

Highland Park
Baptist Church
Mirror Oct 2012

Austin, Texas
Volume 56 Issue 9

Oct 3 Ministry meetings 6:30 pm

Oct 4 WMU Morning 9:30 am

Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 Men's
Prayer Breakfast 7 am

Oct 7 World Communion
Sunday; Java for Jesus; Share
Your Table; Faith & Film Series
Norma Rae 6:30 pm

Oct 8 Sisters in Service 7 pm

Oct 11 and 18 UBC God's
Family Dinner Volunteer 4:30
to 6 pm to serve homeless

Oct 14 TLC Grief Support
12:30 pm; Shoe and Sock
Drive begins for Micah 6
Youth Drop-In

Oct 14-31 God's World art-
work by Laura Johnson, re-
ception Oct 14 before SS

Oct 15 Ministry Council 7pm

Oct 20 Blessing of the Ani-
mals 10 am-Noon

Oct 24 Fall Family Festival
5:30 pm, trick-or-treat,
games, food, neighbors

Oct 26-28 Womanfest in
Fredericksburg

Oct 27 Austin Children's
Choir Fall Concert 7 pm

Oct 28 TLC Grief Support
12:30 pm

Nov. 4
Consecration Sunday

Prepare for a
Special Time


highlandpark
baptist church
we've been called

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, Oct. 20
10 a.m. to Noon

Chapel
Courtyard of
Highland Park
Baptist Church

Bring your
animals and
join us
for music,
prayer, worship,
and blessings

Petting zoo for
the kids
Refreshments for
everyone



Shoe and Sock Drive with Rise School of Austin
benefiting Micah 6 Youth Drop-In Program

*God made the wild animals of the earth
of every kind, and the cattle of every
kind, and everything that creeps upon
the ground of every kind. And God saw
that it was good. Genesis 1:25*

Reflections in the Mirror by Sheila Allee

A Glimmer of Light

From time to time, as you may remember, I ruminate and agonize over the plight of the homeless. How can I help that ragged man on the street corner? *Should* I help him? If I give him money, will it be used for some illegal activity? What is his story? Why is he in this situation?

I have asked friends and family members what they do and have come away with a multitude of responses. One friend says she at least talks to the homeless on the street and tells them she is praying for them. When she can, she gives them a dollar. Another friend offers water and nonperishable food.

Despite my confusion over what to do, a few things are clear. The people I see carrying cardboard signs that say “Anything helps” are down on their luck. No one would choose to stand on a street corner and ask for spare change if they had other options.

I decided at the very least, I had to stop being afraid. I started waving at the young man who is often at the intersection a mile from my house. He waved back.

Then I remembered that awful scripture: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” Matthew 25:45. I realized that if I pretended not to see the young man down the street, then I was ignoring Christ. If I did not reach out to him, then I was refusing to reach out to Christ. I decided I could spare a dollar bill here and there and wouldn’t worry too much about financing a drug cartel.

Of course, God put me to the test immediately. As I walked to my car in a grocery store parking lot, a man asked me for bus fare. He startled me, and I didn’t respond. As I kept walking, I knew I couldn’t ignore him. I pulled a dollar out of my purse, walked back, and said “God bless you” as I handed him the bill. “You’re a sweetheart,” he said. “God bless you.”

I started keeping a dollar bill in a pocket in my purse so I could have it handy when I was idling at traffic lights. I handed out several, along with a smile and “God bless you” to several folks. I got smiles and warm thank you’s. I decided maybe I was on the right path.

Then one morning, I absent-mindedly pulled a \$5 bill out of my purse and offered it to a man with a long mustache and a floppy hat. “Now you be safe out there!” he called out to me. “No bumper cars!” When I realized that I had given him \$5, I decided not to worry about it. He needed it much more than I.

A few hours later, I was returning to my car in a parking lot after lunch with a friend. As I approached my vehicle, there was a \$5 bill lying on the pavement right next to my car. Oh, my gosh, I thought. This is a God thing. Maybe he’s telling me I’m on the right path.

Even after this “God thing,” I still don’t think there are any easy answers for my questions about how to help the homeless. The day after I found the \$5, I gave a dollar bill to a woman who had all the physical signs of being a meth addict. She seemed like she was in a fog. But Christ is in her just as he was the guy at the grocery store and the man who told me to drive safely.

I’m going to keep dollar bills handy and try to remember to say a prayer for folks when I pass them on the street. And maybe, just maybe, I’ll be following the Master’s call to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with my God.”



**He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to
love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8**

Sunday Worship of the Lord in October

Oct. 7 World Communion Sunday Rev. Kevin Mitchell preaches at 10:55 a.m.; Celebration of Communion; Share Your Table ingathering of food for Hospice Austin.

Oct. 14 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches at 10:55 a.m.; Taize worship service at 7:30 p.m. with meditation, prayer, music, communion.

Oct. 21 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches at 10:55 a.m.

Oct. 28 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Glenn Shoemake preaches at 10:55 a.m.



