

## The Church at Horseshoe Bay

### The Year 2016

The following Board of Trustees members were elected by the Congregation at the annual meeting on January 15, 2017: Jerry Clinesmith, Francis Highsmith, Jim Hower, Ken Lindgren, Ruth Newman, Bob Thomas, and Linda Wilson.

The following served as **Board Officers and Department Chairs** in 2016:

Fred Klingensmith	Chairperson
Don Eckelbarger	Worship & Music Dept. Chair, Corporate Secretary
Ronda Rodman	Membership Dept. Chair
Bobbie Walker	Outreach Chair
Ken Lindgren	Benevolence Dept. Chair
Linda Wilson	Christian Education Dept. Chair
Claudia Bird	Congregational Fellowship Dept. Chair
Pat McMurtrie	Congregational Support Dept. Chair
Kent Graham	Treasurer, Business Management/Finance Chair
Lee Peterson	Assistant Treasurer
Billy Williams	Buildings Dept. Chair
Norm Homburg	Grounds Dept. Chair
Bill Stevenson	Long Range Planning Chair
Kay Tyler	Public Relations Dept. Chair
Elsie Thurman	Vice Chairperson, Personnel Chair

### DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 2016

**Worship:** The new choir formed by Music Minister Garry Kesler last year, has been named the Son Rise Singers. They have grown and blossomed into a beautiful singing sensation. A few veterans from the Chancel Choir have volunteered to augment the 8:30 am service; for which we are very appreciative.

In September, a third Prayer Group was formed and meets weekly on Fridays at 1:00 pm. The Prayer Ministry has intercessory prayers being said in three groups on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Most Prayer Warriors pray their list each day at home.

On Sundays the Nursery attendant, now unlocks the Church, adjusts thermostats in various rooms, makes the coffee and sets out cookies for the Coffee Fellowship.

Lenten season culminated with Palm Sunday and Easter Week where the Sunday services were overflowing and the Fellowship Hall was well prepared for the nearly 1,000 guests on Easter Sunday. During the week, 230 people visited the Stations of the Cross. The musical program for Palm Sunday was claimed the best yet by some church members.

The sound system in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall has been upgraded. New and improved hearing devices are now available for those who need them.

The Hill Country Chamber Orchestra presented a Christmas concert for about 200 guests on December 4, 2016 in the Church Sanctuary. Garry Kesler was the vocal soloist and Keenan Fletcher, of Llano conducted this event.

A large contingent of choir and orchestra members performed a beautiful Choral Cantata, *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child*. Garry Kesler, Music Minister, offered this meaningful Cantata for both services.

**Membership:** The Membership team has been actively welcoming visitors and new members to our congregation. We have received 49 new members in 2016. Greeted and introduced at Sunday worship, they are then encouraged to participate in all aspects of church life. Each month DeDe Hodge provides us with the membership numbers of the church. The monthly reports include the current membership, new members, deaths, and transfers. These numbers provide us with the information we need for future planning. At year end, we have 135 single active members, 11 married members where spouse is not a member, 302 married family units with a total of 742 total members and 448 family units.

We hosted two receptions for new members and regular visitors. These enjoyable events enable the board and staff to visit with those in attendance.

The *Worship + 2* group continues to offer volunteer opportunities to the congregation and community. Working closely with the Benevolence Committee, we helped to determine the special needs of our beneficiaries. In pursuit of more volunteers, a Serve and Share Fair was hosted, with the help of the Benevolence committee.

**Outreach:** The Outreach committee has been on a learning curve as we moved through our first year. We have had an enthusiastic committee reaching out to our community. We have endeavored to contact new residents to the various areas we cover as well as follow up on visitors to the church. We especially work with the New Member Committee and Advertising, and we expect for that involvement to grow.

We have taken 18 gift packages to visitors and new residents. These visits are brief but friendly. We plan to take follow up action in 2017. The packages consist of a nice cup with the church logo, a church identified pen, a recent bulletin, the newsletter and a brief description of the church and its activities. We have seen a number of these contacts join our church this past year.

