

## THE CHURCH AT HORSESHOE BAY

### The Year 2012

The following Board of Trustees members were elected by the congregation at the annual meeting on January 15, 2012: Alan Barrows, Nancy Peck, Mary Agnes Rudd, Michele Shackelford, and G.A. Smith. Trustees who retired after three years of service were Peggy Jordan, Ken Lindgren, Scott Matthews, Charlie Sugg, and Jo Ann Warren.

#### Following are the 2012 Board Officers and Department Heads:

Jerry Gray – Chairman of Board, Building Planning Comm. Chair

Jeff Robinson – Vice-Chairman of Board, Nominating Comm. and Strategic Planning Comm. Chair

A.W. Bishop – Treasurer, Business Management Dept. member

Mary Agnes Rudd – Worship & Music Dept. Chair

Michele Shackelford – Congregational Support Dept. Chair

Dale Amstutz – Stewardship Planning Team Comm. Chair

Larry Anderson – Personnel Dept. Chair

Beverly Brascom – Librarian, Books and Scones Chair

Larry Canter – Education Dept. Chair

Carolyn Thornton – Benevolence Dept. Chair

Alan Barrows – Asst. Treasurer, Public Relations Dept. Chair

Nancy Peck – Congregational Fellowship Dept. Chair

P.T. Williams – Building Dept. Chair

Sandra Williams – Secretary, Membership Comm. Chair

G.A. Smith – Grounds Dept. Chair

Ronnie Rudd – Business Management Dept. Chair

The activities of the various departments and committees of the Church for the year 2012 are described below.

### **BENEVOLENCE DEPARTMENT**

In 2012, the committee supported 41 organizations and 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. \$289,972 was allocated this year to the department from the Operating Fund. The Church also donated \$12,153 from the Christmas Eve offering, \$2,868 from Easter and Christmas flowers, and \$16,012 from designated individual gifts. Various efforts within 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. The fifth annual Benevolence Bazaar was held on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, to showcase the missions and other benevolent organizations that our church supports. In 2013, the Benevolence Fund transfer from the Operating Fund will total \$316,708 (29% of the 2012 actual contributions to the Operating Fund) for our agencies and organizations. The emphasis of our giving is on faith-based organizations. The 2013 budget includes four new agencies and missions with one agency being discontinued. Our goal continues to be for us to become a "dollar for dollar" church.

#### **Christmas for Others**

As in the past, the committee delivered Christmas gifts from Church members to the less fortunate children in our area (302 children in 119 families). One adult and one children's Bible were given to 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. A lightning strike during the year resulted in significant loss of the church's computer and telephone equipment; however, Kena Richert and Charlie Sugg were able to repair it with no monetary loss to the church. Our new internet service, provided by Visicom Communications, is running smoothly.

### **Building Planning Committee**

In the Fellowship Hall, the audio-visual system and the ceiling speakers were replaced, and all microphones and wireless transmission devices were upgraded.

## **BUSINESS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

### **Finances**

Total receipts for 2012 from contributions and other income amounted to \$1,122,527. Expenditures for benevolence, salaries and benefits, building and grounds, and other items totaled \$944,882. \$70,000 was transferred to the Building Fund and \$30,000 to the Endowment Fund.

### **Endowment Planning Committee**

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 6% of the market value may be used for "religious or charitable purposes." At the end of 2012, the Fund balance was \$174,084. The Vanguard Life Strategy Growth Fund had a 14% increase in value. The Vanguard fund, which is a long-range investment, is considered an appropriate investment.

### **Stewardship Committee**

This committee, chaired by Dale Amstutz, reviewed and revised the Endowment brochure, and re-established an Endowment Board with specific terms. Plans have been made to promote the Endowment Fund through the bulletin and the website in 2013. The Endowment brochure will be included in new member packets.

## **Strategic Planning Committee**

It was not necessary for this committee to meet in 2012 as there were no topics brought to the committee for discussion by the Board of Trustees.

## **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).**

The **Coffee Fellowship** volunteers serve coffee, punch and cookies at both services. Marilyn Johnson, our Nursery worker, assists with setup and cleanup and provides coffee when there is no host. There is a host sign-up board in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Historian** maintains a photographic record of the Church's activities and a written historical narrative about the Church.

The **Membership Committee** has determined, through a Shelby Database update, that the current membership stands at 783 active members, representing 467 family units. In 2012, 38 new members joined, but sadly, 13 members passed away. The next update to the Pictorial Directory will be in 2014.