Wednesday Weavings in October

Join us for family supper at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in October, \$6 adult dinner, \$4 half-plate and kids, \$18 max for families. After supper we have a time of prayer and then programs at 6:30 p.m. for adults, kids, and teens where we all learn about the grace of God.

Oct. 3 Ministry Meetings After our fellowship supper, we break into Ministry Meetings. Don't have one? We'll find you one!

Oct. 10 Justice Series Richard Troxell, president and founder of House the Homeless will talk about the need for a living wage. He'll have copies of his book, "Looking Up at the Bottom Line: The Struggle for the Living Wage."

Oct. 17 Justice Series Sharon Lowe and Trey Nichols will talk about programs of Foundation for the Homeless, including Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Oct. 24 Fall Family Festival Supper on the lawn, trick-or-treat for the kids, games for all.

Oct. 31 Halloween at your house, because we won't be having supper or programs. Boo!

Norma Rae — Oct. 7 Faith and Film Series

Our thanks to Faith and Film Series facilitators Kevin Mitchell, Keith Cranford, and Nancy Lamb — and Barbara Lightsey, who stepped in at the last minute to lead our discussion on "To Kill a Mockingbird." Kevin led us as we discussed the "touch" aspects of "Wall-E," and Keith will lead the discussion on Oct. 7 when we see "Norma Rae." And what's a movie without popcorn? Thanks, Cheryl.



Troop 410 Swiss Alps High Adventure 2012 — Neil Hagood

Several years ago, Troop 410 Scoutmaster Keith Arnold had a vision to take a group of older Boy Scouts to the Swiss Alps for a trek of a lifetime. This summer, after a year of complex planning and coordinating, that vision became a reality for Troop 410 scouts Ben Jones, Kiran Joyce, Criss Cole, Jonathan George, Kameron Schultz,



Travis Burnet, Alec Hunter, Benton Arnold, Steven Bailey, Sam Hagood, Atticus Boyd, Winston Collins, Trey Hill, and Reid Gehring, along with adult leaders Keith and Shari Arnold, Neil Hagood, Karen Miller, and Elizabeth and Dennis Cole.

Scouts and leaders trained on the hills of West Austin, and in July we left for Kandersteg International Scout Center in Switzerland.

After acclimating to the altitude in Kandersteg, we formed an east crew and a west crew and hit the trails for seven days and six nights through the Alps. Each day we hiked for about five hours to reach our daily goal of a hütte. These hüttes were built high up in the mountains 50 to 75 years ago. The hosts provided bedding, restrooms, group

bunks, and meals. The hot dinners were welcomed by our tired crews! We ate fresh, dry sausages, cheeses and breads for lunch, sitting beside trails overlooking beautiful vistas. Swiss cowbells provided a musical cacophony befitting of the scenery from which it arose throughout our trek.

Our packs averaged 25-30 lbs. The trails were usually steep and well worn; some were dirt, some hard rock, others paved roads, soft forest floors or narrow mountain ridge razorbacks that dropped off a hundred feet on either side. We hiked through mud, snow and ice; through thick cloud banks with 10-ft. visibility; in snow, rain, and sunshine. We crossed rivers, streams, snow packs, glaciers, boulder fields, and crevasses. At times, we hung on to steel cables, chains, or ropes to keep from slipping and falling off the mountains.

Our crews met midway, at Rotstockhütte, tired but happy to reunite for the two nights we spent there, recounting our respective tales. A group took a day hike to the top of Schilthorn, which offered beautiful views of all the major peaks in Switzerland and a view to Germany. Several boys took a dip in an alpine lake (briefly!).

We rode the cog train from Klein Scheidegg to Jungfrauoch, the highest observation point in Europe, which took us to observation decks, an ice cave gallery and a museum. The views of the glaciers, mountains, and valleys were remarkable.

We saw wild ibex, chamois, foxes, kites, salamanders and other wildlife. The alpine flowers were in bloom everywhere!

At the end of our trails, both crews headed back to Kandersteg. Our boys really enjoyed meeting and talking (or trying to) with scouts from other countries. Our group had some extra adventures – canyoning, zip lining, and wheeled sled runs, all in the grand splendor of the Alps.

Our experiences, physical, mental and spiritual, will stay with each of us forever. We pushed ourselves harder and longer than ever before and now have a memory that we will share for the rest of our lives. And that is a big part of what scouting is all about.

We would like to express our thanks to Highland Park Baptist Church, which has supported, housed and encouraged our troop as our Charter Organization for 55 years.



Welcoming Keller and Katie Sue to Highland Park Baptist Church



*And the people said,
With God's help we will so
seek to follow Christ
ourselves that these
parents shall be
strengthened and
confirmed in their resolve,
and that their children,
surrounded by
steadfast love, may be nur-
tured in the faith and
strengthened in the way
that leads to life.*

A COOL Celebration — Joe Stafford

We can celebrate the end of summer knowing that the bill for the emergency replacement of the sanctuary air conditioning system has been paid!

