



# Hendricks Herald

MARCH 2025

**YOUTH**  
ministry

**&**

**children's**  
ministry



*By Britt Hester,  
Associate Pastor  
for Youth*



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

The weekend of February 14-16, our students and chaperones teamed up with CBF Florida and Together for Hope in Steinhatchee, Florida, to help residents with hurricane recovery efforts. It was a tremendous weekend that allowed our groups to spread out over four work sites and help clear debris from recent storms that battered the Big Bend area of our state.

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Children's ministry plays a vital role in shaping the spiritual foundation of young hearts and minds. It provides children with the opportunity to learn about faith, build positive values, and experience the love of a community. However, this impactful ministry requires a strong team of dedicated volunteers who are passionate about nurturing the next generation. Volunteers are essential in creating a welcoming, safe, and

*(continued on next page)*



## (Youth Ministry, *continued*)

The presence of our students and adults made a great impression on both the residents and fellow volunteers. Kenny Phillips, one of the event organizers and coordinator of the clean-up sites, shared with our group that residents were astounded that teenagers would give up their weekend to come help their neighbors across the state. He commented, “I



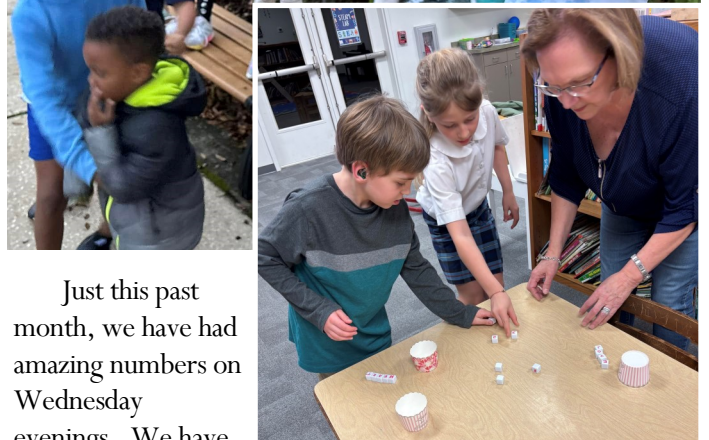
told these friends that it’s because of how they’re raised and Whom they follow.” I could not agree more.

Thank you all for your prayers and support both near and far. It’s trips like these that remind me, despite the despair that often graces the headlines, there is still good in this world. God remains at work, sometimes—perhaps oftentimes—in the places that are forgotten, overlooked, and written off. I am grateful for this weekend when we were able to catch a glimpse of the relentless tenderness of God’s love and grace.



## (Children’s Ministry, *continued*)

engaging environment where children can grow in their relationship with God. By offering your time and talents, you can make a lasting difference in the lives of children, guiding them on their spiritual journey and helping them develop a lifelong faith. Your support helps ensure that every child receives the care, attention, and teaching they deserve, making it a truly rewarding experience for everyone involved.



Just this past month, we have had amazing numbers on Wednesday evenings. We have

Easter Eggstravaganza approaching, and we are also bringing back Vacation Bible School. These children do not need just one person leading them; they need **a team** of dedicated and trustworthy mentors as they grow in their relationships with each other and our Lord. Please reach out if you feel led to lead in this vital ministry. God bless you all!

# News of the Church Family



## Sympathy to...

...Marilyn DeVries and family in the death of Marilyn's husband, Dave DeVries, on Sunday, January 26, 2025. The funeral was Saturday, February 15.

...the family of Connie Jones—Brenda Waters, Carlene Jones, Trudy Cook, and Frank Jones Jr. Connie died January 18, 2025. The service was January 25 in our sanctuary.

...Mary Wynn and Brady, Connor, and Skylar and families in the death of Bruce Wynn, Mary's husband, on Friday, January 17, 2025.

...B.J., Rebekah, Hannah Ruth, & Elijah Hutto in the death of B.J.'s father, M.J. Hutto, in South Carolina on Monday, February 24, 2025.