We encourage members to join our committee as we cover a wide territory; not only Horseshoe Bay, but Spicewood, Marble Falls, Cottonwood Shores and Meadowlakes. For more information, contact Bobbie Walker or DeDe Hodge.

**Benevolence:** Thanks to the generosity of The Church at Horseshoe Bay congregational members, your fund was able to provide financial assistance to 51 non-profit agencies on a continuous basis and 12 additional on a one time basis. Agencies supported included Children's Programs & Camps, Educational Programs, Food Pantries, Veterans Groups, Family Programs and Foreign Missions. A list of agencies supported may be found on the Church's Website. Agencies selected must be supported of Christian Benevolent causes that improve the life and health of the poor and disadvantaged.

Another benevolent outreach program supported by our church is Christmas for Others. This year, gifts for all ages of children were provided for the needy in Marble Falls, Cottonwood Shores and Llano. In Marble Falls alone, 319 kids from 122 different families received gifts.

The Benevolence fund is managed by a committee consisting of 21 Church members, including a chairperson, 4 co-chairs and 16 committee members. For 2016, the Fund had an operating budget of

\$363,000, excluding Christmas for Others, of which approximately 88% was allocated from the Church Budget and the remaining from individual contributions and from other church organizations and functions. Of that budgeted amount approximately 80% is allocated and the remaining is set aside for special needs or emergency situations.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church, a vision was set to become a “dollar for dollar” Church. For the year 2016, including cash of \$409,605 and estimated non-cash contributions of \$51,329, we were at 43.5% of operating expenses.

On behalf of the Benevolence Committee and its recipient agencies, “Thanks” for your prayers and support. Your gifts help make a difference and this committee pledges to be good stewards of all God's gifts placed in its care.

**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 five Sunday morning classes are based on a *study + service + fellowship* model.

**Seekers Class:** Members of this class seek to increase their understanding of their faith through the study of a wide range of topics relevant to Christian scholarship and life applications in the modern world. Subjects that were studied in 2016 were:

- *Science and Religion* 12-week, DVD video course
- *Dead Sea Scrolls* 12-week, DVD video course
- *Jesus and His Jewish Influences* 24-week, DVD video course
- *Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation* 36-week, DVD video course (in progress at year end)

For its *service* project, the class assisted St. Frederick Baptist Church in Marble Falls with assembly and delivery of “meals-on-wheels” to those in need on the fifth Saturdays of the year. The class also sponsored a family of 6 children in the church-wide Christmas for Others program.

The *study* format followed in this class is structured discussion of material presented by expert professors – mainly video lecturers for The Great Courses Company. The role of teachers/facilitators is to supplement The Great Courses study notes with original research from other sources, and to guide the class as it explores the discussion questions and comments posed at each class meeting.

The class participated in five *fellowship* activities during 2016:

- Attendance at two Christian-themed movies: *Risen* (Feb) and *Hacksaw Ridge* (Nov).
- A "Doce de Mayo" fiesta at Applehead pool, hosted by Mary Alice & Jerry Dunn.
- An October picnic at Applehead pool, hosted by Mary Alice & Jerry Dunn.
- A Christmas social gathering, held this year at the home of Mary Agnes & Ronnie Rudd.
- Mary Alice Dunn and Beryl Ann Owen served as coordinators for these social functions.

**Women's Bible Study Class:** 2016 was a year in which the Women's Bible Study Class completed four studies and will finish the fifth early in 2017. The studies were: Grippled by the Greatness of God by James McDonald, Embraced by God by Bobbi Mason, Restore My Heart by Denise Glenn and What Love Is, a study of 1,2,3 John also by Denise Glenn. They will complete Feasts of the Bible by Dr. Sam Nadler in early 2017. This study shows how God's redemptive plan is unveiled through the feasts of Israel. The studies are a combination of video with workbooks, and discussion.

We maintain a confidential prayer list and actively support each other with fervent prayer. When necessary, we support each other in very special ways by providing rides to doctors and hospitals, food, etc. For the ninth year in a row, the class, through Compassion International, sponsored a girl in Rwanda. She is now 14 and we have watched her grow in her knowledge of God. We provide monthly support, receive and generate regular correspondence, and send additional monetary gifts for her birthday, Christmas and other special occasions. Members of our class also support Joseph's Food Pantry's Church Under the Bridge and The Boys and Girls Club of Marble Falls.

