



By B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor



Friends,

One of the biggest gifts that HAB has remained committed to giving its community over the decades is its willingness to share its campus. Sometimes we share our campus with small organizations but sometimes we share our campus with organizations that are quite large or even have a global impact. One example of that has been the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. For decades, IWS has equipped ministers to lead churches in worship. They've equipped ministers close to home—including the music minister at my home church in South Carolina—and they've equipped ministers all around the world: as of 2024, IWS had graduated 774 students from more than 35 countries and 100 different Christian denominations. Truly, a world-changing ministry!

Unfortunately, late last year IWS found itself unable to continue as a standalone institution. Their doctoral-level curriculum will continue under the umbrella of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, but their decade-long partnership with HAB has come to a close. As a final act of gratitude and a kind farewell, the current President of IWS has asked me to share the following letter with the congregation:

To Rev. B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor
The Congregation of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church
From Rev. Dr. Constance M. Cherry
President, The Institute for Worship Studies
February 1, 2026

I am writing to sincerely thank you for the hospitality you have given The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies these past 10 ½ years. Your congregation, and B.J. personally, has extended a very warm welcome to our graduate school so that we could carry out our mission. You have allowed us to locate our offices at the church and to have wide use of your facilities. The beautiful sanctuary added so much to our services of worship, practicums, chapels, and more.

Not only have we occupied the premises, but we have experienced the love of God in your people, especially the dozens of church members who hosted our students in their homes to help keep their costs down. I know that many wonderful relationships have blossomed as a result. I'm sure you sacrificially adjusted your church activities at times so that IWS could operate when we were on campus. We greatly appreciated Rev. Hutto's involvement by greeting us at the beginning of sessions, speaking in chapel, and participating in graduations.

While our circumstances as an institution have brought about unsustainability, we know that God is opening doors for the IWS mission to continue. Fuller Theological Seminary is making a place for our curriculum and the continuation of the legacy for Bob Webber. It is very sad for all of us at IWS, but we have faith that God still has big plans for the unique influence of our founder to continue to impact worship worldwide.

Thanks to you all, everyone at IWS feels like Hendricks Avenue Baptist is home. We will miss the embrace of HAB. Thank you for opening your doors. May God bless you for all your kindnesses.

Dr. Constance M. Cherry, President
The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies

Britt Hester, Associate Pastor for Community Life and Spiritual Formation



Our Youth on Mission

Over President's Day weekend, our students and adults traveled to Allendale, South Carolina, for a meaningful weekend of service, learning, and fellowship. Partnering with Together for Hope, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing rural poverty, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina, our students and adults joined churches and individuals from across the region to serve neighbors in need.

Our primary work during the trip was to build wheelchair ramps for local residents. While the ramps themselves were simple in design, the impact was significant. For the neighbors we served, these ramps offer greater accessibility, independence, and dignity in daily life. Throughout the weekend, our group also listened to personal stories, shared meals, and learned more about the challenges rural communities face. The experience invited us to slow down, pay attention, and recognize that faith is often lived out through practical, tangible acts of care.

One of the most powerful aspects of the trip was watching our students step fully into the work. They showed up ready to learn, willing to serve, and eager to help wherever they were needed. Throughout the weekend, they worked hard, encouraged one another, and formed meaningful connections with people they had just met. The weekend served as a clear reminder that our students are not simply preparing for future ministry. They are already living out their faith in real and impactful ways.

This experience also affirmed something important for our congregation. Our students are capable of doing this same kind of meaningful work right here in Jacksonville. As we look ahead to Passport Camp in June, our youth are offering their time and energy to help offset the cost of camp through a program we are calling "Rent A Youth."

Beginning in March, our students will be available for individual or group projects such as yard work, organizing, moving help, babysitting, dogsitting, and other household needs. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to support our students while also receiving practical help around your home or neighborhood. All proceeds from Rent A Youth will go directly toward helping students attend Passport Camp this summer.

If you are interested in scheduling a project or would like more information, please contact Britt (britt@habchurch.com). Thank you for continuing to support our youth ministry and for encouraging our students as they live out their faith through service, both near and far.





Chelsea Weise, Minister to Children

Contact Chelsea at children@habchurch.com

Our world is full of different ages, colors, languages, personalities, and ideas. We celebrate these differences because each person reflects the creativity of God. Every person we meet carries God's image, and that makes each life valuable and worthy of love.

