

THE CHURCH AT HORSESHOE BAY

The Year 2013

The following Board of Trustees members were elected by the congregation at the annual meeting on January 20, 2013: Geneva Dalton, Bill Edwards, Fred Klingensmith, Mike Maine, Wayne Ratisseau, and Elsie Thurman. Chairman Jerry Gray announced that he was retiring from the Board of Trustees after serving four years, three of those as Chairman of the Board.

Following are the 2013 Board Officers and Department Heads:

Jeff Robinson – Chairman of Board, Building Planning Comm. member

Carolyn Thornton– Vice-Chairman of Board, Benevolence Dept. Chair, Nominating Comm. Chair, Pastoral Search Comm. member

Alan Barrows – Treasurer, Business Management Dept. Chair, member of Nominating Comm.

Geneva Dalton - Secretary, Membership Comm. Chair, member of Investments & Endowment Comm., Pastoral Search Comm., and Strategic Planning Comm.

Mary Agnes Rudd – Worship & Music Dept. Chair

Larry Canter – Education Dept. Chair

Claudia Bird – Congregational Fellowship Dept. Chair

Michele Shackelford – Congregational Support Dept. Chair

Bill Edwards – Building Dept. Chair

G.A. Smith – Grounds Dept. Chair, Stewardship Planning Team member

Fred Klingensmith – Personnel Dept. Chair, member of Building Dept. Comm., Strategic Planning Comm., and Pastoral Search Comm.

Mike Maine – Public Relations Dept. Chair, Strategic Planning Comm. Chair, member of Pastoral Search Comm.

Wayne Ratisseau -- Stewardship Planning Team Chair, Transportation Comm. Chair

Beverly Brascom – Librarian, Books and Scones Chair, Freezer Friends Comm. Co-Chair

Elsie Thurman -- Member of Business Management Dept. Comm.

The activities of the various departments and committees of the Church for the year 2013 are described below.

BENEVOLENCE DEPARTMENT

In 2013, the committee supported 43 agencies which help those in need in the Marble Falls area as well as throughout the world. In addition as the needs arose, there were one-time gifts to those less fortunate. \$316,708 was allocated this year to the department from the Operating Fund (29% from the total operating budget). The committee also received \$7,416 from the Christmas Eve offering, \$1,781 from the sale of Easter and Christmas flowers, \$23,190 from designated individual gifts, and \$5,510 from the congregation for the benefit of Moore, Oklahoma and West, Texas disaster relief efforts. Various organizations in our church add to our benevolence initiative. These include the WOW diaper/baby food drive to help local food pantries; the Sunshine House sponsored by WOW for supplies for the Hill Country Children's Advocacy program; a paper goods drive benefitting the Cherokee Children's Home; and the food collection from Thanksgiving benefitting the Helping Center, Share the Harvest, and Joseph's

Food Pantry. With the inclusion of food donations by individuals to The Helping Center, the giving by our church totaled 41.4%. The committee held its sixth annual Benevolence Bazaar, which provides Church members the opportunity to learn more about the various agencies.

In 2014, the Benevolence Fund will receive a total of \$318,942 in allocated and unallocated funds for our agencies and organizations. Our goal continues to be for us to become a “dollar for dollar” church.

Christmas for Others

The committee delivered Christmas gifts from Church members to 304 less fortunate children in our area and included a Bible for each family. The Church at Horseshoe Bay provides a great portion of gifts for underprivileged children in Marble Falls, and each year we discover anew that it is “more blessed to give than to receive.”

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The volunteer crew consisting of church members set up and took down chairs and tables for our Fellowship Hall and special Sanctuary events, making those events happen with ease. In 2013, maintenance, repair, sealing and painting were completed on the southwest outside wall of the Education Building and other areas as needed. Carpets were cleaned in the areas of highest traffic. Gray Electric has completed checking and repairing the "ground fault" system to better protect the electrical system from lightning strikes. Long-term planning is in progress in order to meet major building and facility needs in the future.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Vanguard Life Strategy Growth Fund had a 21% increase in value during 2013. The Fund increased in value from \$174,080 at the end of 2012 to \$261,696 at December 31, 2013.