Faith Bridge: Our class continues to grow in membership. Our goal is to provide biblical studies by well-known authors that apply to life situations and spiritual growth in each individual. In the past year we have enjoyed the following studies:

- *Believe* Randy Frazee
- *When Life is Hard* James MacDonald
- *Son of God* Rick Warren
- *Happiness* Randy Alcorn
- *Tell Someone* Greg Laurie
- *Good or God* John Bevere
- *If* Mark Batterson
- *Because of Bethlehem* Max Lucado

Communications: Wendy Christesson. Missions: Jimmie Homburg. Care team: Debbie Lambert, Jamie King, Carla Rowland. Social: Sandy Howard, Mary Robison

Mission projects:

- Christmas jars
- Super Bowl of Caring
- Christian Veterinary Mission
- Dunk Your Kicks
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Christmas for Others
- From the Heart

Bible Alive: We started the year with a lengthy study of Exodus, followed by Paul's letters: I and II Timothy, Titus and Philemon. The fall season was filled with a lengthy study of Zechariah and his prophecies. At year's end we did a study of the person of Peter as a lead into I and II Peter in 2017. Support was given to the Edwards with school supplies for Rio Bravo and for Brad and Jennifer Nelson missionaries to unreached tribes in Mexico. A few socials were organized by Carol Hawkinson, our class coordinator, and enjoyed during the year.

The New Beginnings: Class is off to a great start with approximately 30 members. Both Pastors White and McQueen have been wonderful in class organization, content provision, and lecture. We are finishing a great book by Adam Hamilton entitled "Making Sense of the Bible," and will begin a new study by the same author on the writings of John, the Apostle. Class discussion is an integral part of our intention and the class personality is really taking a wonderful direction.

Forum: A lively discussion group, led by the pastors, allows participants an opportunity to take part in an open forum on a variety of topics. The group meets on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Library.

**Church Library:** The library is open Monday-Friday from 8:30-4:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings until noon. The library includes approximately 2,000 books divided into reference, biographies, fiction, and non-fiction categories. Multiple 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 which meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 2:30 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. to 12 noon. Toys and games are available for the children. A paging system is used to contact parents if necessary.

**Congregational Fellowship:** This department oversees several key committees that serve the congregation: Special Events, Historian, Men of Faith (“MOF”), Women of the Word (“WOW”), A-Lone Star Singles Ministry, and Coffee Fellowship. Highlights from the year include:

**Men of Faith:** Andy Burk, chairman

The MOF along with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes hosted a Men’s Fellowship Conference on December 8 and 9 with the President of “Character that Counts”, Rod Handley as speaker. In April, a breakfast was held with Pastor Will Davis Jr., founding and Senior Pastor of the Austin Christian Fellowship church in Austin. Men of Faith hosted a fish fry in honor of the two women’s church groups from our church (WOW) and St. Paul the Apostle Church (WIC) in May. In October, Men of Faith, along St. Paul the Apostle Church sponsored Samer Mohammed, a former Muslim Imam who converted to Christianity. Our sanctuary was full, drawing both men and women from the entire community to this powerful presentation. Many men participated in a work week at Camp Peniel, Driving Force and Joseph’s Food Pantry.

A men’s conference is planned for January, 2017. We continue to reach out to the community as a whole and show men in our area that they are actually part of the Men of Faith.

**Women of the Word:** Ann Higdon, chairperson

- January “Undecorated” the church after Christmas
- February Collected and delivered items for the Sunshine House
- April WOW luncheon with Lauren Sorell
- September WOW Emphasis Sunday
- October WOW Retreat featuring Karen Larson; attended by about 100 women in the community
- November Decorated the church for Advent
- December Care for the poinsettias, WOW member Christmas luncheon, WOW Church Staff Christmas luncheon with gift baskets

**Digital Scrapbook/History:** In April, June, and July we initiated and implemented a Digital Scrapbook project. Ward Lott, Don Eckelbarger, and DeDe Hodge were the primary forces behind creating a digital database of photos and church history; Microsoft Publisher was used as the platform. It is now accessible to any church member.