## Thank you...

Dear staff, office workers, and HAB members,

Thank you so much for the cards and gifts that you so generously gave me. I truly enjoyed working in the HAB office and loved being able to help. We have a very special congregation and staff.—Sincerely, Linda Nelson

Dear staff, deacons, and church friends,

I wanted to let you know that they have finally given me a discharge date to be released from Rest & Recovery here at Westminster Woods. I will go back to my villa on Thursday, February 13.

A nurse and physical therapist will start coming in to help me in regaining my strength and watching over me. What a great Valentine's Day present. I will have about a month to sell, trash, bequeath, and decide what to take with me in my move to assisted living here at Westminster Woods.

I cannot tell you how much I have appreciated the cards, calls, visits, and gifts, but most of all the prayers from God's people. Thank you so very much. God heard and answered our prayers.

I hope to be able to get back to church once I regain my strength and get moved.—In His name, Martha Douberly

Dear HAB friends and deacons,

I would like to thank all those who have been praying for me during my cancer treatment, especially the deacons who have sent cards, which really lifted my spirits.—Gratefully, Betty Anne Schlegel

I wish to thank all of the wonderful people at HAB for their birthday card and continuing support and prayers.—Fondly, Nancy Mahon



**Nicole Smith** joined HAB Sunday morning, February 16, 2025. Nicole has been attending the Agape Sunday Bible Study class.

Also joining HAB on February 16 was **Jerry Friar**. Jerry has been attending "That Class."

See next month's *Herald* for more information about Nicole and Jerry. Please welcome them to HAB!



**HELP NEEDED:** We are looking for a couple more people to serve as tellers on Sundays following the 11:00 worship service. You would help count the offering and fill out a deposit slip. If you are interested in serving, please contact Eleanor Rogers at 904-910-4452 or [eleanor.rogers04@gmail.com](mailto:eleanor.rogers04@gmail.com).



## Medical Debt Update

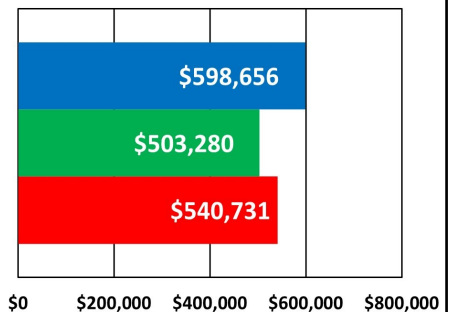
The total amount that HAB raised to forgive our neighbors' medical debts was \$21,498.27. **This allowed us to forgive \$3,439,746.59 of medical debt!** Thank you, HAB, for your generosity!



## YTD Financial Update as of 02/21/2025

Fiscal year September 2024 - August 2025

■ YTD Budget  
■ YTD Actual Revenues  
■ YTD Actual Expenses





*by Susan Stepp, Member Engagement Committee Chair*

How has being a member of Hendricks Avenue Baptist impacted your life? Have you found encouragement and comfort, made new friends, discovered opportunities to serve others, grown in your understanding of who God wants you to be as a follower of Christ? All of these life-transforming experiences don't just happen. You have to CHOOSE to engage with the life and work of this body of Christ we call HAB. As Ryan Nelson tells us in his book, *10 Principles of Member Engagement*, "A churchgoer becomes engaged when they move beyond spectator mode and begin playing a part in your mission."

There are multiple ways to plug in right away to begin connecting with the people and purposes of this wonderful congregation. Contact the name provided for more information.

**Small Groups** (Susan Stepp: [susan23@comcast.net](mailto:susan23@comcast.net))

*Bible study, support groups, music ministry*

**Missions / Ministries** (Debbie Crumb: [deborahcrumb@gmail.com](mailto:deborahcrumb@gmail.com))

*Hands-on opportunities for service*

**Giving** (Darrell Mitchell: [financial@habchurch.com](mailto:financial@habchurch.com))

*Weekly offering during worship, online giving available*

Scripture tells us that we are ALL called to share our gifts to build the body of Christ. Where will you choose to be a part of HAB today?



*by Debbie Crumb, Mission Team Leader*

The HAB campus was a busy place on Valentine's Day! Our mission partner, United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM), celebrated the volunteers of UCOM with a brunch in our fellowship hall. Approximately 130 people were in attendance, including our own Dr. B.J. Hutto and several church members who volunteer with UCOM answering phones, packaging food for the food pantry, and delivering meals on wheels.