Stewardship Committee

This committee, chaired by Wayne Ratisseau, continues to work toward the goal of becoming a "dollar for dollar" church. The Stewardship Committee is committed to making this endeavor a reality.

Strategic Planning Committee

The committee met several times in 2013 to discuss the long-range financial health of the church and membership growth and to put together a report on the need for an additional staff person, which resulted in contracting with Garry Kesler.

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP DEPARTMENT

Members of our Church are served through **Coffee Fellowship, Historian, Membership, Men of Faith, Singles of the Hills, Special Events, and Women of the Word (WOW).**

Coffee Fellowship: Coffee and cookies provided by the Church are served in the Fellowship Hall following both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services to give both our members and visitors an opportunity to visit. Our Nursery worker assists with setup and cleanup and provides coffee when there is no volunteer host. There is a host signup board in the Fellowship Hall for both services.

Historian: Camille Bigham continues to chair this committee and maintains an accurate and complete record of the Church's activities and a written historical narrative of the Church to reflect the Church family in its fellowship and worship of God. The historical narrative begins with the stellar work of now deceased member Vera Campbell. The Historian maintains a photographic record of the Church's activities which is kept in the Church Library along with the printed narrative. The narrative is also carried on the Church website.

Membership: Geneva Dalton, Chair, reported that we currently have 776 *active* members. Our membership increased during the year with the addition of 38 new members but decreased as well due to the fact that 23 of our members passed away this year. We have 467 family units, including 139 singles and 18 married members whose spouse is not a member. We continue to refine further our active/inactive membership database and to reach out to those members who have not provided emergency contact information and cell phone numbers.

Men of Faith: The mission of this group is to create opportunities for fellowship and fun, spiritual growth and sharing of the gospel message for men of our community by initiating and supporting programs that demonstrate Christian values. The men's fellowship breakfast events are open to all men, many of whom are from other churches in the Hill Country area. On September 24, the MOF heard speaker David McWilliams, former head coach at The University of Texas. Officers are Steve Jordan – Chairman, Andy Burk – Vice-Chairman, and Gary Gum – Secretary/Treasurer.

Singles of the Hills: Under the leadership of Vicki Strevey, Franzella Jones and Wilda Meixner, this group provides a Christian environment for all singles of the Church and community to come together for support, fellowship, and friendship through monthly dinners/programs open to all singles residing in the Highland Lakes area.

Special Events: This committee, chaired by Frances Highsmith and Marsha Cathey, is responsible for the Church's social events. Annual activities include a Chili Supper (January 23rd), Ice Cream Social (May 7th), Picnic (October 16th) and Thanksgiving Celebration. The Fall Picnic served Peete Mesquite's delicious barbecue and also had a musical surprise: a country-western ensemble made up of Patricia and Johnny White, Michele and Garry Kesler, and Karen Jarrard.

WOW (Women of the Word): This committee hosts a catered Spring Luncheon open to all Horseshoe Bay area ladies and a Fall Coffee Fellowship for both Church services. A Ladies' Retreat is held each fall at Camp Buckner, this year on October 22 with popular speaker Janet Denison and music led by Cathy Hawes. The retreat provides an opportunity for in-depth Bible study and fellowship and encourages area churches' participation if space is available. The committee also decorates and maintains the Church for Advent and returns items to storage. Another December project for the committee is the preparation and service of an appreciation Christmas Luncheon for the Church staff and their spouses. The WOW Committee involves the Church membership in their community mission projects such as the Diaper Drive and items needed for the Children's Advocacy Center program.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Eight committees are in place to assist members of the congregation during times of special needs. These programs are made possible through the tireless dedication of over 100 Church volunteers.

