

HENDRICKS HERALD

October 2024



Angels Among Us

By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

Friends,

The Letter to the Hebrews is probably most famous for its extended passage in chapters 11 and 12 about those faithful men and women who have gone before us: the “great cloud of witnesses” who—while no longer present in the flesh—surround us in our lives and whose example should encourage us in our own walks with God. However, just a little further on in chapter 13, the writer of Hebrews says that we are not just surrounded by the faithful who have gone before us but that we also have others in our midst as well: *“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels unaware.”*

The implication is clear. The author is arguing that there are, around us, angels—heavenly beings, sent by God—and that you and I, when we look at them, might not always be able to identify them for what they really are. Angels, of course, are (in Greek) *angelos*: messengers. God’s messengers, to be precise, who come down to deliver God’s good news. The best example of this in Scripture is perhaps the one most likely to pop into your mind’s eye: Luke’s story of the angels appearing to the shepherds to announce the birth of Christ. Picture it: the shepherds, heads bowed in toil, surrounded by the night’s darkness, tired, probably hurting, possibly despairing, suddenly bathed in a warm glow from above. Given “good news of great joy,” offered peace, reminded that they need not be afraid, reminded that—as difficult as their life might be—God has not forgotten them and that, in fact, God loves them. There’s a reason this scene is so beloved. In many ways, it’s the entire human condition writ small.

To that end, I’m writing today about one particular angel among us: **Eleanor Rogers**. For over two decades now, Eleanor has served the HAB family through her care for our sick and homebound members. Even outside of HAB, she has served as a trained volunteer through Community Hospice, serving strangers and their loved ones in their darkest hours, but here she has served us as family. She has faithfully looked after those who, unable to get out and about as they once could, feared that the world was passing them by and their church family might have forgotten them. And like the angels winging their way towards the shepherds, Eleanor has been there to bring them good news of great joy: that their church family will always be there for them, and that their Lord is with them even when they’re tired, and probably hurting, and possibly in despair.

Now, I’ve never seen Eleanor play the harp, and I can’t say for sure whether or not she actually has wings (I’ve never asked), but she is undoubtedly an angel. She’s a messenger from God who, for over two decades now, has come to us in our dark nights and—through her words, her service, and her beaming smile—shone the light of grace. And while Eleanor has let us know that the time has finally come for her to relinquish homebound care as a responsibility, the good that she has done will continue to radiate out in the life of our church family and our community more broadly. And, for that, we will be eternally grateful.



Kind regards,
B.J.



By Chelsea Weise, Director of
Children & Community Life

HYMN&M Club: Students will have the chance to earn M&M packets each week they are able to come and either sing or recite verses 1 and 3 from the hymns listed below. When they have learned 10 hymns, they will head out to dinner with Mrs. Chelsea to celebrate!



Amazing Grace, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Come
Thou Fount, Blessed Assurance, Holy Holy Holy, Tis
So Sweet to Trust in Jesus, Be Thou My Vision,
Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee, When I Survey the
Wondrous Cross, In the Bulb There Is a Flower, In
Christ Alone, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Away in
a Manger, Blessed Be the Name, I Love to Tell the Story, His
Eye Is on the Sparrow, Jesus Loves Me

Wednesday Night Kids

6:15-7:00 p.m.
in the STEAM Lab



October 2: Pass the Salt! (Mark 9:38-50)
October 9: Get Over It! (Mark 10:2-16)
October 16: You Can Do It! (Mark 10:71-31)
October 23: At Your Service! (Mark 10:35-45)
October 30: Speak Up! (Mark 10:46-52)





Pastoral Care Team Initiative

By Joe Stepp, Deacon Chair

Facing the reality of HAB's reduced full-time pastoral staff, addressing the needs of our aging congregants, and embracing the spiritual giftedness of our church have all coalesced to create a Pastoral Care Team for HAB. Most of the team are serving as deacons; however, other church members who are gifted in caring/serving skills have been enlisted.

