



## The Times They Are a-Changin' . . . sort of

*By Tommy Shapard, Associate Pastor for Music and Worship*

Over the past several months, the Coordinating Council, staff, and a few members from other committees have met to study, discuss, and envision how we might faithfully respond to the shifting realities of culture, society, and church life. Through healthy conversation, seven new initiatives centered around community, children's ministry, and worship have emerged to guide us as a congregation. One of these initiatives is to refresh and reimagine our worship life at HAB, creating space for the many ways we express our faith and encounter God together.

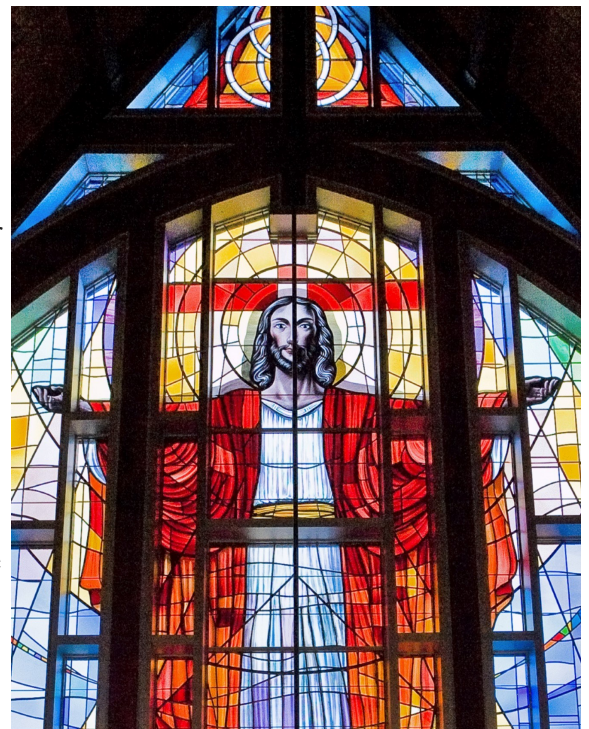
As part of the worship initiative, we will be moving to one worship service permanently this fall—combining the best of both our 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. liturgies into a unified 11:00 a.m. service that provides a variety of musical, liturgical, and technological expressions that make up our church—and then some! This is a hopeful step forward, not a farewell to the 8:45 a.m. service, which has been a meaningful part of HAB's heritage for decades. Instead, we are weaving together the traditions, gifts, and voices—what we like to think of as a mosaic of worship at HAB—for the 21st century. HAB worship will continue to feature thoughtful planning and beautiful expressions of our faith guided by Scripture. Creativity and vitality will be emphasized. Worshipers will still experience the beauty of the pipe organ, choir, and piano, while on some Sundays, we will be led by various ensembles, such as a band and even other musical expressions, such as jazz, bluegrass, and gospel, during special seasons.

There is already positive energy and excitement around the possibilities. This summer, I will work with a wonderful team of people that includes Dawson McQuaig, Sissy McQuaig, P.J. Burkhalter, Leslie Burkhalter, Steve Price, Janis Price, Mark Scott, Lindsay Bergstrom, Isabella Altenbach, and Julian Morris. Through reflection and thoughtful collaboration, this group will work as a team with me to implement this initiative in the coming weeks, months, and year. This is an active, creative endeavor that seeks to evolve and stay faithful to our HAB identity and mission as we provide a place of grace for the next decade.

On Sunday, May 25, we took time in the 8:45 a.m. service to remember and bless the contributions that service has contributed to life at HAB over the past 26 years. We honored and celebrated its heritage, people, spirit, music, and lasting impact on our church's worship life and new(ish) sanctuary. We are grateful for what has been, and we step with joy into what God is making new in our community of faith.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. We have much work to do, and God is calling us to transform ourselves so we can love those who enter our doors on Sunday mornings in more authentic and vulnerable ways.

With much gratitude, hope, and new energy,  
Tommy





## Books, and Movies, and Albums...and More Books!

By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

Friends,

Several weeks ago, I was blessed to receive what pastors both look forward to and dread the most after they preach: *follow-up questions*. It was Baccalaureate Sunday, and I had preached a sermon about the story of King Solomon, the two moms, and the baby, where I talked about the importance of cultivating wisdom along with knowledge in one's life. In it, I mentioned a handful of books that I'd read over the years that I thought had helped me better understand different aspects of human nature. Well, that afternoon, a good handful of folks reached out asking about those books, so I thought I would note them in this month's *Herald* as well.

The second half of the sermon was structured around Flannery O'Connor's essay "The Catholic Novelist in the Protestant South." You can probably find it online, but I have it in an anthology of her work called *Mystery and Manners: Occasional Prose*. If you like O'Connor—or even if you were born in the South in the 20<sup>th</sup> century—then I highly recommend grabbing a copy. There are some fantastic pieces in there, and "The Catholic Novelist" is just one of them!

