

## *From the Pastor...*

Is it really 2019? I've always heard people say the older you get the faster time flies. Boy, I must be getting really old because 2018 absolutely flew by!

That being said, Highland Park achieved so much in 2018. We had amazing worship times, especially during Lent and Advent. Special thanks to the Chancel Choir for their beautiful presentation of the Cantata *Sing Joy to All the World!* a few weeks ago. It's been many years since the choir has done a major work and this was so wonderful and worshipful. Rachel Davis joined us in October as Director of Congregational Music and she jumped in with both feet and has led our choir beautifully as well as played for our services twice a month. We were lucky enough to also have Kent Burress play the organ for our services twice a month and we feel blessed by his gift of music.

The building has gone through a lot this year. We have new steps in the back of the building, had air conditioner work completed (a super BIG THANK YOU to Service Wizard and John Jr. & Charles Osgood for donating over half of the replacement cost). All of our lights were changed to LED to help with our utilities (thanks to the city of Austin for covering 80% of that cost), much plumbing work has been done this year and the trees were trimmed so cars would not be damaged by low-lying limbs. We also had the completion of the new front sign (which has been in the planning for several years) and we are now being noticed by the neighborhood.

We had so many wonderful times as a church family having meals together: Wednesday nights, Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt, Missions Fundraiser, the Plum Pudding Festival and many others. Thanks to Abby Byrd, Teresa Nuckols and Nancy Osgood for the many hours they spent planning and preparing these events.

A very big thank you to the volunteers of Highland Park who assist in the office, count our contributions, run the sound board, care for the children and those in need among us, as well as represent our church out in the community. I can't wait to see what 2019 holds for Highland Park. But be careful and don't blink because it may be over before we know it!



*Rev. Cheryl Kimble*

# Worship this Month

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
10:55 a.m. Worship Service

January 6

- Worship on **Epiphany Sunday** with the celebration of our Lord's Supper with communion by intinction
- Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches and the Chancel Choir sings "*Mary, Did You Know?*" as the anthem
- Children's Ministry Meeting after worship

January 13

- Worship on the **First Sunday after Epiphany**
- **Mitch Randall, Executive Director from EthicsDaily.com will be our guest preacher in morning worship**
- The Chancel Choir sings "*Lo, How A Rose / The Rose*" as the anthem in worship
- **Ministry Council Meeting** in the Library after worship
- **Taizé Worship Service** at 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium

January 20

- Worship on the **Second Sunday after Epiphany**
- Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches

January 27

- Worship on the **Third Sunday after Epiphany**
- Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches



WELCOME OUR  
NEWEST MEMBERS

**Parker and  
Hannah Gross**

Joined December 16, 2018

**Highland Park Baptist church is delighted to welcome R. Mitch Randall, D.Min., M.Div. as guest preacher on Sunday, January 13 at the 10:55 a.m. worship service.**

Mr. Randall is the Executive Director of the Baptist Center for Ethics / EthicsDaily.com. The goal of BCE is to educate, engage and empower goodwill people of faith to pursue social justice and advance the common good.

BCE offers weekday publications on [EthicsDaily.com](http://EthicsDaily.com), which houses thousands of free articles addressing pressing issues in real time, producing award-winning documentary films, conducting video interviews, managing the occasional conference, and distributing Bible study curriculum and study guides.



Mr. Randall holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northeastern State University, a Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from George W. Truett Theological Seminary. He is committed to upholding the Four Fragile Freedoms of the Baptist tradition, building ecumenical relationships with other Christians, fostering interfaith partnerships and fighting for a biblical justice for all people. He has served on many committees and boards for various Baptist and civic organizations, including service as the 2012-13 chair of the board of directors for the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. He later served as the 2016-17 co-chair of the Religious Liberty Council.

Mr. Randall served as pastor of NorthHaven Church in Norman, Oklahoma, from 2006 to 2017, and before that pastored churches in Nickerson, Kansas; North Richland Hills, Texas; and Bedford, Texas. He is married to Missy, and they have two children: Cole and Tanner.