**Photo on right: Mary Jane Cooper received special recognition for over 30 years of volunteer service with UCOM!**



## Mission Update: Safe Havens Ministry

by Debbie Crumb, Mission Team Leader

Do you ever ask yourself how your donation to our mission partners is really being used? Well, Safe Havens Ministry used part of the money donated from the 2023 banquet to purchase items for two Karen refugee families from Myanmar. The majority of Karen are Christian, and many have fled Myanmar due to religious and ethnic persecution by the



Myanmar government (majority Buddhist). Safe Havens partners with the Southside Karen Baptist Church in Arlington to assist refugees with furniture and furnishings.



One of the families served is a family of four, and the other is a family of seven living in a two-bedroom house. They have lived in the house for approximately three years with no furniture except for beds. The money provided by HAB was used to rent a U-Haul truck to haul donated furniture for both households and was used to purchase items that were specific to the households, including curtain rods, plastic table cloth cover for a play table, a girls' twin bed (head and foot board, rails, and board slats), and a king metal bed frame. These donations made it possible for these families to have curtains in the window, a play table protected with a plastic cover, and a bed frame for beds so that they did not have to sleep on a mattress on the floor. There are four or five core families living close to each other for support, and the play room that Safe Havens furnished will be used for all the group's children to gather together.

### Mission Service Opportunity

On **Saturday, March 8**, we have an opportunity to partner with Safe Havens Ministry to paint a house for a family in need. The family are refugees from Myanmar and have purchased a home not far from our church. It's a small one-story house that we will have pressure washed in advance. All youth, parents, siblings, and friends are welcome to join us. If you're able to participate, please RSVP by scanning the QR code so that we know how many people to expect. Donations are welcome. Please bring work gloves, old paintbrushes, tarps, tape, ladders, trash bags, yard tools, etc.



More details will be sent out regarding time, location, etc. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please let Britt know at [britt@habchurch.com](mailto:britt@habchurch.com). Thanks!

### JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER!

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. 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.

#### March 5

Eye of round  
Loaded potato casserole  
Broccoli  
Chocolate marble cake

#### March 12

Company chicken  
Rice  
Green beans almondine  
Apple cobbler

#### March 19

**NO MEAL OR OTHER  
ACTIVITIES: SPRING BREAK**

#### March 26

Poppy seed chicken  
Rice  
Green beans  
Chocolate delight



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



## From the Church Mouse

**GREETINGS!** This is your friendly Church Mouse with the monthly “Let’s Be Proud” announcements from **HAB** church members. I am delighted to say that my mail box has been pretty full this month. Keep ’em comin! And now for the big news—

On January 26, HAB recognized **Vladimir & Nina Lagodny** on their retirement! We are so grateful for everything Vladimir & Nina have done for this church. Have a restful retirement!



**Riley Haines**, daughter of **Charlotte & Rick Haines**, and the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Choir sang at the Daytona 500 kickoff in mid-February. Pretty big deal!

So cool! **Riley Valent**, daughter of **Anna & Kevin Valent**, will represent, along with two other female athletes, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, at the Girls’ Weightlifting State Championship Finals. Such a great year for those ladies!

Congratulations to **Audrey & Alba Dinu**, daughters of **Liliana Dinu**, who auditioned for the **Jacksonville Children’s Chorus** and are now members.

The two beautiful Christmas trees in the narthex were donated by the **SOS Group** in loving memory of their spouses. A group of members decorated the trees and placed lights on the front garden beds to add to the celebration. **Diane Berry** donated the two new swags that hung over the outside lights. Thank you to all who helped make this holiday season just a little brighter for all of us.



**Alyson Lee** had a very nice vacation recently, when she spent a lovely week at the Coconut Bay Resort in St. Lucia!

**Hailey Hartle**, daughter of **Leanne & Jamie Hartle**, and granddaughter of **Dianne & Richard Sieg**, graduated from the University of Florida and is now getting a master’s degree at the University of South

Florida in Applied Behavior Analysis (special needs).