The novels that I mentioned in the sermon are a pretty eclectic group, and that was on purpose:

- *The Sparrow*, by Mary Doria Russell...which is brilliant but hard to read
- *The Stand*, by Stephen King...which is less scary than you probably think
- *The Poppy War Trilogy*, by R.F. Kuang...which is dark in spots but fantastic
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis...which is an all-time classic!
- *The Power and the Glory*, by Graham Greene...which might be my favorite novel ever

An honorable mention should go to *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren, which I realized too late I should've included. Penn Warren was born in Kentucky in 1905 and was one of the great American (and again, Southern) novelists of the last century. *All the King's Men* is his masterpiece and is generally considered, alongside *Moby Dick*, as one of the two greatest American novels ever written. It's a fantastic spin on the story of the legendary/notorious Louisiana politician, Huey Long, and it's a careful examination of human nature as well.

I also mentioned two albums as different takes on heartbreak: Willie Nelson's *Red-Headed Stranger* and Olivia Rodrigo's *Sour*. The first deserves listening to front-to-back. (I \*love\* *Red-Headed Stranger*) But on *Sour*, you could probably just listen to the songs that sound angry :)

And finally, the two movies I mentioned were *Moonlight* and *12 Years a Slave*, both of which are just absolutely gutting....

So, yeah, those are the ones I mentioned! If you have any questions or if you decide to read any of those, let me know! And thanks to everyone who asked!

Here's to (hopefully) growing wise!

B.J.





VBS was  
amazing!



*Chelsea Weise,  
Director of Children  
and Community Life*







### Sympathy to...

...the family of Carl Loop, who died Wednesday, June 11, 2025. The funeral was Thursday, June 26, at 11:00 a.m. in our sanctuary.

...Jeanette Yates and family in the death of Jeanette's mother, Mary Jane Blanchard, on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. The funeral was Saturday, June 14, at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

...Pam Fordham in the death of her mother, Bettye Jean Eldridge, on Saturday, May 31, 2025, in Tennessee.

### Thank You...

I want to thank the church, the staff, the deacons, friends, and all for praying for me for the last seven months. Thank you for all the many blessings that so many of you have bestowed on me. God has been with me throughout this ordeal and answered our prayers. In Christian love, Martha Douberly



### NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*Jan Stringer, Community Engagement Chair*

*A Delightful Morning at Little Friends Preschool*

*By Alyson Lee, Little Friends Board Chair*

On May 29, I had the opportunity and privilege to attend the Little Friends VPK Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony, held in our HAB sanctuary. There were approximately 250 community members in attendance; eager moms, dads, siblings, grandparents, and friends watching those little folks, the "graduates," process in, wearing their caps, gowns, and stoles as Brian Griffin from Douglas Anderson School for the Performing Arts



played "Pomp and Circumstance" on his violin. Little Friends Director Amy Love gave a moving tribute to the teachers and staff who had taught, nurtured and loved these 26 graduates. The children then sang the school song whose words, "We're Little Friends with great big hearts!" caused the

grandmother sitting behind me to tear up. Our very own Pastor B.J. delivered the opening prayer and commencement address as he reminded the graduates to build upon a solid foundation.

My personal favorite part of the ceremony was the presentation of diplomas. As each graduate's name was called, he or she walked to the respective teacher, solemnly accepted the diploma, and shook the teacher's hand. The formal ceremony



ended amidst a flurry of hugs, balloons, flowers, and gift bags from happy family members. Then the fun part began—at least for the children! There was a lovely reception in the chapel with refreshments and photo ops. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all community members in attendance and especially for me as board chair. I am so grateful to participate in this ministry of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church.





*By Debbie Crumb, Mission Team Leader*

The Mission Team recently checked in with some of our mission partners to see what is happening in their world.

**At UCOM**, they are about mid-way through their 10-week summer nutrition program. The program serves working families nutritious food for breakfast and lunch and is currently serving about 600 lunches each week.

Because of a building fire in November 2024, **UCOM is fundraising to cover costs for new siding, flooring, and electrical.** If you are interested in helping, please donate online via credit card at [ucomjax.org](http://ucomjax.org) or send a check payable to UCOM UrbanServ, 3349 St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

**UCOM is seeking volunteers** who would like to drive their truck one morning a week and can lift 40 pounds to help them “rescue” food from the local Publix and Walmart grocery stores. For more information, please contact Sara Mitchell at UCOM at 904-296-3401.

**At Safe Havens**, they have expanded the warehouse (located at Creekside Christian Church) to include a separate “donation shed” where individuals can drop off household donations during designated times. In addition, the shed will also be used to organize and store items like dishes and kitchen utensils that are not affected by hot and cold. Safe Havens was also grateful to receive a large donation of new, unsold furniture from Orange Park Furniture which recently went out of business.

**The following types of items are in short supply at the Safe Havens warehouse.** If you have any gently used (or new) items in these categories that you could donate, please text (preferred) or call Debbie Crumb at 904-662-5344.

- Coasters for drinks (also serve as decorative items)
- Picture/Plate Stands of various sizes and finishes (for display on tables or shelves)
- Decorative “balls” or “filler” such as large size potpourri in various colors and finishes (used to add color to a centerpiece bowl)
- Crocheted doilies (used to help hide imperfections in used tables)
- Silverware sets (forks, spoons, knives)
- Blenders
- Curtain rods (50” or larger) with brackets
- Vacuums
- Microwaves (small to medium size only)

**At Young Lives**, they recently had three moms graduate high school. This is a BIG deal since many teen moms do not make it through high school graduation. Two of the three graduates are hoping to go to nursing school.