**Special Events:** Hosted several events to foster fellowship and entertainment for our congregation. January- Chili Supper; May- Ice Cream Social; November- “Thankful for Our Veteran’s” celebration – homemade soups; Thanksgiving Coffee Fellowship; December- Goodbye reception for Jennie Lynn Hodges, our organist and pianist.

Singles Ministry: Continued to hold A-Lone Star Ministry gatherings throughout the year including a Thanksgiving singles dinner in November.

**Congregational Support:** The following committees continued ministering to the needs of the congregation: Calendar Girls, Caring Cards, Driving Force, Freezer Friends, Prayer Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry and Visitation Force. As a matter of interest: Calendar Girls hosted 9 receptions during the past year. Numerous cards were sent on a weekly basis by the Caring Cards Ministry. Driving Force volunteers made an average of 14 trips per month to medical facilities. Freezer Friends ladies continue to keep the church's freezer amply stocked with delicious food. Nineteen Prayer Shawls were knitted, prayed over and delivered. Requests for prayers and concerns continue to grow as members of the Prayer Ministry pray on a consistent basis. Visitation Force remains a vital ministry, showing the love of God to the shut-in folks. Thank you, volunteers, for your dedication!

**Business Management Department:**

Endowment Fund: At December 31, 2015 and 2016, the Endowment Fund balance was \$465,940 and \$611,792, respectively. During the year, the Vanguard Life Strategy Growth Fund had a 8.33% increase in value, and there were \$115,100 in member donations to the fund. Kent Graham, chair of the Endowment Fund, has been actively meeting with his committee in 2016 to determine the amount and designation for our church's first opportunity to distribute funds from our Endowment. The Endowment board met on January 9, 2017, and the Board of Trustees affirmed their recommendation to allocate \$7,000 from the Endowment Fund to the Building Fund for the west campus lighting and campus signage. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are to be accumulated by the Church until \$500,000 has been received, at which point on an annual basis up to 6% of the market value may be used for "religious or charitable purposes."

Insurance and Legal: The committee met several times in 2015 and 2016 to review church insurance policies and coverage maintained by the church. Concurrently, the committee and church administrator drafted revisions to the 2007 bylaws to make them compliant with the Texas Non-profit Corporation Act. These bylaws were approved by the Board of Trustees on January 12, 2016, and they are being presented today to the congregation for approval.

Stewardship: In 2015, the church began accepting credit donations by members online. \$76,510 in contributions were made via credit cards in 2015, and this increased to \$95,681 in 2016. The church paid \$3,293 in merchant account fees in 2016, which are included in the finance department expenses.

**Buildings:** We continue to have our great Buildings Committee volunteer group who responds on call for all of our various set-up/take-down requirements for special events. Especially during Easter and Christmas activities, their services are indispensable and they always come through.

Of special note, the Board last year approved the hiring of a part-time Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Person to handle the various ongoing building maintenance needs as well as grounds and Remembrance Garden up keep. In March, we advertised, interviewed and hired our first ever Maintenance Person. We were extremely fortunate and blessed in the hiring of Shell Reynolds, a certified electrician. He has replaced the grounds maintenance contract crew, taken pressure off the Buildings and Grounds Chairs and is doing an excellent job with the Remembrance Garden while saving in over all expenses to the church.

Sadly, with the death of Kathy Morrisette in April, we began our search for a new custodian. Once again, we were most fortunate and blessed with the hiring of an exceptionally qualified individual, a retired school principal, Michael Pittard. Michael commenced work at the church on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and has performed far

above expectations. We truly have a great team in place, and the overall appearance and maintenance of the buildings and grounds are reflective of these two men's efforts in a relative short employment time.

Some of the more significant projects accomplished during the year were the replacement of the steeple lighting, sound proofing of the doors between the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary as well as between the Music Room and Sanctuary. Additionally, we contracted for the installation of a digital locking system (keypad entry) on the Administration Building to improve building security and to ensure privacy for the Pastors.

