

## **The Church at Horseshoe Bay**

### **The Year 2015**

The following Board of Trustees members were elected by the congregation at the annual meeting on January 17, 2015: Claudia Bird, Donald Eckelbarger, Kent Graham, Norm Homberg, Pat McMurtrie

#### **Following are the 2015 Board Officers and Department Heads:**

Carolyn Thornton – Chairperson  
Fred Klingensmith – Vice Chairperson, Personnel Chair  
Elsie Thurman – Treasurer, Business Management/Finance  
Kent Graham – Assistant Treasurer, Business Management/Finance  
Geneva Dalton – Secretary, Membership Dept. Chair  
Ken Lindgren – Benevolence. Chair  
Bill Edwards – Buildings Dept. Chair  
Norm Homberg – Grounds Dept. Chair  
Don Eckelbarger – Worship & Music Dept. Chair  
Kay Tyler – Public Relations Dept. Chair, Garden  
Pat McMurtrie – Congregational Support Dept. Chair  
Mike Maine – Long Range Planning Chair, Legal, Insurance  
Linda Wilson – Christian Education Dept. Chair  
Claudia Bird – Congregational Fellowship Dept. Chair  
Wayne Ratisseau – Stewardship Chair, Transportation Chair

The activities of the various departments and committees of the Church for the year 2015 are described below.

#### **Benevolence:**

Your Benevolence Committee consists of 21 committee members and in 2015 supported 47 agencies on a continuous basis and 15 additional agencies on a one-time basis. The agencies supported included Children's Programs and Camps, Educational Programs, Food Pantries, Veterans Groups, Family Programs and Foreign Missions.

The Benevolence fund received \$294,000 allocated from the operating fund as well as \$65,575 in additional contributions from various church organizations and functions, such as Christmas Eve offerings, Flower Fund, Volunteers in Mission, Christmas for Others, Sunday School Groups, Individual Contributions and Thanksgiving for Others. In addition, non-cash contributions totaled approximately \$54204 coming from various church volunteer groups and church sponsored mission projects.

The gifts this congregation makes help make a difference and this Committee pledges to be good stewards of all God's gifts placed in its care. We will continue to strive for the vision set during the 25th anniversary year to become a “dollar for dollar” church.

### **Buildings:**

We are pleased to have Kathy Morrissette continue with the cleaning of the church facilities and doing an evening security check of the buildings. We are glad to have Sue Martini return as nursery attendant and her willingness to open and close the buildings on Sundays. We continue to discuss the ongoing building needs and long term plans for the future needs of the facilities.

The great volunteer crew has continued to respond faithfully as needed throughout the year for the many fellowship hall setups to do the rearranging of tables and chairs for the meetings and events. Several of the volunteers have also filled in for me to take the lead in the setups and building security needs when I had to be out of town. I regularly meet with the very supportive Church Business Administrator and Church Secretary to stay on top of the church activities that may need my attention.

### **Business Management Department:**

Endowment Fund: At December 31, 2014 and 2015, the Endowment Fund balance was \$352,041 and \$465,940, respectively. During the year, the Vanguard Life Strategy Growth Fund had a 1.1% decrease in value; however, there were \$119,900 in member donations to the fund. Subsequent to year-end, the fund received an additional \$90,000 in member donations. Kent Graham, chair of the Endowment Fund, will be actively meeting with his committee this year to discuss the use of this Fund as it has now passed the \$500,000 threshold for use. 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.”

Long Range Planning: The LRP committee has met several times and has discussed the future of Horseshoe Bay and how the church should be prepared to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the congregation both today and in the future-out five years. The ad hoc third service committee dealt with the issue of a possible third service and another ad hoc committee made recommendations on realigning the services. The LRP has asked that a space-needs survey be performed and will make recommendations for new initiatives in membership, outreach, and enrichment of the church experience for current and future members.

Insurance and Legal: The committee met on several occasions to review the policies and coverages maintained by the church. After review, there was a meeting with the insurance agent which resulted in several policy changes and a resulting savings of premium for the church. The church administrator is working on changes to the bylaws which will be presented to the committee for review and approval. If the board approves such changes they will be presented to the congregation for adoption, possibly at the next annual meeting.

