

hendricks herald

April 2026

4001 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207

habchurch.com

“Sacred Spaces”

by Sissy (Chair, Budget & Finance Committee) and Dawson McQuaig

***“The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former...
and in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.” Haggai 2:9***

At Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, we are blessed to be in a place that has long been a foundation for worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Our campus is more than buildings — it is a sacred space where lives are changed, faith is deepened, and community is built.

As our church continues to grow, we are launching the Sacred Spaces campaign to ensure we care for this gift with wisdom and intention. This 60-day campaign will establish a property maintenance reserve fund of \$250,000 to support the ongoing restoration, upkeep, and improvement of our facilities over the next three years. We are on our way and have raised over \$35,000 so far!

By planning ahead, we can address maintenance needs proactively; maintain a safe, welcoming environment; and direct future resources toward ministry and growth. Funds from this campaign have already been used to improve lighting upgrades in our sanctuary and gym. Together, we have the opportunity to preserve what has been entrusted to us while preparing for the growth God is leading us toward.

Look for monthly updates on this campaign and how the funds are used in the *Herald*.

If you would like to contribute to the Sacred Spaces campaign, please ensure “Sacred Spaces” is noted on the remittance. If you have any questions on how to contribute, please contact Sissy McQuaig or David Key.





by B.J. Hutto, Senior Pastor

*“DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN, BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN, TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS YOU CAN.”*

Friends,

It is well known that HAB calls itself “A Place of Grace.” This means a number of things, but one of them is certainly that anyone who shows up at our door is made welcome. This characteristic of our church is most evident on Sunday mornings—and the church staff consistently hears that guests feel their welcome when they arrive—but it shows itself in other ways as well. If you’re a part of our Wednesday night dinners (*and if you aren’t, then what in the world is keeping you???*), then you’ve seen it in evidence there as new folks are invited to sit and join peoples’ tables. You can also see it in how we share our campus with our neighbors.

However, there is one area of the church’s hospitality that isn’t always as visible, and that’s the way that we help our neighbors in need. Many people know that we raise money to erase medical debt and that we partner with local agencies such as UCOM, but we also help people on a more individualized basis. For years now, for example, we have offered bag lunches to people who stop by the church office during the day, and a number of our less fortunate neighbors have learned that HAB is a place that they can turn to for a nourishing meal and a warm smile. In addition to this, however, we also offer financial assistance when we are able to. Usually this takes the form of a rent or bill payment when someone needs a helping hand, but today I want to tell you a slightly different story.

This is a story about “Sara” (not her real name), who reached out to us about a year and a half ago. She’s a single mom of a young child with special needs, and she came to Jacksonville from her hometown in order to get out of an abusive relationship. She had been crashing with a friend, but that arrangement ended, and—in order to keep herself and her son off of the streets—she was asking for a hotel room until she could find another, more permanent place to stay. True to her word, Sara was quickly able to find a better situation, and she even got her son enrolled in a special education program in the Duval County Public School system. She was very grateful, and she stayed in touch with the church and would occasionally reach out for prayer or some smaller help. She had come to trust that Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church would be there for her.

Then, about a month ago, her life was changed. Sara applied for housing through Hubbard House, and because she is a domestic violence survivor, her case was fast-tracked. She was offered an apartment of her own, but it wasn’t furnished, so she reached back out to HAB for assistance. HAB doesn’t have furniture, but we do have partners, so we put Sara into contact with Safe Havens Ministries, who was happy to help. And now, as of this week, Sara is enjoying a fully furnished home, the first she’s ever been able to call her own.

It’s a small story but also a powerful one. And it’s just one more way that HAB is helping change the lives of its neighbors. Through our kindness, through our partnerships, through our generosity and our witness to the abundance of God’s love, we are showing people around us—in so many different ways—what it means to be “a place of grace!”

Kind regards,
B.J.

FRESH ENCOUNTERS: NEW SERIES STARTING AFTER EASTER

Isaiah for Our Time: A Modern Reading of an Ancient Prophet

April 12 – May 24 | Sundays at 9:45 AM | Room E-2

The words of Isaiah were spoken into a time of fear, uncertainty, and change, yet they sound strikingly familiar today. This 7-week study explores how an ancient prophet challenges faith that becomes routine, calls us back to justice and compassion, and offers a vision of hope that still speaks into our lives. Each week includes Scripture, a modern reflection, and open discussion. Come as you are, whether you attend regularly or are simply curious. All are welcome.



by Chelsea Weise, Minister to Children

MISSIONWEEK IS COMING! A NEW ADVENTURE IN SERVING OTHERS

This summer, our Children's Ministry is excited to launch something new: Mission Week! June 8-12 from 1:00-4:00 p.m., is designed to help our kids discover what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus right here in our community. Through simple but meaningful acts of service, our children will learn they are never too young to make a difference in God's Kingdom.

