



A Season of Changes By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

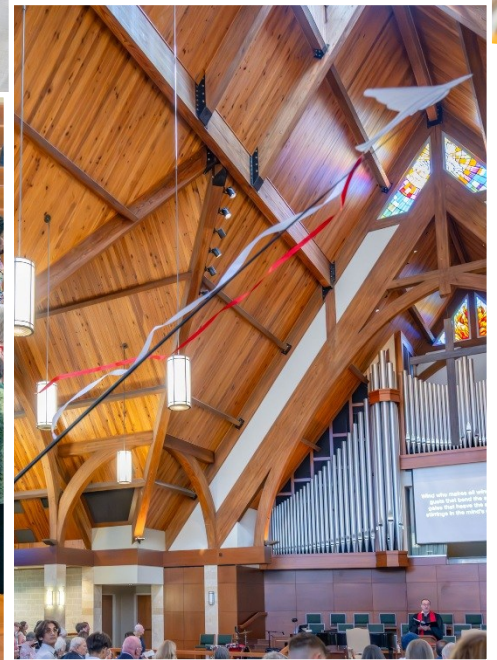
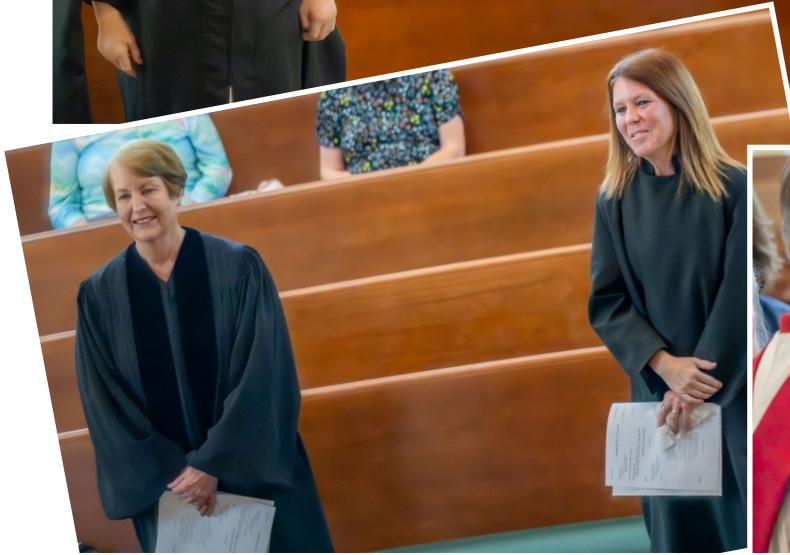
As October approaches, we find ourselves in a season of changes. Summer heat is replaced by the chill of fall (everywhere except for Florida, of course). Green leaves melt into autumnal gold (except here in Florida, I've learned). And long, languid days slowly give way to deeper, darker nights (except, well, since we're so far south, closer to the equator, our daylight doesn't really....you know what, I think y'all probably get the picture).

And just as the seasons turn around us, there are turnings here at HAB as well. Just last month, we welcomed Britt Hester back to our ministerial staff full-time. Just last week, we ordained Chelsea Weise—along with three other women—to the Gospel ministry, so she has now formally joined our ministerial staff as well. And in October, we will bid a fond and loving farewell to Laraine Humbert as she retires from our office staff. **There will be much more said about Laraine and her retirement in the coming weeks, but for now please mark October 12 on your calendars! That Sunday happens to be Laraine's birthday, and it's also when we will celebrate her, and her gifts, and her tireless commitment to our church family!**

As Laraine moves towards her retirement, she has been spending the last several weeks training **our office's new pastoral assistant, Sheila Barber**. Sheila comes to us with decades of experience in the business sector, but in addition to that she's also worked at two other churches. One of them was a Baptist church, and more recently she's served at a Lutheran church, so she is well-positioned to understand HAB's unique, different way of being Baptist! She has a wealth of experience in office administration, bookkeeping, and publishing. Currently, she lives in Middleburg with her husband, is a member at FBC Middleburg, and is a Georgia Bulldog, which I know will make at least a few of you happy. She has jumped into her work here at HAB with a good attitude and a willing heart, and she's folded right into the culture of our team. I am grateful for her spirit and her willingness to serve, and I feel sure that y'all will be as well, so please stop by when you have the time, welcome her, and introduce yourselves! For more information about Sheila, see page 3.

I am also grateful for the team of Carolyn Hinckley, Debbie Hagan, and Janet Metcalf who vetted and interviewed candidates for this position, and for the commitment of our indefatigable Personnel chair, Elizabeth Spradley! Please, please, when you see these women, thank them for the success of this search process and for all that they do for HAB!

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus once wrote that you never cross the same stream twice because, while it's always there, it's also constantly moving and changing. The same can be said for churches, and certainly for HAB. As things change around and within us, we remain who God has always called us to be: a place of grace for our neighbors!



Sad Church Mouse!