Stewardship: After numerous requests by our membership, we began accepting credit card donations by church members on our website. In 2015, over 7% of the overall contributions to the church were given by credit cards. The merchant account fees associated with these gifts were \$2,171 in 2015, which is a 3% fee of the total donations value. These fees were paid from the administrative department budget.

## **Congregational Fellowship:**

### **Men of Faith** – Andy Burk, chairman

Hosted a breakfast in April with The Honorable Congressman Mike Conaway speaking to our men about our churches and our nation being “blessable.” Around 150 were in attendance.

Honored the first responders of Horseshoe Bay (and their families) with a fish fry in May, followed by another breakfast in September. This event featured Dr. O.S. Hawkins, noted pastor, author and Christian financial advisor, who spoke to about 135 men on integrity and fulfilling God's desire for our lives.

Many participated in a work week at Camp Peniel, Driving Force and Joseph's Food Pantry.

We are currently planning a Men's Conference on January 8th and 9th. The event is actually sponsored by Hill Country FCA but the Men of Faith are assisting with the project and will be hosting it here at our church. Last year's conference was held at FUMC in Marble Falls and about 125 men attended. Men who attend will be blessed by the teaching of Rod Handley, an author and well-known Christian speaker (Character that Counts is his ministry), who will talk to the men about "Success in God's Eyes." With Rod's messages and three complimentary meals provided, we are excited to see what God will do about bringing men to our church who might not otherwise come.

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 High Tea featuring Eileen Hurd

May- WOW members Salad Luncheon

September- Served the Coffee Fellowships in honor of Johnny's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

October- WOW Retreat featuring Gail Davalos; attended by about 100 women in the community

November- Decorated church for Advent

December- Care for the poinsettias, WOW member Christmas luncheon, WOW Church Staff Christmas luncheon with gift baskets

### **Special Events** – Frances Highsmith, chairperson

January- Chili Supper; May- Ice Cream Social; November- Veteran's Day Celebration – homemade soups; Thanksgiving Coffee Fellowship

### **Historian**- Ann Seckler

Maintained scrapbook and church record of publicity and activities, as outlined in the procedures.

### **Singles Ministry** – Heather Weaver, chair

The singles ministry has reorganized, under the leadership of Heather Weaver. She has re-named it A-Lone Star Singles. Other area churches' singles have been invited to join the group.

### **Congregational Support:**

The Visitation Force Committee was organized this year under the leadership of Linda Klingensmith. The mission of this committee is to demonstrate the love of God and the concern of our church family by visiting our homebound members and those in need on a regular basis. Prayer Ministry has expanded to include two additional meeting days. A Congregational Care Manual has been developed as a helpful reference for the Calendar Girls. This year the annual Valentine's Luncheon was replaced with a Valentine's Day Remembrance; "Calling Jesus" devotional books were delivered to 25 ladies who were homebound or living in facilities. Additionally, the following committees continued ministering to the congregation: Caring Cards, Freezer Friends, Driving Force, Prayer Shawl and Grief Support Group.

### **Education:**

**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.

**Women's Bible Study Class:** 2015 was a wonderful year for the Women's Bible Study Class. There are three teachers: Shirley Dano, Gail Davalos and Linda Klingensmith. We have 30 women on our class roster and average about half in class every Sunday.

**Studies** – We completed five studies this year.

- We began the year with Joyce Meyer's *Power Thoughts – 12 Strategies to Win the Battle of the Mind*. In this study we learned the effect of negative thinking and ways to combat it.
- *Slaying Giants* by Jill Briscoe was a three-part study on the life of David, focusing on his encounters with Goliath, Bathsheba and Nathan, and the lessons that we could learn from his triumphs and his failures.
- *Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Meyer was a great follow up to the study of *Power Thoughts*. This study really focuses on the importance of 'thinking about what you are thinking about' and teaches how the devil tries to control us through wrongful thought patterns that are developed throughout our life.
- Our next study, *Gripped by the Greatness of God*, by James MacDonald was a thought provoking study about the Awesomeness of God.
- We wrapped up the year with a three-part study on the *Women of Christmas* by Liz Curtiss Higgs. She presented Elizabeth, Mary and Anna in a way that allowed to us to experience this special season in a fresh new light.