Caring Cards: Jan Simpson served our members by sending cards to those whose lives were touched by illness or death.

Congregational Care: Ellen Mitchell and Paula Wendel served as co-chairs for this committee of volunteers who respond to families experiencing illness or death of a loved one by assisting with a meal or by arranging a memorial service reception. The volunteers work in teams of two assigned to each month (thus the name *Calendar Girls*). During 2013, the volunteers assisted with 17 memorial service receptions.

Freezer Friends: Caira Franz and Beverly Brascom served as co-chairs for this committee of volunteers who prepare frozen meals, which are available to families in need of a nutritious meal delivered to their home. Five cooking crews meet in individual homes to prepare standardized recipes for the Church freezer.

The Driving Force: This committee, which is a joint effort between Men of Faith and Congregational Support, provides transportation to congregational members on a temporary basis for medical appointments. Under the leadership of Wayne Ratisseau, 40 volunteer drivers provided numerous rides in 2013.

Grief Support Group: Licensed Professional Counselors Peggy Jordan and Sharon Bates facilitate and lead a support group for those who are grieving the loss of a family member or friend. The goal of the group is to provide support for participants during this most difficult time, while helping them adjust to a new way of life. The group meets on first and third Mondays, January through May. In 2014, there will be one group for women and one group for men, with the added help of Rev. Gordon Smith and Rev. Johnny Smith. The Remembrance Service, which is held in December, allows those who feel alone an opportunity to hear comforting words and uplifting music and to light a candle in memory of their loss.

Prayer Ministry: This ministry, which is composed of 15 persons whose identity is not published, lifts up in weekly prayer those special requests that are received from the congregation. The contact person is Vicki Strevey, who also assists with the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Ministry grew in 2013 and split into two groups that each met weekly to pray over each personal request. All prayer requests are kept confidential and considered with respect. The Church campus includes a Prayer Room, a quiet, private room created for people to use whenever they would like to pray privately, with family members, or with the Prayer Ministry team.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: A new ministry was formed in 2013 to create shawls that are prayed over by members of the Prayer Ministry and then presented with prayer to members of our congregation. Under the leadership of Ruth Newman and Jan Atkins, 15 ladies have graciously donated their time, talents, and often the yarn to create 16 unique knitted or crocheted shawls

with labels saying "Handmade with Love by The Church at Horseshoe Bay". In 2013, 11 shawls were presented to persons on our Church prayer list with prayer and a time of caring by our pastors and church members.

Valentine Luncheon for Senior Widows: This successful project, initiated by Karen Wines, to hold a special Valentine Luncheon for congregation members who have lost their husbands became a ministry of the Congregational Support Committee in 2013. Under the leadership of Karen Wines and Patty Gillean, the February 14th luncheon honored 45 guests. Over 50 volunteers helped with the invitations, cooking, decorations, transportation, serving, clean-up, a fantastic musical presentation, and grand dance performance.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Adult Education: The primary mission of the Christian Education program is to be a major element in the ongoing faith commitment and development of mature disciples of Jesus Christ. The four Sunday morning classes are based on a study + service + fellowship model.

The Christian Education program was initiated in the year 2000 with one class. Over the years, other classes have emerged to bring the total to four. Approximately 175 persons are included on the four class rosters; current attendance on many Sundays often exceeds 100.

Bible Alive Class: This class meets in Classroom 1 for an in-depth study of selected books of the Bible. The studied books in 2013 included 12 weeks of Joshua, 5 weeks of Judges, 13 weeks of II Corinthians, 4 weeks of Philippians, and 16 weeks of Hebrews. Teachers included Larry Canter, Jim Carter, Art Hawkinson, David Sweigart, Glenda Butler, Reagan Lambert and Johnny White. Carol Hawkinson is class coordinator. The class has several social gatherings each year and participates in annual joint socials for the other classes. Service-related mission projects during 2013 included providing educational materials for the Rio Bravo, Mexico, mission program, and participation in projects related to Camp Peniel.