Lent helps us remember this more clearly. It is a season to slow down, reflect, and turn our hearts back to God. As we pray and look honestly at our lives, we ask God to remove anything that keeps us from loving others well. We practice choosing compassion over judgment, curiosity over fear, and kindness over indifference.

Lent is also a season of waiting. I remember when my kids were so excited when we started counting down the days until summer break. They talked about it constantly, made plans, and could hardly wait for the joy they knew was coming. Their excitement made the waiting feel special.

What if we waited for Easter with that same kind of joy and expectation?

As we count down the days to Easter morning, we remember that something beautiful is coming. Even when we cannot see it yet, God is working, softening our hearts, helping us grow, and teaching us to love more deeply. Waiting is not empty; it is full of hope.

The Church helps show this to our children by creating spaces where everyone belongs; by welcoming others, sharing stories from different cultures, serving with dignity, and standing up for what is right. When children see faith lived out in love and action, they learn that following Jesus means caring for people.

You can help by showing up for our kids: at their games, their performances, or on a Wednesday night to volunteer. Your presence tells them they matter.

And our children teach us, too. They show Christ in simple ways: by including someone who feels left out, by listening before judging, by sharing generously, and by speaking kindly.

As we wait for Easter with joyful expectation, like children counting down to summer, we grow together. We learn to see Christ in one another and become a church family marked by mercy, dignity, and hope.



FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



Hi there, Mousers! This lowly Church Mouse has a few bits of news this month. Would love to have more to pass along, but here's what I have —

Jennifer Mayo has been named to the **Board of Directors at Ronald McDonald House**. Jennifer is extremely qualified, as she is a former cardiovascular intensive care nurse. She also is a long-time volunteer in our community. Congratulations, **Jennifer!**

As **Hendricks Baseball** kicks off the 2026 season, you are invited to attend the **Opening Ceremony** on **March 7** at 10:00 a.m. Our own **Izzy Altenbach** will be singing the National Anthem, and **Boy Scout Troup 35**, led by **Henry** and **Jonas Wilson** will present the Colors. We are fortunate to have **398** players this season on **37** Teams. From 4-year-olds on T-ball teams, to 12-year-olds on highly **Competitive Tournament Teams**, it takes an army of volunteers to make it all happen. **Volunteers are needed** to help with this far-reaching ministry of **HAB**. Please contact **Jon Yost** at Jon.yost4022@gmail.com to discuss ways in which you might be able to help!

A good group of **Senior Adults** participated in our **Annual Senior Adult Banquet** on Sunday, February 22. The **current Deacon Body** planned and served the dinner and coordinated the cooking, serving, entertainment, and cleanup. **Trent Fisher** is our kitchen master, **Debbie Hagan** and **Becky Sullivan** planned the program and decorations, with the rest of your Deacons filling the rest of the responsibilities. Our own **Lee Turner** performed his usual magic on the piano! The food was delicious, and a good time was had by all attending.

Be sure and visit our current **Art Exhibit** in the Narthex, with featured art work by **Dawn Inglis Montgomery**. An open viewing and reception was held on Wednesday evening, February 11, and was well attended by HAB Members and guests.

Congratulations to **Houston Snead**, son of **Sindi Snead**, who **rode 375.8 miles** in the **2026 Huracan Bikepacking Challenge**. Houston competed this **off-road endurance ride** in **4 days 22 hours 43 minutes!** That is quite an accomplishment!

Well, Sweet Members of HAB, I hope you enjoy the tidbits I am able to find to include in the Church Mouse column. I am always eager to hear more news and spread it around through our *Hendricks Herald*. Let me know ALL the news we can use at Churchmouse@habchurch.com. We'll get it out in our next edition so you'll be "in the know." That's all for now!

Echo Saunders visited **Iceland** a few weeks back. Echo didn't say whether she saw the Aurora Borealis while she was there. This picture was taken at the **Blue Lagoon**, a popular tourist attraction. Echo, this poor little Church Mouse is very jealous—one of my favorite critters is the puffin!



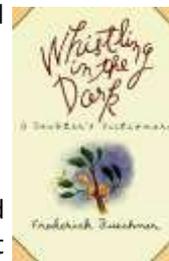
Calling all Readers!