**Socials/Fellowship** - We had three luncheons this year at different members' homes and in local restaurants. We also supported each other in a very special way by providing rides for members who need transportation to the doctor, hospital, etc., and food when needed. We maintain a confidential prayer list and actively support each other with fervent prayer.

Service - For the eighth year in a row, the class, through Compassion International, sponsored a girl in Rwanda. She is now 13 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. Again this year, the members actively supported Joseph's Food Pantry, The Boys and Girls Club of Marble Falls and Christmas for Others. One member of the class, with the help of several others, obtained, sorted, and distributed hundreds of items to many agencies in the area. We also participated in the 'Sneaker Collection for Pediatric Cancer' sponsored by Faith Bridge and supported the Christian Women's Job Corp by buying \$365.00 worth of cookie jars and casseroles.

**Seekers Class:** Members of this class seek to increase their understanding of their faith through study of a wide range of topics relevant to Christian scholarship and life applications in the modern world. Subjects that were studied in 2015 were:

- *After the New Testament: Writings of the Apostolic Fathers*<sup>1</sup> 24-week, DVD video course (completed from 2014)
- *The Book of Genesis* 24-week, DVD video course
- *Science and Religion* 12-week, DVD video course (in progress at year end)

The class has a "membership roster" of about 50 persons and an average attendance of about 30 on any given Sunday. Jim Jordan, Stan Smith, and Linda Wilson currently serve as class teachers/facilitators, with periodic support from Johnny White and Malcolm McQueen. Jim handles administrative matters for this class. The class is following a *study + service + fellowship* model. Through these three modes of Christian worship and work, the class is developing cohesiveness as a group of people with and for whom any member feels an affinity and affection. The *study* format followed in this class is structured discussion of material presented by expert professors – mainly video or audio lecturers for The Teaching Company. The facilitators' main role is to establish a baseline of information (as presented in the video or audio lessons) and to guide the class as it explores the discussion questions and comments posed at each class meeting. 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 six children in the church-wide Christmas for Others program.

The class participated in four *fellowship* activities during 2015:

- Attendance at two Christian-themed movies: *Do You Believe* (Mar) and *War Room* (Sep).
- An October picnic at Applehead pool, hosted by Mary Alice and Jerry Dunn.
- A Christmas social gathering, held this year at the home of Joyce and Stan Smith.

Mary Alice Dunn and Beryl Ann Owen served as coordinators for these social functions.

In October the class completed a comprehensive questionnaire about future preferences for study, service, and fellowship activities, and discussed these during a town hall meeting. There was consensus that current activities are meeting the class needs and only minor adjustments in implementation are required. Additionally, the meeting identified the following significant opportunities for improvement:

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<sup>1</sup> All three courses are based on a DVD video series by *The Great Courses* organization.

- The class needs to have a *membership* activity and there needs to be a coordinator for this. Activities would include a) being aware of the needs of class members in times of crisis or difficulty and b) directing help to those members. Joyce Smith volunteered to fill the role of coordinator
- The class needs to have a *promotion* activity and there needs to be a coordinator for this. Activities would include a) making other people in our church and in the larger community aware of what Seekers Class is and does and b) encouraging their participation if they are interested.

**Bible Alive Class :** This report summarizes biblical studies for the past year as well as several mission-related projects. Studies included:

- 15 week study of 52 chapters in Jeremiah. October 26, 2014 to February 8, 2015.
- 16-week study of 16 chapters in Romans. February 15, 2015 to June 7, 2015.
- 6-week study of the 6 chapters in Galatians. June 14, 2015 to July 19, 2015.
- 6-week study of Ephesians from July 26, 2015 to August 30, 2015.
- 4-week study of Philippians from September 6 to September 27, 2015.
- 4-week study of Colossians from October 4 through October 25, 2015.
- 5-week study of I Thessalonians from November 1 to 29, 2015.
- II Thessalonians in December of 2015.