Young Lives Summer Camp will be July 21-25, and 13 girls and their babies will be attending. **They ask for prayer for this time together.**

Young Lives needs continual financial support and would like to engage 30 people to donate at least \$30 a month. **If you are either able to help give a girl a scholarship to camp or help monthly, please follow the link** [giving.younglife.org/chelseaweise](http://giving.younglife.org/chelseaweise)

## Baccalaureate Sunday

**Congrats to our graduates!**







*Where in the  
World Is HAB?*  
#HABOnTheMap

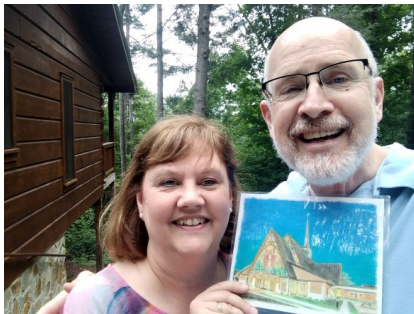
Wherever you go this summer, take HAB with you. In each place you visit, take a photo of your family holding the HAB drawing (available in the narthex). Then email your photo to [laraine@habchurch.com](mailto:laraine@habchurch.com) and post it on social media with the hash tag #HABOnTheMap.



*Susan Howell & Debbie Hagan in Juneau, Alaska*



*Rachel, Tommy, Drew, Kate, & Mac Shapard  
in California*

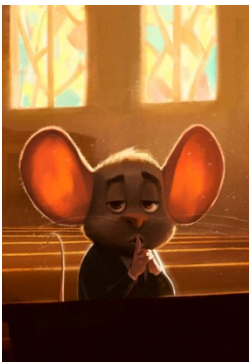


*Laraine & Vernon Humbert  
in Ellijay, Georgia*



*Joyce Hanson and family in  
Hilton Head, South Carolina*





## From the Church Mouse

Good day, my HAB Friends! Some of you have been traveling and doing other good works in the community. I, your news-seeking Church Mouse, have had my big ears wide open for places to which our members have traveled and good things that they have done. This is what I know about as I write to you for the July *Herald*.

**Audrey & Alba Dinu**, daughters of **Liliana Dinu**, and **Hannah Ruth & Elijah Hutto** participated in a fashion show at Dillard's at the Town Center to raise money

and awareness for the **Clarke School for Hearing and**

**Speech**. Both **Audrey** and **Elijah** attended that school prior to elementary school. It serves kids up to age 7 who have hearing loss.



The cat is out of the bag! For all of you who know **Amy Quinn**, she says that coordination is actually her nemesis. But **First Coast Dancing with the Stars** said, "No worries, your dance pro will teach you!" Stay tuned to be entertained on Amy's dancing journey. Beaches Fine Arts Series has been bringing Music/Art to the Jacksonville greater community for over 50 years! Amy would love your votes over the next few months as she is in competition this September 2025.

**Mac Shapard** received the **Technical Theatre Award** at the 8th Grade Awards Ceremony at LaVilla School of the Arts. Special thanks to Abbie Malkewitz for being such a phenomenal teacher and a wise guide throughout the past two years. Congrats, Mac! We are proud of you.

You may have read about **Jonas & Henry Wilson's** Eagle Scout projects in earlier editions of the *Herald*. The projects were just one of many steps for each of them to complete on their journey to Eagle Scout. On May 18, both Jonas and Henry officially earned the rank of **Eagle Scout** by completing their Eagle Scout Board of Reviews. There are rumors they are planning a special Eagle Court of Honor at the end

of summer with their cousin, Michael Dickson, who also earned his Eagle Scout rank that same day. At that ceremony they will talk about their path to Eagle, thank those that helped motivate them along the way, and be awarded their patch and medal for their uniforms.

The **Shapard Family (Rachel, Tommy, Drew, Mac, & Kate)** just returned from a nice trip to California for vacation as Rachel was on sabbatical from her work with **Together for Hope**. They also went to Yosemite National Park and other great places on their journey.

I was disappointed that our choir was not in the loft this past Sunday, as I look forward to sneaking around the chairs and picking up crumbs of snacks they sometimes drop by their chairs. They think no one sees them or knows they snack like this. They also bring water bottles which are hard for me to sip from, but sometimes they leave the tops off, and I can sneak a slurp without being caught. I think they will be back this coming Sunday, and I can scurry between the chairs to find a treat or two!

That's all I have heard this month. **Remember to email me at churchmouse@habchurch** so that you, too, may be featured in *The Herald*. I am sure there are many of you who are traveling this summer, attending conferences, or doing worthwhile projects or attending important events that our members would be interested in knowing about. Don't be bashful! Toot your own horn! Just let them think your lowly Church Mouse overheard a conversation. I surely won't tell! I really look forward to a full mailbox before our August edition goes to press.





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



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

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