Due to the lack of reported good news (in other words, nothing!), there will be no Church Mouse this month. Send us your stuff at churchmouse@habchurch.com.

Please help us welcome Sheila Barber as our new pastoral assistant!

Sheila's hobbies are taking care of her small farm in Middleburg, which includes 30 chickens and two bee hives. She's well versed in church life, having worked at churches in the past. Sheila is working with Laraine to learn the procedures of HAB and is anxious to get to know all of you. Stop by the office, introduce yourself, and say hello.

Sheila's email address is sheila@habchurch.com, and her phone extension will remain the same as Laraine's, 904-396-7745, ext. 103. When emailing or leaving a message, it will be helpful if you leave your first and last name.

Sheila will be succeeding Laraine Humbert as Laraine retires on October 10.



ORDINATION SERVICE SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



Back row: Dr. Tommy Shapard. Middle row: Dr. B.J. Hutto, Rev. Tammy Snyder (CBF Florida & Caribbean Islands), Rev. Chelsea Weise, Rev. Heather Carlton, Rev. Mary Nell McCoy, Rev. Nikki Hardeman (CBF National), Rev. Britt Hester. Front row: Rev. Janie Church



Britt Hester, Associate Pastor for Community Life and Spiritual Formation



There are few words in the English language as slow, unhurried, and gentle as saunter. It does not imply rushing, striving, or trying to prove oneself.

Instead, to saunter is to walk with ease, to move with presence, to step into the world with calm confidence rather than frantic urgency. For our youth ministry theme this year, we have chosen Saunter as a way of describing how we hope to live and walk together in a world filled with chaos, violence, and confusion.

At first glance, saunter might sound out of place in our current moment. The world tells us to hurry up, get ahead, and stay busy. News headlines overwhelm us with tragedy and division. Social media pushes us toward comparison and competition. In such an environment, a slow and gentle pace might seem irresponsible, even naïve. Yet, the way of Jesus consistently challenges the world's expectations. Jesus never seemed rushed. He traveled from town to town, pausing to listen, to heal, to eat with strangers, and to notice those everyone else overlooked. His life was defined not by frenzy, but by trust in God's timing.

To saunter in the way of Christ doesn't mean ignoring the pain of the world. In fact, it means opening our eyes wider. When we walk humbly, we can notice those who are hurting. When we move gently, we create space for kindness and compassion to emerge. When we resist the pressure to rush, we open ourselves to the Spirit's interruptions. Sauntering is not passive. Rather, it is an act of trust. It is a choice to earnestly believe that God is in control, even when the world around us seems to spin out of control.

For our students, this way of walking may feel countercultural. School, sports, friendships, and plans all demand energy and urgency. Many of them carry the weight of expectations: grades to earn, teams to join, colleges to apply to, reputations to uphold. The message often received is that your worth depends on your speed, productivity, or popularity. But what if your worth was already secure? What if you could live from a place of deep trust rather than anxious striving? This is what it means to saunter with God.

As a youth group this year, we are committing ourselves to this slower, more humble, more attentive walk. We will study Scripture not as a checklist but as an invitation to listen. We will serve not out of obligation but out of love. We will gather in fellowship not to impress one another but to remind each other of grace. We will practice walking gently through a world that is anything but gentle, and in doing so, bear witness to the hope that God is always with us.

So, when you hear the word saunter, let it remind you of Jesus' invitation: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28). May this year be one where our students, leaders, and families learn to walk not in panic but in peace, not in fear but in trust, not in haste but in love. We hope you will join us!





*Chelsea Weise,
Minister to
Children*

*Contact Chelsea at
children@habchurch.com*

Our children's ministry has been full of life and excitement this fall! Wednesday nights have been a special time where kids not only learn about God but also enjoy inviting their friends to join the fun. We love seeing new faces each week as our students share the joy of fellowship and faith with others. Thank you to **Dora Orr** for her continued support and love on these kids.

On Sunday mornings, *MIC Drop* (Music in Christ) continues to grow, and it has been inspiring to watch our kids engage more deeply through music. We look forward to sharing with the entire congregation during an upcoming Sunday service.

Big changes are also on the horizon—we will soon be relocating to the **E wing!** This will give us a dedicated space to continue growing, but we need your help to make this space truly our own. If you would like to contribute to items for the kids' wing, go to bit.ly/4n8oup0 or scan the QR code.



Our ministry also enjoys fun together outside the church walls! Recently, we had a wonderful bike ride through the Baldwin Trail and even spotted a deer along the way—it was a beautiful reminder of God's creation and joy in community.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for an **A-Maze-ing Market** on **Wednesday, October 29, from 5:30–7:30 p.m.** We are praying that this will be a welcome community event, and we need volunteers to help make it a success. Whether it's decorating a trunk for our annual Trunk or Treat, donating candy, or lending a hand with activities, your involvement will help us bless our children and our community in a big way. Please let me know at children@habchurch.com if you'd like to decorate your vehicle for Trunk or Treat.



