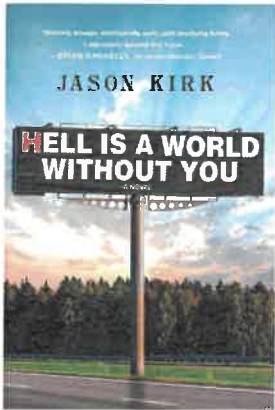


# HENDRICKS HERALD

November 2024

## Thankful



Sunday, November 24—*Hell Is a World Without You*  
and author, Jason Kirk, at HAB

*By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor*

*“Dave-Tony preached a parable we’d all heard many times, one about tasting a piece of bubblegum already coated by another man’s saliva. ‘Nobody wants used stuff,’ he said.”—page 87*

Some of you know that one of the ways I stay sane in this world is through following college football. “Sane,” of course, is a term that rarely collides in print with my beloved Gamecocks, and yet football is one of the places I turn to whenever I need a break. Some of that is simple distraction, but even more than that is the fact that the wide world of college football (which is much bigger than the sport that’s played between the sidelines) has introduced me to some of the most thoughtful people I’ve come across in my life. One of those people is named Jason Kirk.

Jason is a sports journalist and podcaster. He’s actually one of the editors of the *New York Times*’ sports website, *The Athletic*. He’s also an author, and earlier this year I read his first novel, *Hell Is a World Without You*, and I will tell you that, by the end of it, I was floored. It’s the story of a young man growing up in America in the early 2000s. More to the point, it’s the story of a teenage boy being raised in a church culture that squeezed him and his friends so hard with the pressures that were placed upon them that they slipped right between their church’s fingers, turning their backs on the Church, if not necessarily belief.

*“I’d long ago stolen an uncle’s six-inch stiletto knife, then kept it hidden in my backpack. Sometimes, after sinning, I warned myself, ‘Pop goes the eyeball!’ ... I believed suicide would be one sin, but it’d prevent so many others. Cold, hard math.”—page 19*

In a lot of ways, this novel is Jason’s own story and that of his friends growing up. But, more important than that, it’s the story of millions of others all around us, and some here in our midst, who grew up in church cultures where—even if it was subtext—they learned to hate themselves and fear their neighbors, and who therefore walked away from the Church (again, if not belief, necessarily) as soon as they became adults. I’ve actually had one HAB member who’s already read this book tell me that he could’ve written it himself. He said that this is *exactly* how he was raised in his home church and that the only reason his family is still involved in church is because they stumbled across HAB. **Thus, this is a story that our church would do well to recognize, which is why we’ve invited Jason to come to HAB on Sunday, November 24, at 5:30 p.m. and help us understand it better.**

As I said, when I read this novel, I was floored. It is one of the best contemporary accounts of faith and friendship and community and grace—*of church*—that I’ve come across. The characters are well-rounded, the theological questions are astute, and the way that Jason weaves Scripture through it all is, quite frankly, impressive. It is, in turns, thoughtful and heartbreaking and funny. It is also written from the first-person perspective of a teenage boy, and I should warn you that Jason pulls no punches here. On every page Isaac, the main character, wrestles with faith and self-doubt and lust and everything else that addles the teenage mind. He also spends way too much time on AOL Instant Messenger, which will feel painfully familiar to people of his generation and mystifying to many others.

It is likely that this novel will not be to everyone’s taste. *Then again, what book ever is?* Show me a book that everyone likes, and I’ll show you a book that nobody can learn from. Still, *Hell Is a World Without You* is the story of an entire generation—perhaps not every single individual in that generation, but it is still core to that generation’s story—and one that we, as individuals and as a congregation, need to better understand. It is the story of our colleagues, our neighbors, and almost certainly some of our own family members. It is the story of a lot of empty promises and empty pews all across America every single Sunday. **Therefore, I hope you will join us for this discussion on November 24, and I hope you will invite friends and neighbors to be there as well. They may very well see themselves in this book, and they might also look around and find themselves in a church that afternoon that will tell them a much different story.**

*“How do we stop being guided by fear disguised as mercy?”—page 268*

Kind regards,  
B.J.





# YOUTH







By Chelsea Weise, Director of Children & Community Life



The scrolls say, "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord and who meditates on his law day and night."



The kids learned about being the salt of the earth & then drew worlds with glue & covered them with salt.