The two components of this ministry are the homebound ministry and surgical support. The homebound ministry has been beautifully led by **Eleanor Rogers** for years; however, she will be stepping aside in that role. The surgical component will apply to those looking at outpatient procedures and some inpatient procedures. B.J. will be the one responding to critical cases and acute crises.

At some point, this might expand to inpatient hospital visits, if the program is well received. The Pastoral Care Team member will first reach out to the church member to be visited, making sure they are comfortable with contact by the Pastoral Care Team.

This ministry is a work in progress and requests your grace as we roll out this new initiative. The Care Team is enthusiastically accepting the challenge and ready to serve.



NEWS of OUR Church FAMILY



for all the prayers, cards, and food. I have truly felt the warmth of God's love through all of you.—Mary Ann Corbett

Thank You...

Dear HAB friends, Thank you so much for the cards, calls, meals, visits, encouraging words, and prayers during Richard's recent illness and death. I am so fortunate to have such a loving church family, which includes my Agape ladies' Bible study class. My thanks and love to you all.—Marilyn Langston

Dear HAB family, Words cannot express the love and support my family and I have felt from the members of HAB during the loss of my precious sister, Lynn Harper. Thank you



Member Engagement

by Susan Stepp, Member Engagement Chair

With the new church year come new initiatives. One of those is the newly formed *Event Coordinator* position. **Margaret Douglass** has graciously agreed to lead in this position, and we know she will prove to be a valuable asset going forward.

In the past, when an event was held at HAB, the event leadership had to find their own way of securing supplies for the event. Margaret has already completed an inventory of what we have available for use, which should be helpful to anyone planning to host an event. She will be our point person, with the help of our on-campus personnel,

Joharen, to make sure leadership has what they need to be successful.

With the high number of memorial receptions we have had recently, we also recognized a need for someone to coordinate aspects of the reception other than food service. **Carol Campbell** has agreed to be the coordinator for all things related to a memorial reception—outside of food—such as flowers, table centerpieces, etc.

Thank you to Margaret and Carol for their willingness to serve.



We celebrated Joharen Gallardo's 15th anniversary at HAB during September. Joharen helps keep our campus clean, is a huge help in the kitchen preparing our Wednesday night suppers, and is willing to pitch in wherever she is needed. Please express your gratitude to Joharen when you see her.



October Menus

October 2

Meatloaf with special sauce
Mashed potatoes
Lima beans
Carrot cake w/cream cheese icing
Cook: Sharon Maszy

October 9

Company chicken
Rice
Green beans almonline
Apple cobbler
Cook: Carolyn Hinckley

October 16

Chicken tetrazzini
Green beans
Cookies
Cooks: B.J., Britt, Tommy, Chelsea, Laraine

October 23

Roast pork loin w/gravy
Baked apples
Mashed potatoes
Broccoli
Chocolate cherry cake
Cooks: Garry Andriesse & Janet Metcalf

October 30

Fried chicken
Mashed potatoes
Italian green beans
Banana pudding
Cooks: Janis & Steve Price

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.

All meals include salad bar, dinner bread, and tea, peach tea, lemonade, coffee, or water.



From the Church Mouse

Good afternoon to all of my friends at HAB! This is your lowly Church Mouse to catch you up on some really neat news I have overheard as I mouse around the pews!

I hear that Labor Day weekend was a special time for the Harig and Hill families as they gathered in New Port, Rhode Island, to celebrate the marriage of **Jill and Marshall**. HAB's own **Marshall Hill** met **Jill Harig** through work—Jill in the Northeast, and Marshall in the South. It didn't take long before their mutual respect and admiration grew into an attraction that began keeping the airlines busy. When travel became too much, Jill relocated to

Jacksonville. We have been privileged to have her worship with us at HAB. Marshall continues his leadership role at HAB and becomes the new chair of the Coordinating Council. Let's celebrate Jill and Marshall's new life together!



Marie
Tobias

The **Fresh Encounters Bible study class** had a treat one Sunday in August. **Marie Tobias** facilitated a class on "Standing Firm in the Armor of God" from Ephesians. She brought a fresh and fun dynamic to a familiar passage. The elementary teacher in her led her to a creative way to illustrate Paul's teaching as she dressed in her rendition of the armor of God. Thanks, Marie, for an interesting and fun interpretation of this wonderful passage.