On **March 8 at 4:00 pm.** B.J. will lead us in discussing Frederick Buechner's timeless classic, *Whistling in the Dark, A Doubter's Dictionary* at the home of Alyson Lee, 3636 Silvery Lane.

"Compelling and imaginative...uncovers bright patches of light and discloses wry kernels of wisdom and insight." - **Chicago Tribune**

"Entertaining and useful...Buechner is very good at squeezing a lot of reflection into a few sentences...His insights, and expressions of them, are sharp." - **Milwaukee Journal**

"Ultimate justice would mean that [Buechner's] books will be found in virtually every literate and civilized household in the United States. That is what he deserves as a writer...A wise and witty book, written with that beauty of style that Buechner readers have learned to expect...Pure delight." - **Chattanooga Times**



All are welcome so feel free to invite a friend. A little secret: even if you haven't finished or even started the book, you can still come to the discussion! It is great to spend time together, and it is always interesting.

Are you thinking about trying something new? **Scottish Country Dance** might be just what you are looking for. It's an entertaining way to exercise your mind and body in a stress-free atmosphere. The quick time reels and jigs are an enjoyable way to get your cardio while the slower strathspeys are good for improving your balance and coordination. The figures in each dance are a fun way to exercise your brain, and it's a great social activity! No experience needed as we will teach each dance with all the moves you need to know.

Scottish Country Dance is a social dance form featuring interesting patterns and figures to Scottish tunes. There are almost 2,000 Scottish dance groups around the globe, so whether you are 9 or 89, you can travel all over the world and make new friends through dance.

Come alone or bring a friend! We will dance in the HAB gym on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Wear comfortable clothing and soft-soled shoes. If you have any questions, email Curt Beadell at selkies2@comcast.net or call



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 of each week by contacting Sheila at sheila@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 103. Adults are \$12, children \$8, and the immediate family maximum is \$30. The children's menu each week is chicken nuggets and fries unless otherwise stated. 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 present. The meal is served beginning at 5:15 p.m.



March 4: spaghetti & meatballs, buttered peas with mushrooms, Olive Garden salad, yeast rolls, and lemon cream cake /w lemon buttercream frosting.
CHILDREN'S MENU: Pizza

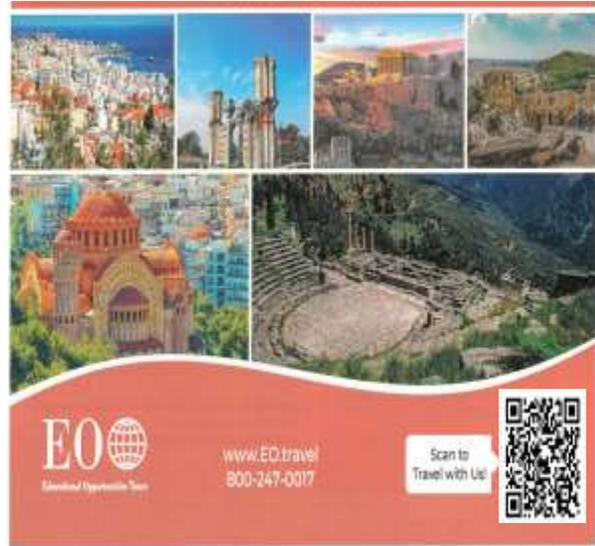
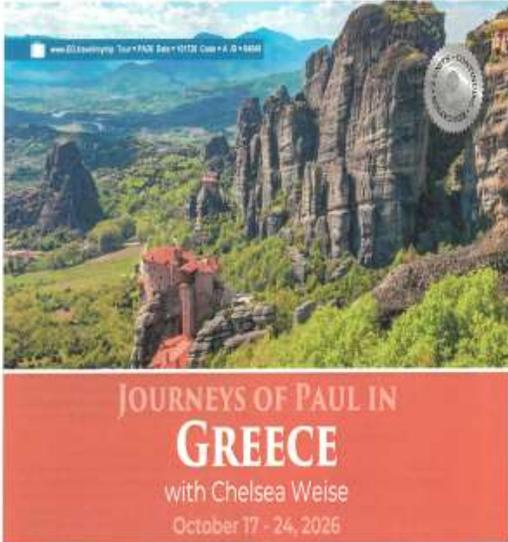
March 11: Joharen's roasted chicken, white rice, black beans, pico de gallo, fried plantains, fried cheese, Tres Leche cake.