**Wednesday  
Night Kids**  
6:15-7:00 p.m.  
in the STEAM Lab



November 6: What Rule? (Mark 12:28-34)  
November 13: Yoga  
November 20: Watch Out! (Mark 13:1-8)  
November 27: No activities





## News of Our Church Family

### Sympathy to...

...Chelsea, Justin, Maddie, & Macaiden Weise in the death of Chelsea's grandmother, Anna Lois Griffin, on Saturday, September 21, 2024. The service was September 28 at Arlington Baptist Church.



By *Victoria (Tori) Cochran*

**Victoria (Tori) Cochran** calls Jacksonville home after spending the largest portions of her life living in or near the Rocky Mountains. Originally baptized Episcopalian in her mother's hometown of Radford, Virginia, she and her siblings were encouraged to find their own spiritual paths with strong regard for humanity and

belief in a higher power. "I traded skis and snowshoes for flip-flops and Spanish moss. Nature and the outdoors have always been my go-to. Still, my own perspective of today's world has me thinking a lot about what's missing. I believe that, now more than ever, it's so very critical to invest time in honoring God and remembering what's important. Live by Jesus' teachings. HAB helps keep that forefront for me; I truly enjoy Sunday sermons and feel blessed to be surrounded by my awesome pew gals and this church's community."

Tori works full-time from home and has recently transitioned from "dog person" to kitten momma with the recent addition of a beautiful snow Bengal named Shiloh.

Tori prefers being outside to inside. She enjoys travel and exploring new places. Her internal clock best aligns with sunshine. She treats Derby Day like a world holiday. She's been known to eat entirely too much ice cream. Tori is low maintenance unless the subject is champagne or balsamic vinegar. She believes snow is best for skis and snowshoes and droughts. Juicer and coffee machines are always nearby. She dreads shopping, swims in the ocean, gets grumpy without exercise, and can't live without oranges and wireless and flowers and salsa. She is not melodramatic, despite the last statement. Tori dreams about writing a book, traveling the world, and owning a pizzeria. And despite not having her own children, she believes parenting is the most important job there is.



## Blessing of the Animals



## From the Church Mouse

Good day, fellow HABers! This is your always alert Church Mouse with all the news you have sent me this month. It's all exciting, but some of you must be sleeping on the job 'cause I haven't had much mail in my mailbox lately!

Seeking a well-earned restful vacation, sisters **Susan Howell** and **Debbie Hagan** spent a week in Daytona Beach Shores for a "Sisters Week Off." They had a great time watching the waves and sunbathing—right before hurricanes Helene and Milton descended on Florida. Yay, Susan and Deb! We're real glad you didn't wait a week or two, or your vacation would have been a washout!

**Maddie Weise** was the guest preacher at St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Osteen,

Florida, one September Sunday. As usual, Maddie gave a superb sermon and will surely be invited for an encore appearance in the future. Congratulations, Maddie! You are always a good representative of the love and community of HAB.

**Mary Nell McCoy** sent B.J. this message during the hurricanes: "I just wanted you and the staff to know that you won't be seeing me around church for possibly the next two weeks. As you are aware, I volunteer with the American Red Cross (ARC) as the Regional Disaster Spiritual Care Lead for all of North Florida. I'm being deployed tomorrow to go to Tallahassee to talk with clients in shelters, etc. as needed until October 10. Prayers appreciated. I deployed in person often until Gary became ill and then just did virtual work with the ARC. Last time I deployed in person was to Miami when the building collapsed at Surfside."

**Henry Wilson**, son of **Melanie & Brad Wilson**, is an Eagle Scout candidate who carried out his Eagle

Scout project in our church's columbarium. Henry writes, "After months of meeting, planning, and shopping, I was approved by my troop, council, and Mrs. Dee Bumbarger. The first thing I did was pressure wash the area and then with the help of others from my troop, I removed, replanted, and replaced landscaping. I added new plants, more fill dirt, additional river rock to the fountain, and mulch. The mums are the ones in pots and are seasonal, so they can be replaced with poinsettias and Easter lilies when the season changes. I'm very thankful to the church for all the help

that they have given me and proud that I did my project at HAB." Henry, we are thankful for you too!

Well, sweet

folks, that's it for this month. I'll keep on mousin' around and hope you will send me the happenings we want everyone to know about! Be good, sleep well, and don't forget to say your prayers! I hope to see some of you next Sunday as I sneak around under the pews.