The primary teachers include Larry Canter, Art Hawkinson, and David Sweigart. Members were involved in mission construction projects in Rio Bravo along with VBS there. The class also contributed to the mission work of Brad & Jenny Nelson of Mountain Gateway (Dripping Springs) in south-central Mexico. This work began in late 2015.

**Faith Bridge:** In the past year, we enjoyed these studies:

- **Lord Change My Attitude** by James MacDonald
- **Outlive Your Life** by Max Lucado
- **Believe** by Randy Frazee. We will continue with **Believe** in January. It is a 30-week study and we are about halfway through it.

Each study has a video and our teachers rotate teaching. The teachers for 2015 were Jane Boisvert, Bill Boisvert, Ann Higdon, Dwight King, Reagan Lambert, and Gail Matthews. We will add Joe Dan Rowland and Eddie Greer in 2016. Occasionally, we have “fill-in” studies. In December Johnny White and Reagan Lambert gave “bridge” lessons. In October, at our two-year anniversary, we changed leaders: Jimmie Homburg – Missions, Wendy Christesson – Communications, Jane Boisvert and Gail Matthews – Co-leaders. Sandy Howard remains as Social Chair, and Jamie King, Debbie Lambert, and Carla Rowland are in charge of care-giving.

The class raised money for a Mickey West Career Assets scholarship, special needs teens and adults. Shopped for Christmas for Others, and collected goods for Gateway Gardens, Pediatric Cancer Research, Young Life Camp in Colorado, the Helping Center, Seaton Care-a-van, Blue Monarch, and Joseph’s Pantry. Our attendance continues to grow as does our membership,

**Note:** The Christian Education program was initiated in 2000 with one class. Over the years, other classes have emerged to bring the total to four. Approximately 235 persons are included on the four class rosters. Average Sunday attendance is 115.

**Veritas 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 1:00 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. Librarian Beverly Brascom is supported by committee members Mary Kay Heck and Ouida Anderson. 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. 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 to 12 noon. Toys and games are available for the children. A paging system is used to contact parents if necessary.

### **Grounds:**

The year started out with discovering that the Sprinkler System for the bottom half of the property hadn't worked for approximately six months due to a capped off water line. The other major item was beginning the process to repave the deteriorating parking lot across the street and installing LED Lighting to replace the non-working lighting. We also cleaned out brush from around the perimeter of the Church parking lots and garden area.

### **Membership:**

We worked closely with DeDe regarding number of new members each month, deaths and members who have moved. We stayed updated with DeDe on Shelby database and made sure the Membership committee was contacting visitors that live close in the area. All new members that wanted to be announced in the services were introduced to the congregation at one of the Sunday services. A membership directory was completed with much help from DeDe. The committee had one new member coffee fellowship and changed the other to a much more successful new member dinner.

### **Personnel:**

In 2015, 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 2015 goals.

At the end of the year, Personnel made several recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The first; adding a part time maintenance person to provide a number of services currently outsourced and the second; that our current contract people be converted to employees to comply with current IRS regulations. All contract personnel are now employees.

The Personnel Department also made recommendations for the 2016 personnel budget to the Board. In setting salaries, the following factors were considered:

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

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

### **Public Relations:**

The Public Relations Committee focused on making our church activities such as the Stations of Cross and benevolence projects more visible to the community through newspaper articles, our website and Facebook. Our ministers are writing monthly columns in the Beacon.

### **Worship**

The Worship and Music Department enjoyed a tremendous year of growth and innovation in 2015. Some of the key items are listed below as follows:

- A new choir was formed to “beef up” the music program for early service attendees. The new feature is a big hit with congregation and brightens up the atmosphere of the early hour of the day.
- For the Easter week a new beautiful Stations of the Cross walkway was built and opened to all people of the Highland Lakes area. It was a smash hit and drew over 400 worshippers during the week.
- Also during Easter week a new tradition for our church was unveiled. It is the Maundy Thursday Service. About 200 church members attended.
- Another activity started during Easter week was the establishment of a Greeters Program designed to treat our visitors with dignity and enhance the friendliness of our church. Two specially selected Visitor Parking Spaces have been reserved for visitors.
- A new tradition of a major music program will be held for the Palm Sunday services.