Mission Week will provide opportunities to grow in faith, build friendships, and live out God's love in practical ways. Each day will focus on a different activity, rooted in Scripture and centered on serving others with joyful hearts.

We will create Blessing Bags! These bags will be filled with essential items and encouraging notes to share with those in need. This will help our children understand that kindness can be simple, intentional, and powerful.

We will serve around our church property! Our kids will complete projects around the church campus, such as light yard work, organizing spaces, and helping care for the place where we worship and grow together.

We will serve our Homebound! Our children will share smiles, music, handmade cards, and conversation to remind them they are loved and not forgotten. This experience helps children develop empathy and teaches them the importance of presence. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give someone is simply our time and care.

Lastly, we will serve our neighbors! Our final mission day will focus on another outreach opportunity to serve our community in a hands-on way. Whether helping a local ministry partner or completing a special project, our goal is to help kids see that God can use them right now to shine His light.

This day will tie everything together as we celebrate how God used us throughout the week to bless others and grow stronger in our faith together.

However, for Mission Week to be successful, we need volunteers.

You do not have to be an expert, just someone with a willing heart. Whether you can help one day or the whole week, your presence will make a difference. Serving alongside our children not only supports them but also models what a life of faith in action looks like.

Scripture reminds us, "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth," (1 John 3:18). If you feel called to be part of Mission Week, we would love you to join us as we invest in the next generation of servants.



Please contact me if you can serve or give in any way. I am hopeful and excited for this new adventure in the lives of our children at HAB!



We are excited to welcome the Parada-Arcon family to our church family: Carlos Parada, Dr. Sirlys Arcon-Rios, Lucero Parada-Arcon, and Santiago-Arcon!

Carlos is the owner and broker of Distinct Properties of Jacksonville, Inc., and Sirlys is an endocrinologist in the Baptist Hospital system, and she already shares meaningful connections with many of her patients here at HAB.

Lucero enjoys playing soccer and brings a wonderful energy and enthusiasm to Stanton High School, while Santiago shares his musical gifts through his enjoyment of playing the piano.

Please be sure to greet the Parada-Arcon family, introduce yourself, and help them feel at home. Welcome to the family—we are so glad you are here!



Here is what is happening at H A B during April

1 NO WEDNESDAY
EVENING
ACTIVITIES

2 Maundy Thursday
Service, 7:30 p.m.

3 Good Friday
Service, 7:30 p.m.

4 Eggstravaganza
Saturday
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

5 Easter Sunday
Service, 11:00 a.m.

6 Easter Monday,
Church Office
Closed

9 HAB Men's
Luncheon
Thursday, 11:30 a.m.

12 Youth Sunday

17 Jacksonville Jumbo
Shrimp Baseball
Game, Friday
7:05 p.m. first pitch

19 Sunday
Meet & Greet,
Narthex, 12:15 p.m.

19 Book Discussion
3636 Silvery Lane
Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

26 Youth Sunday Night
Fellowship
6:00 p.m.



HAB MEN'S

Lunch Meetup

Thursday, April 9

11:30 a.m.

Toscana's

(4440 Hendricks Avenue)

All HAB Men are invited!

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



Hi there, sweet HAB Friends! This is your lowly Church Mouse with all the news I have heard this month! I know there must be more going on than I hear, which makes me a little sad, because I'm supposed to be "all ears" and maybe I am getting hard of hearing, or somebody's whispering around me, 'cause I KNOW there must be more to be told than I have heard. Anyway, here's what I have!

B.J. Hutto, Britt Hester, and Mary Nell McCoy visited with **Rev. Janie Church** for her 70th birthday. They relayed to her the fact that she is loved and missed around here.



Curt Beadell and Anne Hueser took part in the opening parade of the 31st year of the **Northeast Florida Scottish Games**. They also taught **Scottish Country Dance** to a group of students who toured the games. As usual, they loved spending the day with "10,000 of their closest friends."

Anne Hueser celebrated the 50th Anniversary of **Atlanta's** branch of the **Royal Scottish Country Dance Society** with 90 dancers from all over North America!



Rev. Chelsea Weise presented a program on the **Young Lives** work she does, to the **Sisterhood of Survivors**, our widowed ladies who meet once a month. The ladies brought an assortment of Easter toys, toy cars, stuffed animals, bubbles, and other treats to fill Easter baskets for the children of the young women in **Young Lives**.



Hannah Gray has been inducted into **Phi Lambda Sigma**, Pharmacy Leadership Society and **Rho Chi** Pharmacy Academic Society. **Hannah** participated in Legislative Days in Tallahassee, where she and other pharmacy students met with legislators and lobbied on bills that will impact pharmacists. **Hannah** presented to four legislators. She will be completing her first hospital

pharmacy rotation here in Jacksonville at **Baptist Hospital** downtown in May and June this summer.