Hannah Gray, first year pharmacy student at the University of Florida, was one of 17 incoming students to receive a Crisafi scholarship for incoming pharmacy students. The incoming class has 250 students, so it was a great honor to be selected for the award. Congratulations, Hannah!

Sylvia McQuaig's granddaughter, **Casey O'Brien**, is studying primates, among other subjects, at Oxford Brooks University in London. Her long-time dream came true this summer.

Students in her class were able to travel to different countries to study primates. She and a fellow student were sent to Zambia to observe chimpanzees that lived in a preserve. Casey and her friend stayed in a dorm-

like room which had a kitchen, where they had a lot of fun experimenting with new meals! Their task was to trek to the preserve early in the morning to observe the chimpanzees and collect data about their lifestyle, eating habits, sleeping times, and their interactions with each other. What's next for Casey? More dreams!

Melissa Crawford and **Bob Mattson** took a trip cross country to California and, among their travels, ended up at the Golden Gate Bridge. That, according to Melissa, was one of their favorite sites. But Melissa, we have FIVE bridges right here in Jacksonville!



Melissa Crawford
& Bob Mattson



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(Church Mouse, *continued*)



fortunately she moved slightly when she sat down, and I avoided the loss of a tail. Unlike some other critters I know, I can't just grow a new tail—I would be forever with a stub, and that's not a good look for a mouse, let alone a Church Mouse.

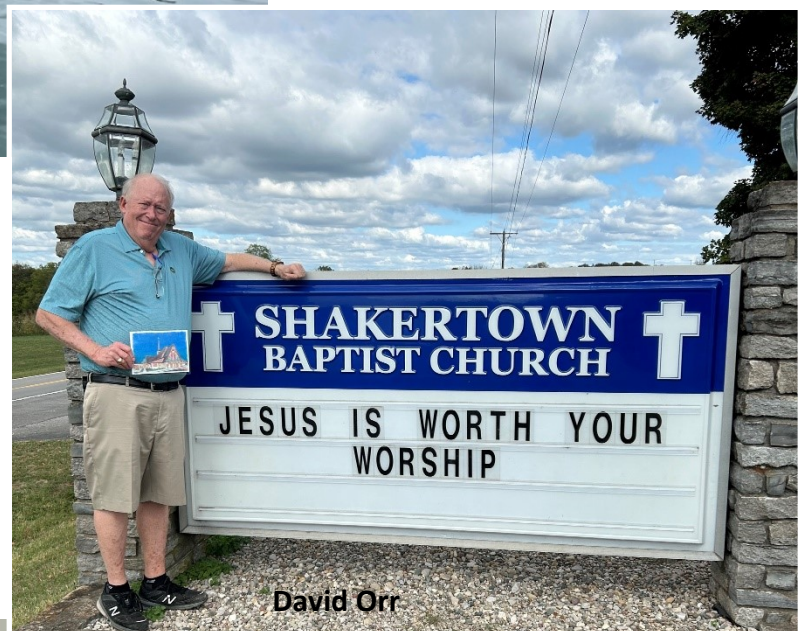
Bye for this month. It surely is fun being a Church Mouse, especially at HAB. I find it entertaining to relay these tidbits of news to you each month. I'll keep listening, if you'll just keep telling each other the interesting news!



Alyson Lee recently enjoyed a two-week trip to Europe! She sent us a picture from Zurich, Switzerland. Be sure to ask her about her adventures!

Dora & David Orr visited Shakerstown of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. It is the site of a Shaker religious community that was active from 1805 to 1910.

By the way, be careful when you put your feet underneath the pews. I nearly had my tail pulled off as I scurried under the fifth row back, on the piano side last Sunday. One lady with very pretty high heels caught her heel on my tail, but



David Orr

Mission Moments

By Debbie Crumb, Mission Team Leader

Looking for an opportunity to serve our neighbors and have fun with fellow HAB members?

