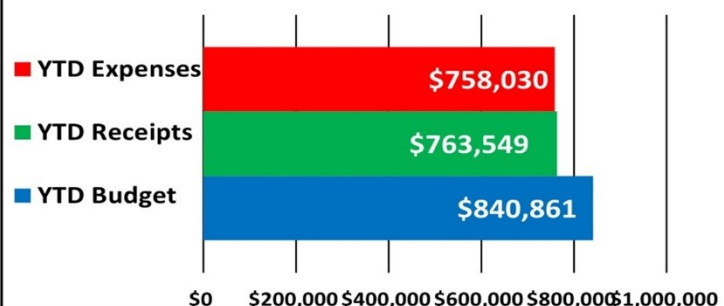
Also in April, we welcomed providers from the Social Services Outreach Mobile Unit of the **Urban Rest Stop** to the HAB campus. The Urban Rest Stop is a mobile service of the Sulzbacher Center and offers housing assessments, social security and disability benefit assistance, state ID vouchers, food stamps, and resources for other types of assistance needed. While a family emergency among the unit staff made the mobile unit itself unavailable on the planned day, two service providers were able to come to the church office and meet with neighbors in need from there. In three hours, the two providers met with and helped eight different individuals. Both providers left noting that they had “no idea that there was a need for *this* kind of help in our area.” We plan to continue this partnership in the future!

Coming soon...  
stay tuned!



### Budget Year-to-Date at 05/24/2024

Fiscal year September 2023 - August 2024



IWS needs you! They have volunteer opportunities if you'd like to help welcome and minister to the IWS community. Would you consider welcoming a student into your home for the week of June 19-26? No transportation or meals are required.

IWS also needs airport drivers, hospitality helpers, bookstore workers, and service ushers. If you have an hour to spare or you would like to host a student for the week, please contact the IWS office at [office@iws.edu](mailto:office@iws.edu) or 904-264-2172 for more information.



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drawing by Echo Saunders

As we travel this summer, 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](https://bit.ly/HABGiving) or scan this QR code—



IN THIS ISSUE:

**What Are We Doing Here?**  
**Children's Ministry**  
**News of the Church Family**  
**New Members**  
**Church Mouse**  
**Guest Preacher June 23**  
**Where in the World Is HAB?**  
**Little Friends Preschool**  
**Mission Moments**

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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