Women's Bible Study: This class, which meets in Classroom 4, is interactive and participative. Individual study assignments are given to aid in the understanding of the subject matter. In 2013, the class studied Galatians and Ephesians as well as two of Priscilla Shirer's video studies, Jonah and Gideon. The class is led by Shirley Dano, Gail Davalos and Linda Klingensmith and is active in missions, including financial sponsorship of a young female child in Rwanda through Compassion International and support of mission trips to Haiti; Rio Bravo, Mexico; Camp Peniel; and Camp of the Hills. Community outreach included participation in Joseph's Pantry's *Church Under the Bridge* and annual *Thanksgiving Feast* as well as serving the homeless in Austin and the needy in Granite Shoals and helping in a math tutoring program at the Boys and Girls Club in Marble Falls. The former Linda Rusk married Board member Fred Klingensmith on October 18. Linda was honored with a bridal luncheon hosted by Karen Wines and Donna Canter at Karen's home. All Church members were invited to attend the wedding.

Seekers Class: Members of this class seek to increase their understanding of their faith through study of topics relevant to Christian scholarship and life applications in the modern world. There was an average attendance of about 25 people per Sunday. Pete Christy, Jim Jorden, Stan Smith and Linda Wilson served as class facilitators for discussion of material presented by video and audio lecturers for The Teaching Company. For its service project, the class assisted St.

Frederick's Baptist Church with assembly and delivery of "meals-on-wheels" on the 5th Saturdays of the year. Some members of the class also participated in mission projects in Mississippi, Galveston, Camp Peniel, and Camp of the Hills. The class joined with the other classes in an annual all-Church School Picnic, and also held its own independent fellowship activity, a Christmas social gathering at a class member's home.

The classes have a common prayer chain which is facilitated by Carol Hawkinson, and the focus is on prayer requests by class members. The rosters of the above classes have a total of 122 persons.

Faith Bridge Class: This class was started in October, 2013, to encourage members who had not previously attended a Sunday School class to participate. The class started meeting in the Fellowship Hall but will eventually meet in Classroom 3. The lessons commenced with *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby, and the format includes a video, book and workbook. The rotating teacher group includes Reagan Lambert, Eddie Greer, Dwight King, and Jane and Bill Boisvert, with Gail Davalos and Johnny White serving as substitutes. Geneva Dalton is the mission point person, Sandy Howard the social coordinator, and Mary Robison the communications person. There will be a monthly mission project facilitated by contributions from the class, and there will be social gatherings for the class. Mary Robison sends out weekly e-mails to keep class members informed of the main points of each lesson, prayer requests, and the subject for the upcoming Sunday.

Coffee & Conversation with the Pastors: Meets on Mondays at 11:00 a.m., when the pastors are available for an in-depth discussion of the previous Sunday's service.

Pastors' Forum: This is a lively discussion group led by the pastors and meeting on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Library. It allows participants an opportunity to take part in an open forum on a variety of topics.

Church Library: Open Monday-Friday from 8:30a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings until noon. Librarian Beverly Brascom is assisted by committee members Ouida Anderson and Mary Kay Heck. The Library includes approximately 2,000 books categorized by reference materials, biographies, fiction and non-fiction. A number of audio and video materials are also available for check-out.

Books and Scones: A book club for women and an active extension of the Library. The club meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. to discuss a book previously selected for that month.

Church Nursery: The Nursery is staffed every Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Toys and games are available for the children. A paging system is used to contact parents if necessary.

GROUNDS DEPARTMENT

This committee is responsible for maintenance of the Church grounds, including landscaping, parking lots, outdoor lighting, and the Remembrance Garden. In 2013 several plants and hedges

were removed or replaced, trees were trimmed and flower beds weeded and cleaned. Work was completed on the pump in the Remembrance Garden pond, and the pond/waterfall is now operational. Traditionally, each year in February the names of members who passed away the previous year are engraved on memorial stones in the Remembrance Garden. Thirteen names were added in 2013.