Lastly, thank you to our amazing volunteer rotation on Sunday mornings during our worship service. You are blessing this ministry and the kids that attend. I cannot thank you enough for saying "yes" to serve.

Thank you, church family, for your prayers, encouragement, and support as our children's ministry continues to grow and thrive!





Sympathy to...

...the friends and family of long-time member, Kim Sams, who died Saturday, August 16, 2025. The family is not planning a service.

...Elaine Galloway in the death of her cousin, Steve Edwards, on Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

Congratulations to...

...Sharon & Dan Dundon on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Jane Anderson. Jane's parents, Emma & Paul Anderson, are thrilled, and Noah is excited to be a big brother! Jane was born Wednesday, August 13, 2025, and weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz.

Thank You:

Thank you, HAB family, for all the cards, thoughts, and prayers for my sister, Linda Salter Gooding!—Nettie & Johnnie Poston

Thank you all who have sent cards, notes, and have kept me in your prayers.—Nancy Mahon



By Susan Stepp, Hospitality Team Leader

Meet and Greet

On the third Sunday of every month, beginning October 19, the *HAB Hospitality Team* will host a *Meet and Greet* in the narthex after worship. Take a few minutes to stop by, have a treat, and visit with old and new friends.



HAB Men!

You are invited to a
Men's Get-Together
on **Wednesday, October 8,**
at **11:30 a.m. at**
Seafood Island in San Marco.

If possible, please email Steve Price
at smpis123@gmail.com
if you plan to attend.



THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE



C. S. LEWIS

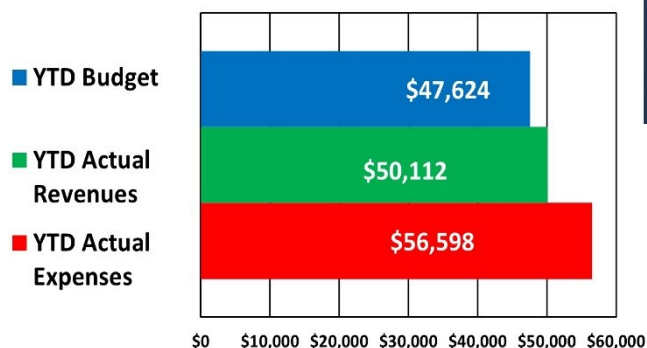
Book Discussion Led by B.J. Hutto

Sunday, October 19
4:00 p.m.

At the home of
Alyson Lee

YTD Financial Update as of 09/19/2025

Fiscal year September 2025- August 2026



The Art Ministry Team is looking for nativity scenes from cultures outside the familiar Western European & U.S. tradition to display in the narthex during Advent (November 30- January 6). If you have one to share, please contact Nancy Felton



October 1

Baked ziti
Roasted Brussels sprouts
Garlic bread
Tiramisu cake

October 8

Shepherd's pie
Fresh yeast rolls
Brownie cupcakes

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

JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER!

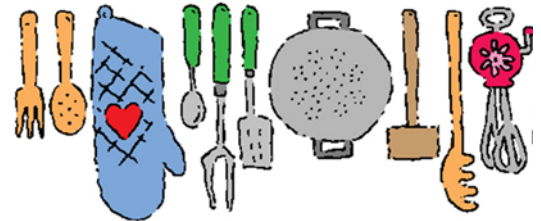
You're invited to join us each Wednesday for a wonderful meal (that you don't have to cook!) and great fellowship. Please make reservations by Monday each week by contacting Sheila at sheila@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 103. Adults are \$12, children \$8, and immediate family maximum \$30. Children's menu is chicken nuggets and fries. Please specify adult or children's meal when making reservations. If you'd like a permanent reservation, please let us know. We'd just ask you to cancel on weeks when you can't be there. Meal is served beginning at 5:15 p.m.

October 15

Joharen's roasted chicken
White rice & black beans
Pico de gallo
Fried plantain chips
Fried cheese
Tres leche cake

October 22

Eye of round
Horseradish sauce
Loaded potato casserole
Roasted Brussels sprouts
Chocolate delight



October 29

Roast pork with gravy
Baked apple slices
Mashed potatoes
Broccoli with lemon butter sauce
"Better than anything" cake



Gladys Hutchins recently celebrated her 95th birthday!



Where in the World Is HAB?

#HABOnTheMap

Susan Howell and Debbie Hagan in Gainesville, Georgia



Carle & Nancy Felton at Icy Strait, Hoonah, Alaska, enjoying glaciers, whale pods, gorgeous sunny days plus cool weather!



Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church
4001 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6321
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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 Community Life & Spiritual Formation
Chelsea Weise, B.S., B.C.E., Minister to Children • **Laraine Humbert**, B.M.E., Pastoral Assistant
Darrell Mitchell, M.B.A., Financial Manager • **H. Kendell Smith**, Dip.C.M., Minister of Music Emeritus