# INTRODUCING THE 2019 HIGHLAND PARK MINISTRY COUNCIL

David Balkum, *Council Chair*  
Kathy Stanley, *Christian Ed*  
Rusty Shelton, *Family Life*  
Alana Mallard, *Missions*  
Hannah Neas, *Outreach & Commun.*  
Abby Byrd, *Servant*  
Sheila Kershaw, *Worship*  
Nathan Thane, *Administration*  
Mary Ellen Sullivan., *Property*  
Don Dillard, *Church Moderator*  
Jo Ann Nicholson, *Church Clerk*

Becky Dillard, *Personnel Chair*

Holly Eades

Jeff Brower

Kim Balkum

Kade Keith

Cathy Glazener, *Finance Chair*


Sharon Duboise

Margaret Stafford

Roger Vaughan

Jim Eskew

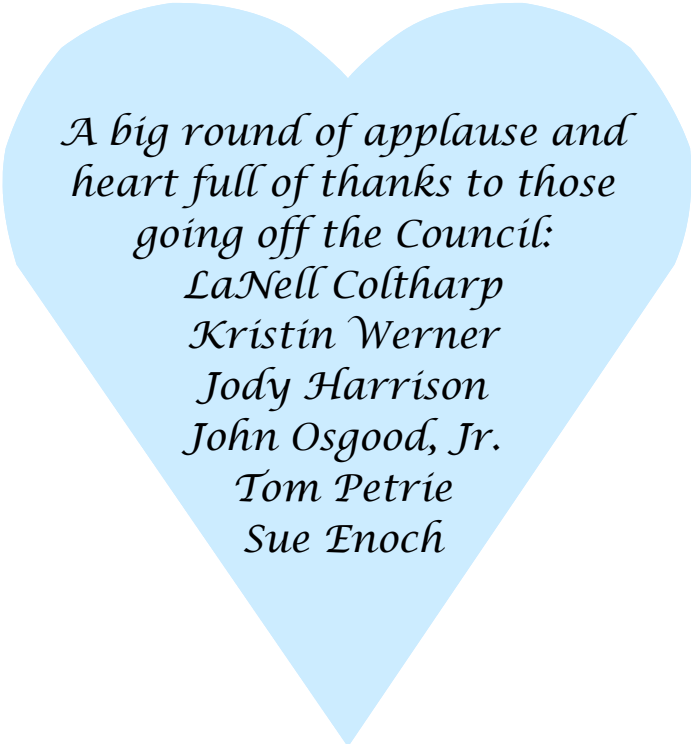
Justin Gamble



First Ministry Council Meeting of  
the year is Sunday, January 13  
at 12:20 p.m. in the Library.

All church members are welcome  
but not required to attend the  
meetings, which last around an hour.

Feel free to bring your lunch.  
Coffee and water are available.



*A big round of applause and  
heart full of thanks to those  
going off the Council:*

*LaNell Coltharp*

*Kristin Werner*

*Jody Harrison*

*John Osgood, Jr.*

*Tom Petrie*

*Sue Enoch*

Well, for better or worse, I begin chairing the Ministry Council this month. I'm excited, but in many ways clueless. And fearful, perhaps mostly of people finding out that I don't have nearly as good an idea of what I or anyone else should be doing as some of you may assume. Kim knows that underlying fear well, as I confess it to her often.

Confessing those fears feels good among friends. And that's what we've found here: friends. It wasn't but a week or so after we joined that Austin's allergens repeatedly put me in a hospital. I wasn't able to attend regularly. But you flooded me with cards telling me that you were praying for me. I kept those under my placemat at our kitchen table for months and knew that we had made a good decision. . . to be among folks who knew how to show God's love to strangers.