You might consider volunteering for HAB's **Sulzbacher Center cooking or serving team.**

Seven days a week, 365 days a year, Sulzbacher's downtown campus serves nutritious meals to anyone in the community who is hungry. Through the support of volunteers from more than 100 organizations, including HAB, over 1500 meals are served daily to hungry and homeless people in Jacksonville. Clients who are living on-site in Sulzbacher's short-term emergency housing are served three meals a day, and meals are open to the community two times a day.

HAB provides support for one meal per month, including buying the food for preparation and providing

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(Mission Moments, continued)

volunteers to cook and serve. The meal prepared by HAB consists of an entrée of beef stew over rice accompanied by bread, salad, applesauce, and cake. The recipients have mentioned more than once that the HAB meal is a highlight of the month!

The cost of food for one meal serving 200 people is approximately \$800 (or \$9,600 per year). The cost of food for September 2024 through August 2025 has already been covered by donations from generous individuals at HAB.

Are you wondering what you would do as a volunteer? Volunteers for the Sulzbacher Center serve on a rotating basis on either a “cook” or “serve” team. Each team is approximately six people, and each team works one Monday every four months (or three times a year). While times may vary, the “cook” team usually prepares food from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Food preparation includes cooking the beef stew from scratch and placing the other ingredients into individual serving containers. The “serve” team usually serves from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. This team typically places the beef stew and rice into individual serving containers and then serves the meals with a smile and a pleasant hello! Both teams have a lot of conversation and laughs as they work together to help each other and feed our hungry neighbors.

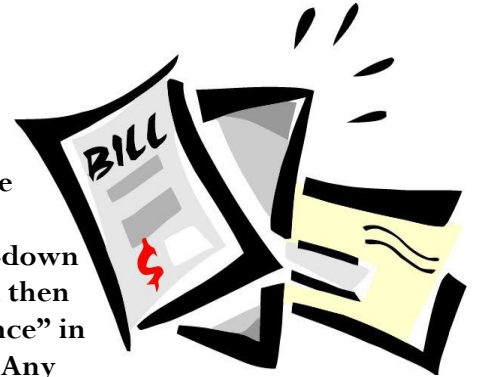
For more information about donating or volunteering at the Sulzbacher Center, please contact Joyce Hanson at 904-399-1573.



Benevolence

Due to generous church members, we are often able to assist our neighbors who have fallen behind on their rent, or are unable to pay their electric bill, or need gas for their car. Our Benevolence Fund could use a little shot in the arm. If you are so inclined, you may donate to this fund by going to the following link: bit.ly/HABGiving After entering the amount you wish to donate, select “Other” from the drop-down

Fund menu, and then type “Benevolence” in the Memo line. Any contributions you can make are very much appreciated and will help us help more individuals. Thank you for your support!



A new support group,

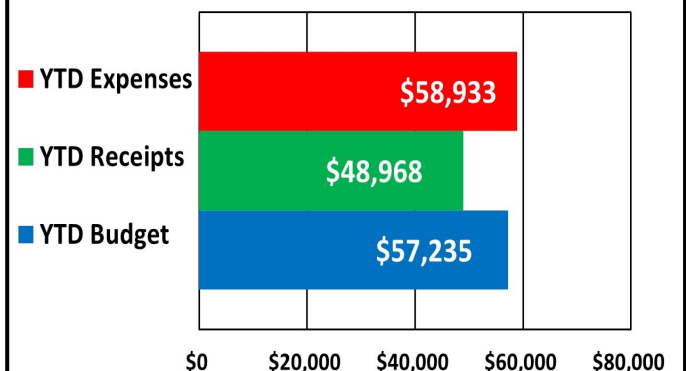
Hope and Healing After Suicide,

will meet the second Monday evening of each month. The group is for those who have suffered the loss of someone to suicide. **Cindy Marling** will facilitate the group. Please contact Cindy at 904-874-9052 if you are interested in attending, and she will provide more information.



Budget Year-to-Date at 09/20/2024

Fiscal year September 2024 - August 2025





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As we travel throughout the year, let's remember that the work of HAB continues. 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:



VISIT habchurch.com
for more information.

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Contact us at info@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745
Website: habchurch.com

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., 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