**Mark Scott** hosted a **Forrest High School Chorus Reunion** in our fellowship hall in mid-January. A great crowd attended and reminisced about “the good ol’ days,” and even sang some songs from the past.

Whew! That was a lot of exciting information about our **HAB’ers!** I am so happy that I had a lot of mail this month. It makes me hopeful for more as what we think is cold weather turns warmer and more folks are “out and about.” Cheerio! Hopefully next month will bring more great news of our clan!



## Jim Smith Honored with a Retrospective at UNF Gallery of Art

By Nancy Felton, Art Ministry Team Member

HAB's own Jim Smith was honored with an opening reception on January 30 at the UNF Gallery of Art to kick off a month-long retrospective. The gallery is highlighting Smith's long career, showcasing major themes and artistic approaches using assemblage, photography, and metal sculpture. This exhibit focuses on the last 20 years of his production, a period that has left a profound impact on the local Jacksonville art community. **The exhibit continues through March 5, so consider taking a look!**

Jim is a long-time member of the HAB family, serving on our Art Ministry Team since its inception in 2010. Jim's enduring contribution to his church is the permanent sculpture and water feature entitled *The Rising*, which he designed and which was constructed from a twisted steel beam salvaged from the ruins of our sanctuary destroyed in the 2007 fire. The sculpture is installed at the entrance of our church office building.



Jim Smith, center, surrounded by members of UNF Art Department and friends



### Reception with Artist Lisa Lofton

On February 12 HAB held a reception in narthex art gallery honoring artist Lisa Lofton (seen at left beside her print featuring the iconic San Marco Theater).

Many thanks to **Karen Martin** and **Becky Sullivan** (photo at right) who graciously provided hospitality and refreshments for the reception.



## American Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care by Mary Nell McCoy

I was asked to share about my service with the American Red Cross (ARC) in Disaster Spiritual Care (similar to chaplaincy work). I became interested in chaplaincy work as I was nearing retirement from my teaching position in California. I took classes and was approved as a Disaster Relief Chaplain in 2012. I deployed in-person with relief teams to fires, hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes throughout California, Colorado, the Philippines, and Nepal. I also began teaching chaplaincy courses, including a two-day training at the CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) Assembly in 2019.

In 2016 the American Red Cross opened up the area of Disaster Spiritual Care in California, and I took their training and was approved. When we moved to Florida in 2019, I was asked to be the Regional Lead for North Florida. Whenever there is a housefire across northern Florida, the occupants are asked if they would like Disaster Spiritual Care, and if so, I am given their information to contact them. As a Regional Lead, I oversee the vetting process for persons interested in becoming a part of our Disaster Spiritual Care team. Thankfully now, I have a team of volunteers that I can assign many of these client calls. I deployed in-person to Miami in 2021 when the building collapsed at Surfside and to the Tallahassee/Tampa area with the hurricanes that swept through that area.

During the pandemic, the ARC learned to serve clients better virtually. For three years I served on a virtual team set up to make calls to people who were sick with COVID or had family members that had passed away.

January 11-February 8, I was virtually deployed as part of the ARC National DSC (Disaster Spiritual Care) Call Center. There were 15 members of the team scattered across the United States. The first week we were given the names of over 2,200 people living in the fire zones to check on them to see if they were safe and if they had lost their homes. Taking 100 names at a time, we were able to contact all of them. Beginning January 27, the team was given the names of 625 clients requesting DSC services whose homes were damaged or completely destroyed. There have been over 12,000 homes destroyed in the fires, 29 people killed, and 31 people still missing. When talking with clients, we try to be supportive as they share their story and current situation. If they seem open to prayer, we provide prayer and encouragement. Clients are asked if they lost any religious/spiritual articles in the fire. If so, we are able to give them some money to replace these articles, though many are precious keepsakes that are irreplaceable.

During the week of February 10-14, four of us were asked to participate in a special assignment alongside four Disaster Mental Health workers to make follow-up calls to responders that had served in-person at the site of the aviation crash between a regional airline and a Black Hawk helicopter. This was a different type of deployment, offering support and a time for them to debrief.

Please be in prayer for all people experiencing major disasters in their lives and for the responders and volunteers serving to help meet these needs.



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



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for more information.

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