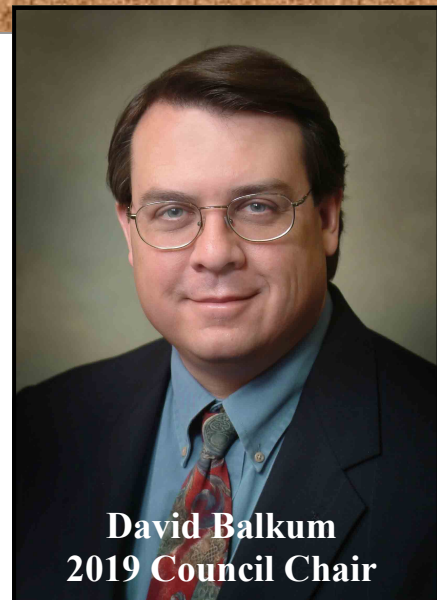
I've been reading a lot about what it means to be in a small church (small at least as measured by the folks who do such measuring). It's a new experience for us. But, it allows us to be known. In larger churches, we sometimes were unknown, invisible. Not here, where we teach a class with four members (six, counting us) regularly attending. It feels good to be known.

Small churches also give us opportunities. We all matter and we all do ministry together. The needs are many and the hands are sometimes fewer than we'd like. But, the hands are there and God provides. Even when we don't think that we're good at what we're doing or we're reluctant to try something new, God is at work in us. We need all of our hands, big and small, experienced and novice, clean and dirty, as we all learn to work together to meet those needs.

Our size allows us to see each other as the saints in training that we are. Not perfect saints, but saints in training. And we train each other. It's not a top down structure, as it is in other churches. It's horizontal. It's old and young, male and female, rich and poor, clergy and laity. It's welcoming, inclusive, and equalizing. It's realizing that God is such a lover of people that He sent His Son for all of us and that we all are welcoming & strengthening each other in that love.

Being that intimate with each other has its consequences. We sometimes have conflict. That will happen. It's not the conflict that sets us apart; it's how we respond to conflict that should set us apart. How well do we forgive, forebear, pass over, reconcile, submit, and regard others as we should? Those are the marks of the training that we get to practice on each other daily.

Being small also allows us to see God working in each other's lives. We rejoice, we grieve, we pray, we celebrate, we laugh, and we cry, realizing that, while we find ourselves together for the moment, we are not made for this world. As a small church, we have inherited a 2,000 year old tradition that is alive and well; challenged and changing, perhaps, but alive and well. While I hope that God adds to our number, I may not be able to remember more names than I already have in my head . . . and that's o.k. So, I'll just keep coming and keep loving our small church, rejoicing in the wonder of our size and realizing that I may need to start relying on name tags more as the years roll on. We thank all of you for welcoming us.



**David Balkum**  
**2019 Council Chair**



# Volunteer at Micah 6

Sunday afternoon volunteers are needed at the Micah 6 Drop-In Center on Sundays from 2 – 6 pm. Interaction with the visitors can be limited because the Drop-In Center is intended to be a place of refuge for those experiencing homelessness. Volunteers are present to model adult behavior, help serve a meal at 4:00, pass out toiletry or clothing supplies, and converse as you are comfortable. Volunteers who provide the meal are needed only for the time needed to set up the meal, serve, and clean up, usually 3:30 - 5:00. The center typically expects about



25 visitors. Come once to check it out, come again if you like it. Visit the website at <http://m6sydic.weebly.com> and click "How to Volunteer."

## Sisters in Service

THIRD TUESDAYS  
*All women welcome!*  
7:00 P.M.

The **January S.I.S. meeting will be Tuesday, January 15** at 7:00 p.m. at Mary Ellen Sullivan's home, with Nancy Osgood as co-hostess. We will hear about the work of our friends at Foundation for the Homeless, one of the organizations we support in our missions budget. Women of all ages are welcome to join this monthly gathering that centers around missions and fellowship. Please contact the church office at [hpbcoffice@hpbcaustin.org](mailto:hpbcoffice@hpbcaustin.org) if you need the address for the meeting.

## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

**Warm breakfast & conversation, offerings taken for global missions. All men welcome - 7 a.m. on Fridays 1st Friday of the month in Sapp Hall and all other Fridays at Austin Diner**

**Since August 1991, the Men's Prayer Breakfast has donated \$39,098.50 to local or international mission efforts.**

New Years' Resolution to read more? **Join a book club here at HPBC!**  
All interested readers are welcome at either or both of our book clubs:

### **Monday Night Book Club**

**Monday, January 7**

**at 6:00 p.m.**

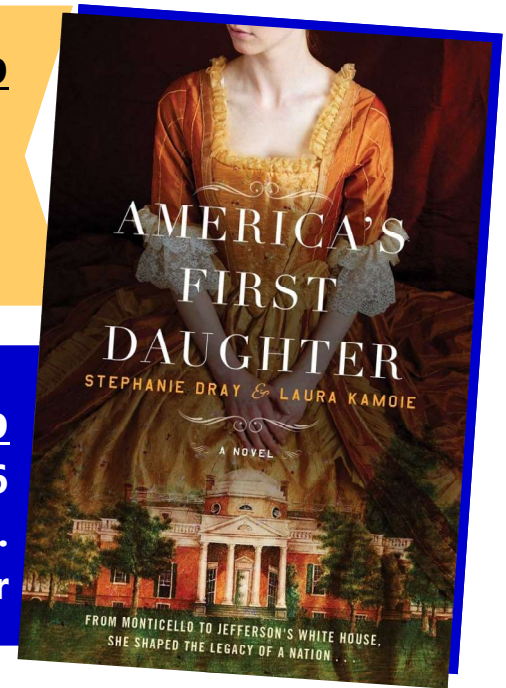
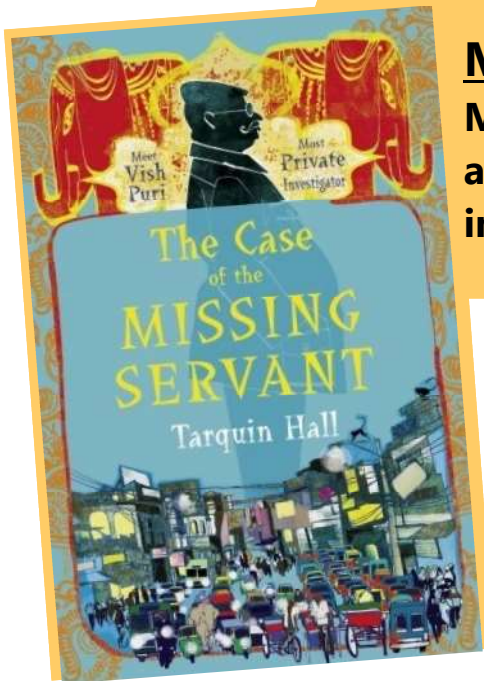
**in the downstairs Library**

### **Saturday Book Club**

**Saturday, January 26**

**at 10:00 a.m.**

**in the Upstairs Parlor**



The Marney Lectures at First Baptist Church of Austin

# God and Violence



**January 11-12**  
Friday 7-9pm | Saturday 9am-1pm

## Is God violent?

A retreat presented by renowned Jesus scholar Dr. John Dominic Crossan, featuring breakout sessions with some of our state's leading peacemakers. Together we will discover the peacemaking God of our faith and the calling of peace in our world today.

**\$10/person** | To register email Sarah at: [szeringue@fbcaustin.org](mailto:szeringue@fbcaustin.org)



**Dr. John Dominic Crossan, a renowned Jesus scholar, will lead a conference at First Baptist Church on Friday, January 11 from 7-9 pm and Saturday, January 12 from 8:30 am-1 pm.** The theme is a consideration of whether God is violent and the appropriate Christian response to the violence in the world today. Dr. Crossan will speak both days, with breakout sessions Saturday with community leaders working on violence-related issues. Part of his talk will be informed by the book he and his wife wrote recently, Resurrection Easter, How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision.

Parking will be provided in the parking garage on Ninth Street, across the street from the church. All are welcome to attend what is guaranteed to be both meaningful and interesting presentation. There is a \$10/ person suggested donation. To register, please email [szeringue@fbcaustin.org](mailto:szeringue@fbcaustin.org).



## Staff Anniversaries this Month

We are so grateful for these employees and everything they do here at Highland Park Baptist Church.