Shell Reynolds, our maintenance man, completed the planter-bed fill in with stones on the veranda outside the Fellowship Hall and Music room making a marked improvement. New individual hearing devices are available for members in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. This device can connect directly to your own hearing device.

The year has been filled with the usual set-ups and take-downs in support of special events and memorial services. Easter and Christmas seasons are the most demanding, but with our faithful volunteers, they are all accomplished without a hitch. We are prepared for 2017.

**Grounds:** In 2016, mulch was distributed to most of the flower beds and islands around the Church and main parking lot. Brush removal from Church property has begun. The dumpster enclosure was replaced. A bid for spot repair of cracks in the asphalt on the main parking lot was accepted; work will commence soon. Shell Reynolds was hired as the Church Maintenance staff member. His duties of lawn maintenance, trimming, flower bed maintenance, and as electrician, have been performed beautifully. A new entrance stone on the South side of the Remembrance Garden was installed.

**Planning:** In 2016 the LRPC met three major goals: First was the development of a philosophy of Christian Education by a committee chaired by Jim Jorden organized to develop the mission, vision and values for our education program at the Church at Horseshoe Bay. This committee's months of work will be up on the church website in January 2017. This important step was necessary in order to both focus our endeavors and to guide them as they progress. We are grateful for the committee's fine work.

Second was the initiation of a bi-annual survey of our congregation which was undertaken in December 2016. This survey will inform us (especially the Board of Trustees) about views our members have about the important elements of our church, educate all about the many facets of church missions and began to build a data base to reflect constant or changing attitudes about various values. The trustees and management of the church will now have real input from membership to help them make decisions. The results of this survey will be available at the next annual meeting in January. Further, we intend to offer analysis and comment on different areas of this survey throughout the coming year and will publish these in the church newsletter.

Third, we began to organize our view of the next five to ten years with regard to the church's physical plant and to that end have created various plans in these areas: Christian Education facilities, Sanctuary, Narthex and Courtyard. The varied options for each area will be available for all members to view on the Church website in January 2017. Please remember plans are just plans are contingencies to be implemented only when needs arise and, of course, with member approval.

**Public Relations:** We published the Newsletter monthly, working with staff; published brochures, working with committees (available in the Narthex displays); and published the first Mid-Year Report and Annual Report to share the Board of Trustee's activities with our members. PR maintained the website *church-hsb.org* with current information on activities, newsletters, and much more information for our members and visitors. Public Relations worked with our pastors who wrote columns for the *Beacon*.

Articles and pictures were released to local papers announcing some activities and then reporting on activities. Publicity was published on some of the missions we support and music events. Easter services, Stations of the Cross in the Remembrance Garden, Advent and Christmas services were advertised in area newspapers.

Notices of activities and pictures were posted on Facebook. “Like Us” on Facebook (The Church at Horseshoe Bay) and share notices to your page. We hosted the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance Coffee in our fellowship hall with over 100 attendees. Visitors were welcomed to tour our Sanctuary and our Remembrance Garden.

**Personnel:** In 2016, The Church at Horseshoe Bay enjoyed a year of stability in personnel, and the Personnel Department was able to help the staff focus on developing as a team by encouraging weekly staff meetings and open communication. Personnel also conducted mid-year performance evaluations with each employee, thereby allowing each person to voice any concerns, make suggestions, and report their progress relative to their 2016 goals.

At the end of the year, The Personnel Department made recommendations for the 2017 personnel budget to the Board. In setting salaries, the following factors were considered:

- Salary structures of staff in congregations of our size and budget;
- Additional benefits provided to our staff;
- Cost of living changes; and
- Performance evaluations.

Finally, the Personnel Department conducted year end performance evaluations with each employee.

**Compiler's Comments:** This history for 2016 was adapted from the Annual Report to the Congregation, delivered on 15 January 2017. This story, coupled with the 2016 Digital Scrapbook found elsewhere on this website, should give a thorough understanding of the happenings in this Congregation for the year.

Jim Jorden, Church Historian/Archivist, 14 Sep 2018.