*HAB honored the 100th birthday of Jimmy Carter with a message on our church sign.*





# Thanksgiving Meal

*Turkey & Ham*  
*Dressing, Sweet Potatoes*  
*Mashed Potatoes & Gravy*  
*Green Beans, Dinner Roll*  
*Cranberry Sauce*  
*Pumpkin Pie*



*Reservations by November 19*  
*904-396-7745, ext. 103*  
*or laraine@habchurch.com*  
*adults \$14, children \$8,*  
*immediate family max \$35*



## November Menus

**November 6**  
 Breakfast casserole  
 Scrambled eggs, cheese grits  
 Bacon, biscuits, sausage gravy  
 Fresh strawberries, assorted pastries  
 Cook: Sharon Maszy

**November 13**  
 Chili  
 Cheese, sour cream  
 Corn muffin  
 Banana pudding

**November 20**  
 Chicken tetrazzini  
 Green beans  
 Salad  
 Cookies  
 Cooks: Staff

**SUNDAY, November 24**  
 Thanksgiving Meal (see above)  
 RSVP by November 19

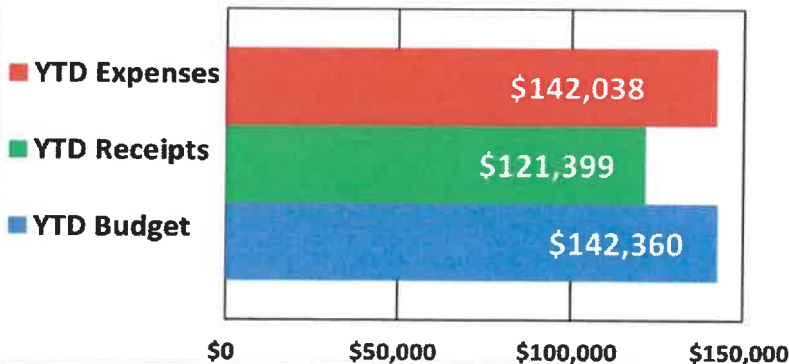
**November 27**  
 NO MEAL

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](mailto: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.

### Budget Year-to-Date at 10/18/2024

Fiscal year September 2024 - August 2025



## Mission Moments

By Debbie Crumb, Mission Team Leader

### Who or what is the Jacksonville Campus Ministry?

The Jacksonville Campus Ministry (JCM) nurtures, equips, sustains, and transforms young adults for Christian community. It is an ecumenical ministry serving the University of North Florida and Jacksonville University.

JCM welcomes all who are seeking God's love and grace, because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, identity expression, physical or mental health, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides people. JCM reflects that our unity is in Christ.

JCM was founded in 1972 by a coalition of churches. JCM is now in active partnership with congregations from seven denominations, including Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church as a representative of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Every Tuesday, JCM participants gather on the University of North Florida's campus to have a meal together and check in on how everyone is doing. They open with a devotion, eat good food, and share in community together. It's called "Food for Thought," and Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church supports this gathering twice a year by providing a meal. In fact, last month, the JCM hosted B.J. and Rebekah Hutto and allowed them to lead a conversation about HAB's (and the Interfaith Center's) commitment to interreligious dialogue and partnership. It was a really good night!



Have more questions about campus ministry? Want to get connected? Have a student at Jacksonville University or University of North Florida? Go to [jaxcm.org](http://jaxcm.org) or contact Pastor Sarah at [jaxcampusmin@gmail.com](mailto:jaxcampusmin@gmail.com) or 904-270-9719.



**HAB**  
a place of grace



Help relieve the burden of  
medical debt in our community.

"...forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

\$1 forgives \$100  
\$10 forgives \$1000  
\$100 forgives \$10,000

You may donate in person or on  
our website: [habchurch.com/giving](http://habchurch.com/giving)  
(choose Medical Debt Relief)







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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](http://bit.ly/HABGiving) or scan this QR code:



VISIT [habchurch.com](http://habchurch.com)  
for more information.

IN THIS ISSUE:

*Hell Is a World Without You*  
Youth Ministry  
Children's Ministry  
News of the Church Family  
New Member  
Church Mouse  
November Meals  
Financial Report  
Mission Moments  
Medical Debt Relief

Contact us at [info@habchurch.com](mailto:info@habchurch.com) or 904-396-7745  
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**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