**Susan Hammack**

**Kelley DeCleene**

January 3, 2011

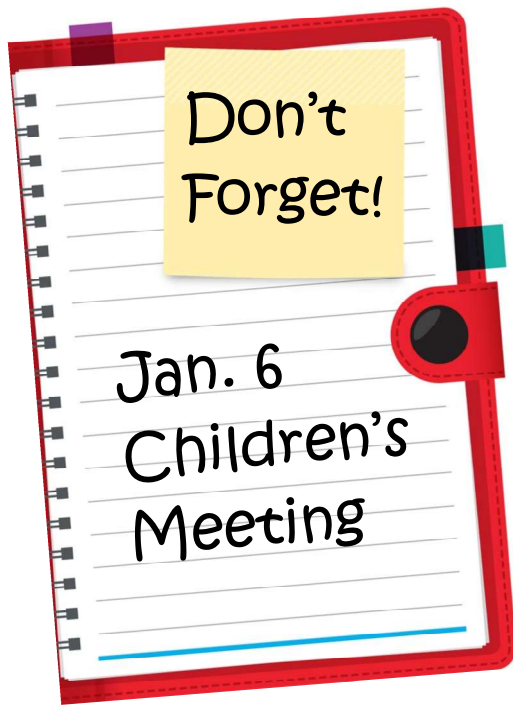
January 31, 2011

## MEMO

**To:** Friends of Highland Park  
**From:** Staff of Highland Park  
**Re:** Update on Staff Responsibilities

In response to the changing and aging of our Highland Park building, staff responsibilities have been shifted beginning January 2019. In addition to working with our youth, Rev. Kevin Mitchell will now oversee the management and maintenance of our building, coordinating repair work and possibly finding additional spaces to rent out. A facilities management team has been assembled and will meet in the 2nd week of January to plan and dream about short-term and long-term goals for the building. Kevin will also work closely with John Guerra to take care of minor projects within the building. To allow Kevin time to cover this new responsibility, Rev. Cheryl Kimble will take over helping the Children's Ministry of Highland Park. Cheryl has already begun meeting with the childcare workers and the Family Life & Fellowship Ministry to plan the years' activities. With the building management being shifted off her responsibility, Kelley DeCleene will focus further on the online presence of the church as well as preserving the historical records of the church, in addition to her daily responsibilities for the church. Kelley will remain the liaison with outside groups and continue to maintain the calendar of events. The Personnel Ministry is currently working on new job descriptions that outline these changes. The staff is excited about these changes and welcomes your input and questions as they settle into their new roles & responsibilities.





# 2019 Children's Ministries

Following worship on Sunday, January 6, there will be a parent meeting in the Underground to discuss and plan the first half of the new year with children's activities. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Please meet us in the Rec Room following worship. Our childcare workers will have fun activities and the kids can play games in the Underground, while Rev. Cheryl and the parents meet to plan and dream about this growing area of our church.

## 2019 Youth Ministries

The HPBC youth, along with our Southwest Baptist Youth Camping Association, will take their **Midwinter Retreat on Feb. 8-10 at Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX.** Email [kmitchell@hpbcaustin.org](mailto:kmitchell@hpbcaustin.org) to join us.

### H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y

- Jan. 2** Kyle Nelson
- Jan. 6** Michelle Davis
- Jan. 9** Phillip Stokes
- Jan. 11** Andrew Karnes
- Jan. 13** John Hastings
- Jan. 15** Lyndsey Langley  
Bob Norris
- Jan. 17** Katie Dodge  
Richard Sylvester