The **Men of Faith** group creates 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. One of the events this year, which brought Phil Taylor from the American Fallen Soldiers Project, included invitations to the women of the community as well. An original portrait by Phil Taylor of a fallen soldier, Lance Corporal Luke B. Holler, was presented to his family. The MOF group has been led by Chairman Scott Matthews for five years. Officers elected at the end of the year are: Steve Jordan – Chairman, Andy Burk – Vice-Chairman, and Gary Gum – Secretary-Treasurer.

**Singles of the Hills** provides a Christian environment for all singles of the Church and community to come together for support, fellowship, and friendship through monthly

dinner/programs open to all singles residing in the Highland Lakes area. The co-chairs of the committee are Vicki Strevey, Franzella Jones and Wilda Meixner.

The **Special Events Committee** is responsible for the Church's social events. Annual activities include a Chili Supper (January 18<sup>th</sup>), Ice Cream Social (May 16<sup>th</sup>), Picnic (October 17<sup>th</sup>), and Thanksgiving Celebration. In 2012, the Thanksgiving Celebration was moved to Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in order to honor Veterans' Day and to ask Church members to bring non-perishable food items for the area food banks.

The **WOW (Women of the Word) Committee** hosts a catered Spring Luncheon open to all Horseshoe Bay area ladies and a Fall Coffee exclusively for Church ladies to promote closer relationships. In 2012, the Spring Luncheon was held on April 19<sup>th</sup> in the church Fellowship Hall, with Gail Matthews starring as Mrs. Noah in "As the World Floods". On Sunday, September 23, the WOW Committee hosted a congregational coffee after both services in the Fellowship Hall, to celebrate the purpose and work of WOW, and to encourage women of the church to join WOW. A Ladies' Retreat is held each fall at Camp Buckner, providing an opportunity for in-depth Bible study and fellowship while encouraging area churches' participation if space is available. In 2012, the retreat was held at Camp Buckner on October 30<sup>th</sup>, with Janet Denison as the featured speaker. The committee also decorates the Church for Advent, prepares and serves a Christmas luncheon for the Church staff and their spouses, and sponsors Church mission projects such as the Diaper Drive and items needed for the Children's Advocacy Center program.

## **CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT DEPARTMENT**

Seven committees assist members of the congregation during times of special needs. These programs are made possible through the tireless dedication of approximately 100 Church volunteers.

**Caring Cards** are sent to members whose lives are touched by illness or death.

The **Congregational Care Committee** has 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. During 2012, the volunteers assisted with twelve memorial service receptions.

**The Freezer Friends Committee** has implemented a system of freezer 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. During 2012, breakfast selections were added.

**The Driving Force**, a joint effort between Men of Faith and Congregational Support, provides transportation to congregational members on a temporary basis for medical appointments. In 2012, volunteer drivers provided over 50 rides.

A **Grief Support Group**, led by Licensed Professional Counselors, is available for those who are grieving the loss of a family member or friend. The group meets on first and third Mondays, January through May. The Remembrance Service, a beautiful candlelight ceremony in memory of loved ones, is held on a Sunday in December.

The **Prayer Ministry** is available for those in need of special and individual prayers. The prayer team meets weekly to respond to prayer requests. 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. In 2012, the 18-member prayer team met weekly to address the needs of about 75 persons.

**Valentine Luncheon for Senior Widows:** Karen Wines served as the chair for the luncheon held on Valentine's Day for senior widows. The luncheon was organized and presented with the help of fifty volunteers who handled invitations, transportation, food, decorations, entertainment, and cleanup.

## **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

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 three Sunday morning classes are based on a study + service + fellowship model. 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 three classes have a total of 119 persons. On many Sundays over 70 members are in attendance.

The **Bible Study Class** meets in Classroom 4 for an in-depth study of selected books of the Bible. The studied books in 2012 included the Gospel of Luke, Acts, and 1 Corinthians. Carol Hawkinson is class coordinator. Teachers include Larry Canter, Jim Carter, Art Hawkinson, Jerry Osborne, Glenda Butler, Rev. Pete Christy and Rev. Johnny White. The class has several social gatherings each year and participates in service-related mission projects.