Church members are always welcome to participate in efforts to help improve and beautify the Church campus.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

The staff continues to function effectively, both individually and as a team. Each staff member has an annual performance review at which time goals are set for the coming year. In 2013, the committee developed the job description for the new contract position of Assistant Choir Director/Bell Choir Director and Audio/Visual Coordinator. That position was filled with the hiring of Garry Kesler.

In November 2014, the department will make recommendations to the Board for the 2015 personnel budget. In setting salaries, the following factors are considered: salary structures of congregations of our size and budget; our policy of covering medical insurance costs of our staff; cost of living changes; and performance evaluations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Members of the Public Relations/Publicity Committee are Dorothy Crockett, Don Eckelbarger, Fred Klingensmith, and Michele Kesler. The committee publicizes educational programs and opportunities and church events, utilizing the church's website, Facebook, monthly church newsletter and weekly Sunday worship bulletins, as well as local newspapers and radio stations when applicable. For the first time in several years, the Publicity Committee reviewed assignments and participated in the revision of the various pamphlets describing Church activities that are distributed to the congregation. Dorothy Crockett writes a regular column in the *Highlander* newspaper which focuses on Horseshoe Bay activities including church events. Church brochures were updated as needed throughout the year. Kena Richert and Martha Logan were both very instrumental in coordinating all of these activities.

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

Statement by Pastors: The pastors of The Church at Horseshoe Bay seek to produce high-quality worship experiences that meet the broad range of religious needs represented in this interdenominational church. The music, liturgy, prayers and sermons are designed to support the church values of diversity, inclusion, grace, joy, generosity, and ecumenicity. Worship services seek to address as practicably as possible the wide spectrum of religious beliefs and theological positions represented in the church.

The pastors lead a worship service on the second Sunday of every month at Gateway Gardens Assisted Living Center.

Communion Committee: This committee is responsible for preparation of the elements for Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month as well as for special services such as Maundy Thursday or any others designated by the pastors.

Altar Flowers Committee: Flowers, which are provided for all worship services, are paid for by Church members. Flowers may also be donated for special occasions such as the birth of a child or grandchild. Cutting Edge Designs is our florist, and the committee has been very pleased with their flowers. The Church secretary is the point of contact to order flowers. During Advent and Easter, members may purchase poinsettias or lilies in memory or in honor of friends and loved ones.

Sanctuary Services Committee: This committee (solely Winnie Woodruff) maintains and replenishes visitor cards, membership cards, prayer cards, information brochures, and properly places hymnals and Bibles for use each Sunday.

Ushers and Greeters Committee: This committee ensures that there are ushers and greeters for every service. The committee is also responsible for communion servers. Head Ushers, who are appointed for each month of the year, recruit helpers for each weekly service.

Music Committee: The committee consists of Larry Sherwood, Minister of Music; Mary Agnes Rudd, Board Representative for Music; Garry Kesler, Asst. Choral Director; and the Music Advisory Committee (Donna Knox, Jack Sargent and Neal Younker). Activities other than regular Sunday services have included monthly ministries to Gateway Assisted Living facility, fall and winter mini-retreats, and an Advent season full of music with guest soloists and musicians. The fall 2013 mini-retreat, held on September 8, was led by Dr. Gary Mabry, former Vice Chairman of the Texas Choral Directors Association. The Church at Horseshoe Bay Concert Series had another successful season featuring a variety of outstanding musicians. In June there was a stand-out ensemble of soprano Meredith Ruduski, trumpeter Nate Mayfield and pianist Brooks Whitmore. The Handbell Choir, under the direction of Garry and Michele Kesler, played regularly for both Sunday worship services.

The very talented and faithful Jennie Lynn Hodges agreed to serve as our organist/pianist for another year.

THE CHURCH AT HORSESHOE BAY WEBSITE

www.church-hsb.org

Audios of sermons are available on the Church website.