March 18: NO MEAL DUE TO SPRING BREAK

March 25: chicken pot pie, mixed green salad with lemon vinaigrette, yeast rolls, Our Lady brownies.

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

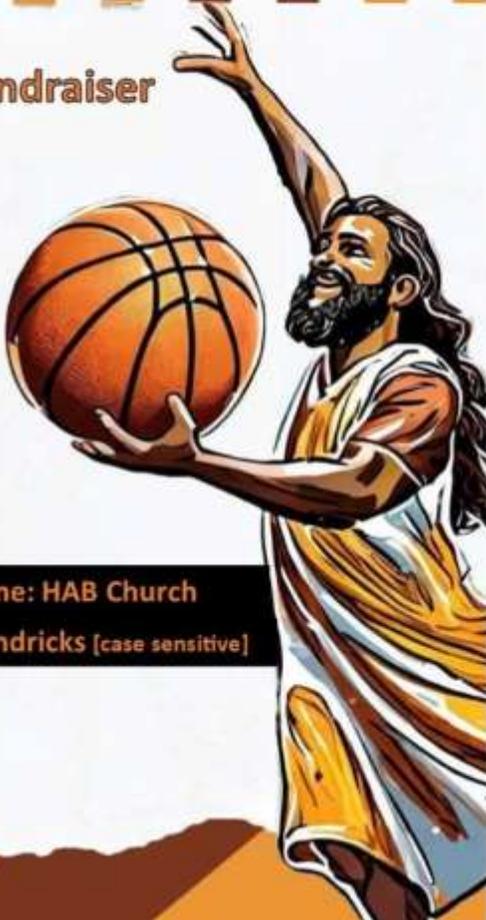
WALKING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL: Join Chelsea Weise on an unforgettable journey to Greece, walking in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and experiencing Scripture come alive. Together we'll explore Thessaloniki, Corinth, and Athens, places where Paul preached, taught, and helped shape the early Church. Our pilgrimage will run October 17-24, 2026, with the option to add an extension if you'd like to continue the adventure. Come deepen your faith, grow in community, and encounter God's story in a powerful way. For more information, click on the QR Code or contact Chelsea Weise at children@habchurch.com.



HAB's UCOM Basketball Fundraiser

Shoot your shot, have a ball, and support a great ministry!

Scan QR code or go to bit.ly/HAB-Bracket to get started!

Group Name: HAB Church
Password: Hendricks [case sensitive]

\$25 per bracket (max 10 brackets).
Make donations at bit.ly/HABGiving (honor system).



Patty and Ralph Henderson: Both Patty and Ralph grew up in Navy families. Ralph has lived in Jacksonville since he was five years old, while Patty moved often—Hawaii, Guam, Virginia, the Philippines, and Georgia. Although they were born less than 10 miles apart in California, they didn't meet until many years later at Valdosta State College in South Georgia. After marrying in 1978, they lived for a short time in Gainesville, Florida, and then they moved to Jacksonville in December of that year.

Ralph retired from the State of Florida; Patty is a former legal assistant. After 'retirement,' they both worked with the Jacksonville Public Library—one of their favorite places.

In his spare time, Ralph enjoys reading—a mostly history and other non-fiction—and listening to music. Patty can attest that he has very eclectic musical tastes. Patty enjoys reading fiction (she is juggling two book clubs). She also likes jigsaw and crossword puzzles. During the summer, you may find them at the bowling alley chasing that ever-elusive 300.

Most of all, they treasure getting together with their two children and spouses, and their four grandchildren.

Patty and Ralph are excited to be a part of HAB where they have been warmly welcomed. They appreciate the wealth of knowledge and fellowship shared with their classmates in the Fresh Encounters class, as well as the uplifting sermons and music in the worship service.

CHILDREN and LITTLE FRIEND'S SUNDAY MARCH 1



BOOK DISCUSSION
 March 8, 4:00 p.m.
 Home of Alyson Lee
 3636 Silvery Lane



Thursday, March 12, 11:30 a.m.
 Noura Cafe, 1533 University Blvd.
 (Mediterranean food)
 email Steve Price, if attending,
 at smpis123@gmail.com

HAB men

2nd Thursday of Each Month Men's Get Together



March 15

GREET

narthex





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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 • Sheila Barber, Pastoral Assistant