Dawn Gray entered three of her rug hooking pieces in the **Florida State Fair** in Tampa. She won "**Best of Show**" for her rug "Three Generations" which is based on childhood pictures of her mom (**Betty**), herself, and daughter, **Hannah** when they were between one and one-half and five years of age. **Dawn** won two Blue Ribbons for her other pieces, "Tropical Gardens," and "Floating Spheres," which is a purse she may bring with her to church!



by Alyson Lee, Vice-Chair of Community Engagement



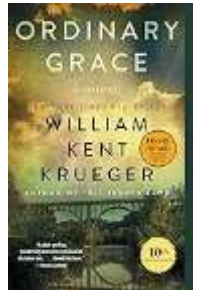
Calling all Readers!

Are you interested in a lively time with congenial companions? Do you enjoy thoughtful conversation? Are you yearning to know more folks in the HAB community? Then join in our monthly book discussions! Led by Pastors B.J. or Britt, our discussions focus on texts that are fiction, non-fiction, classics, best-sellers.... they run the gamut.

Our April 19th book selection is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. You may wonder why a church group is discussing a Gothic horror story published in 1818. From a literary perspective, this early example of science fiction allows readers to explore the power of storytelling. But more interesting still are the occurrences of contemporary issues: isolation, rejection, abandonment, alienation, and scientific hubris. As Christians, we can see what happens when the bond between Creator and Creature is broken. So this book discussion, led by B.J., promises to be quite lively!



Britt has selected the novel, *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger for our May 31st book discussion. This *New York Times* Bestseller and Edgar Award Winner for Best Novel is told in first person from the perspective of forty years later. It is a coming-of-age story narrated by a boy trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. He is forced to confront the price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.



Both the April and May discussions begin at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Alyson Lee (3636 Silvery Lane) and will be followed by snacks, fun, and fellowship. We look forward to having you join us!

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.



April 1: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER OR ACTIVITIES DUE TO HOLY WEEK.

April 8: Shepherd's pie, Caesar Salad, brownie cupcakes, yeast rolls

April 15: Orange glazed baked ham, creamy mac & cheese, southern green beans, garden salad, yeast rolls, bread pudding w/ rum sauce

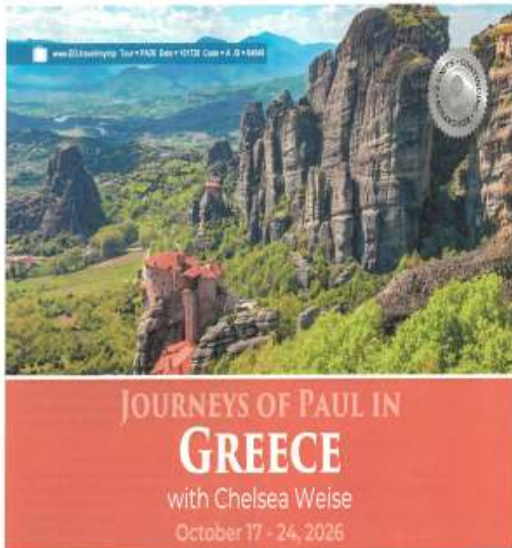
April 22: Bistro meatloaf with special sauce, rich mashed potatoes, country lima beans, garden salad, yeast rolls, carrot cake

April 29: Poppy seed chicken, white rice, southern green beans, mixed green salad w/ lemon vinaigrette, Our Lady brownies, yeast rolls

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.



“A strong breeze blows through the HAB sanctuary! That's right, with spring just around the corner, we've been able to install a new A/C unit that will help everyone stay a little bit cooler! These are the kinds of upgrades that we're hoping to make through our new “Sacred Spaces” campaign, so be sure to read Sissy and Dawson's article to learn more. And be sure to thank Mike Sturgill, Jonathan Yost, and David Orr and his committee for all their hard work!”

Join your church family for HAB Night with the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp on Friday, April 17! All church members, family, and friends are invited to join us for a fun night at the VyStar Ballpark. Tickets are \$24 (food not included) and feature Friday Night Fireworks following the game.

Ticket reservations must be submitted to Britt Hester (britt@habchurch.com) by Friday, April 3. Tickets can be paid for online by scanning the QR Code. Please select “Jumbo Shrimp Tickets - \$24” from the dropdown menu upon purchase. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the church office.

HAB NIGHT WITH THE JUMBO SHRIMP FRIDAY, APRIL 17 - 7:05 P.M.

Join us for fellowship, fun, & food with HAB!

RSVP to britt@habchurch.com by April 17 to reserve your tickets.

Tickets are \$24 per person.

Scan the QR code to pay online, and please select “Jumbo Shrimp Tickets - \$24.”





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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
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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