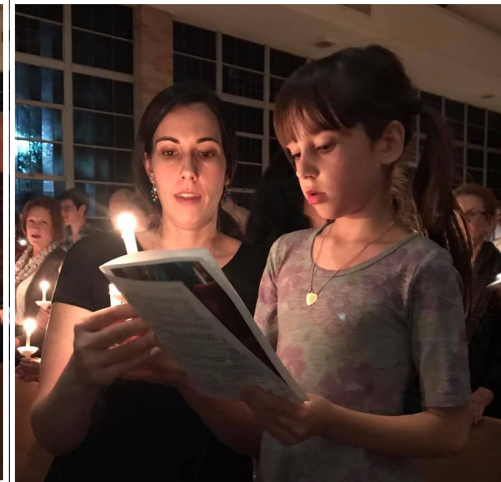
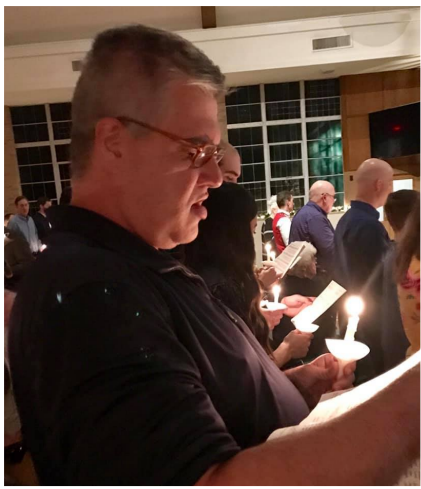
- Jan. 18** Ava Foster  
Ann Karnes
- Jan. 20** Debra Longoria  
Rusty Pence
- Jan. 23** Meredith Bewley  
Alex Byrd
- Jan. 25** Kevin Mitchell
- Jan. 26** Mary Ellen Sullivan
- Jan. 29** Rosa Stafford

- Jan. 31** Derek Dillard  
Larry Lake



Beautiful solos and music ensembles, the wonder and joy of our children, preaching and teaching, the Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata, and a Sanctuary full of friendly faces on Christmas Eve all blessed our Advent and Christmas times together.







What immense generosity from those at Highland Park who decorated & filled Christmas stockings, visited and shared cookies with friends, blessed a single-parent family of seven with gifts, collected and donated gift bag items for neighbors in need, and donated books and/or funds for a school.





**Adorable kids, delicious desserts, & non-stop Xmas fun at Plum Pudding Festival!**



Fred & Barbara Worley and their granddaughter Alayna Enos, made their Christmas visit to Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, on December 6-7, including going to the Benjamin Franklin School and the Casa Hogar Bethesda orphanage.

The gifts to the school were bilingual books for the *Biblioteca Kitty Worley* and funds for scholarships. The gifts to the orphanage included new socks, warm-up jackets, and fresh food. The orphanage is now up to thirty residents. They have completed renovating the house next door as the boy's dorm. The girls are in the original dorm. They completed a separate kitchen awhile back to cook for both buildings, so the central part of the girls dorm is more open for social activities. Thank you to the Journey Sunday School class for your donations and to the Worley family who remains devoted to this River Ministry.







5206 Balcones Drive  
Austin, TX 78731

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:55 a.m.  
Taizé Service: 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd  
Sunday of each month

[www.hpbcaustin.org](http://www.hpbcaustin.org)  
512-453-6603  
[hpbcoffice@hpbcaustin.org](mailto:hpbcoffice@hpbcaustin.org)

Rev. Cheryl Kimble, *Pastor*  
Rev. Kevin Mitchell, *Associate Pastor*  
Dr. C. Ray Burchette, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Rachel Davis, *Director of Congregational Music*  
Kelley DeCleene, *Director of Church Operations*  
John Guerra, *Church Custodian*  
Susan Hammack, *Church Bookkeeper*

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4 Men's Prayer Breakfast in Sapp Hall	5
6 Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal Communion	7 Monday Night Book Club: <i>The Case of the Missing Servant</i>	8	9	10	11 Men's Prayer Breakfast at Austin Diner	12
13 Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal Ministry Council Taizé Service	14	15 Sisters in Service	16	17	18 Men's Prayer Breakfast at Austin Diner	19
20 Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal	21	22 Lifeline Screening in Sapp Hall	23	24	25 Men's Prayer Breakfast at Austin Diner	26 Saturday Book Club: <i>America's First Daughter</i>
27 Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30	31	<b>LEGEND</b> Christian Education Family Life & Fellowship Missions Worship Council/Church Business	