The **Women's Bible Study** meets in Classroom 1. During 2012, the class was engaged in a video study entitled *Loved by God*, a study of *The Screwtape Letters*, and a study of *Battlefield of the Mind*. The class is interactive and participative, and individual study assignments are given to aid in the understanding of the subject matter. The class is led by three teachers, Shirley Dano, Gail Avalos and Linda Rusk. The class continues to sponsor a young female child in Rwanda and sends monthly support to Compassion International.

The **Seekers Class**, which meets in Classroom 2, studies topics relevant to Christian scholarship and life applications in today's world. The study format involves a structured discussion of material presented by expert professors, mainly video or audio lecturers for The Teaching Company. Stan Smith, Jim Jorden, Linda Wilson and Rev. Pete Christy serve as facilitators, and Jim Jorden handles administrative matters for the class. The service project involves assisting St. Frederick Baptist Church in Marble Falls with its "Meals-on-Wheels" program on the fifth Saturdays of the year. Some class members have participated with other Church members in mission projects in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; Galveston, Texas; Camp Peniel, Texas; and Camp of the Hills, Texas. The class has joined with the other two classes in an annual Sunday School picnic for the past three years.

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

The **Church Library** is open daily from 8:30a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings until noon. Librarian Beverly Brascom is assisted by committee members Annette Christy 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, meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. to discuss a book selected by the participants.

The **Church Nursery** is staffed every Sunday morning from 8:30 to 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 maintains the Church grounds, including landscaping, parking lots, outdoor lighting, and the Remembrance Garden. In 2012 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 the names of members who passed away the previous year are engraved on memorial stones in the Remembrance Garden. Twenty-three names were added in 2012.

### **PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

The staff continues to function effectively, both individually and as a team. Organist and pianist Dr. Daniel Zamora left in July for a position in San Antonio. We were quite fortunate to find another talented organist and pianist, Mrs. Jennie Lynn Hodges, who is on contract through the end of 2013. Each staff member has an annual performance review at which time goals are set for the coming year.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

This 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. The committee compiled a pictorial history of church events for 2012 which is downloaded to a DVD and on file in the church library. Church brochures were updated as needed throughout the year. Dorothy Crockett's column in the *Highlander* newspaper about Horseshoe Bay activities includes news about church events.



## **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 committees responsible for communion, altar flowers, sanctuary services, and ushers and greeters all performed admirably. The **Music Ministry** had another good year. Choir activities other than regular Sunday services included monthly ministries to the Gateway assisted-living facility, fall and winter choir mini-retreats, and an Advent season full of music with guest soloists and musicians. The Handbell Choir, under the direction of Garry and Michele Kesler, played regularly for both Sunday worship services. The Concert Series had another successful season featuring a variety of outstanding musicians. The **Communion 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**, which are provided for all worship services, are paid for by church members. The **Sanctuary Services Committee** maintains and replenishes visitor cards, membership cards, prayer cards, information brochures, and properly places hymnals and Bibles for use each Sunday. The **Ushers and Greeters Committee** ensures that there are ushers and greeters for every service, as well as for communion service. Head Ushers, who are appointed for each month of the year, then recruit helpers for each weekly service.

**Holy Week and Easter** meant a special time in the church. Palm Sunday was on April 1, with a palm branch processional and special music by the choir for both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. The Service of Holy Communion was conducted on April 5 at the Maundy Thursday service, depicting the Last Supper of our Lord with his disciples before his crucifixion. There were three services, at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., on Easter Sunday, April 8. The Chancel Choir performed at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. The sanctuary was adorned with Easter lilies in honor or memory of friends and loved ones. The celebration and joy of Easter were continued on Bright Sunday, April 15. Church members were encouraged to wear their brightest clothing and hats, to celebrate the season of Holy Week, Easter and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday, December 2, was the first Sunday of the **Advent Season** and was celebrated with the Hanging of the Greens. Each Sunday in Advent the Advent Wreath candles were lighted, one by one, symbolizing the coming of Christ and the anticipation of his arrival. On December 16<sup>th</sup>, there was a service of Lessons and Carols, and that evening in the sanctuary there was a special

Remembrance Service in memory of loved ones. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> the Messiah Singers performed selections from *Messiah*. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, there were our two traditional Christmas Eve services: the family service with John Arthur Martinez at 5:00 p.m. and the candlelight service with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. Every year during Advent, poinsettias which decorate the sanctuary throughout the Advent season may be purchased in memory or in honor of friends and/or loved ones.

**THE CHURCH AT HORSESHOE BAY WEBSITE**

[www.church-hsb.org](http://www.church-hsb.org)