Generous contributions from members and accumulated balances from rental income have paid the \$55,916 bill.

Replacement of the leaking Sanctuary roof will begin soon, says Mary Ellen Sullivan. That bill will be paid primarily by insurance. Still to come, a bid for replacing the remainder of the old air conditioning system in Sapp Hall, nursery wing, multipurpose room and underground. Contributions towards paying for those new air conditioners will be greatly appreciated.



Worship at HPBC — Passing the Peace of Christ



***"God's World: Psalm 8"
artwork by Laura Johnson***

***Oct. 14-31
Upstairs Atrium at HPBC***

***Reception Oct. 14
Before Sunday School***

Please join us

Sapp Lecture Series 2012

**David Breckenridge
Nov. 2-4**

***Modern Family: Why
(Christian) Community Will
Always Matter***

**Friday evening, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday morning, 9 a.m.-Noon
Sunday Worship 10:55 a.m.**

**David Breckenridge is pastor of
First Baptist in Memphis, Tennessee**

From Your Associate Pastor

One of my favorite things our youth do happens the first Wednesday of the month.

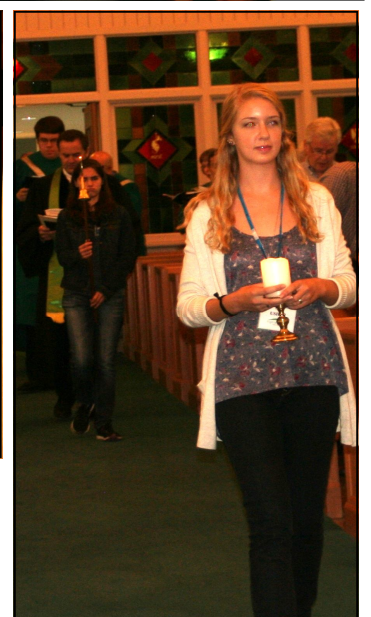
We have dinner together with the church family in Sapp Hall, then load up the vans to take communion to a homebound member.

We usually take the same cup and plate that our deacons, servant leaders, take to serve those who are taking care of our children during worship. There is something different about that plate and cup. It leaves the sanctuary to serve those who are serving and then comes back in to rest on the altar again. These elements look hand made and they are not as big as the others. They're beautiful. I wish you could see how our kids carry them when we walk into the home.

I wish you could see the whole adventure. We usually bring a Bible too and share a favorite verse or two. We share some of our own stories and listen. We pray together and then serve each other communion. It's nothing fancy. But it's like nothing else I do.

I'm not sure I have the words to explain what all happens in us and through us on these adventures. But I cannot more highly recommend that you give it a try. I think you'll discover that the Kingdom is a nearer reality right then and there, beyond words.

Peace,
Kevin Mitchell



*O come, and bowing down to God, our worship let us bring;
Come, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker and our King.*



We've been called to be a
Worshipping
Learning
Practicing
Missional
Community of Faith

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The Mirror
October 2012

Life of the Church

Daytime WMU A field trip for the October meeting to **Boyd and Jane Robertson's** lovely home! Fall is here, reminds president **Donna Reisenbigler**, so be thinking about our **Baptist Community Center Fall Food Drive** held the first week of November. We will be decorating our 55 Christmas Stockings for **the Baptist Community Center Christmas Party** at our November meeting so all you wonderful "sewers" who are making the stockings themselves, please remember we need them before Thursday, Nov. 1, when we will decorate them. All are invited to attend our meetings. Blessings, WMU.

Share Your Table Our ingathering of food on **World Communion Sunday**, Oct. 7, will benefit **Hospice Austin**, where **Rev. Melissa Russell** is a chaplain. Besides canned goods and staples, Hospice Austin food pantry also provides its clients with small bags of food for pets, paper towels, toilet paper, and nutritional drinks such as Boost and Ensure.

Sisters in Service Our evening women's mission group will be at **Mary Ellen Sullivan's** home on Monday, Oct. 8. We'll bring donations for the Sock and Shoe Drive for **Micah 6 Youth Drop-In Program**, and we'll hear about that program. Donations of travel sizes of deodorant, shampoo, body wash, shaving cream and razors are always appreciated by the kids. S.I.S. is serving a meal at UBC at Micah 6 Youth Drop-In on Sunday, Nov. 18, and opportunities to host are available every Sunday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. till 6:30 p.m. All women of the church, their friends and relatives and invited to join S.I.S. on Oct. 8 for fellowship, missions, and dessert.

Fifth Sunday Benevolence Our fifth Sunday collection benefited **Alliance of Baptists** missions, such as the magazine Seeds of Hope and missions in Cuba.

Youth and Family Service After church Sunday, **Oct. 7**, we'll **pack care packages** for our 20 or so college kids — thank you for donations of cookies, candy, chewing gum, pens, handwritten notes, whatever you think a college kid would like from a home congregation. And on **Jan. 12** we'll go to **Capital Area Food Bank** to help sort food into boxes for local food pantries.

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:55 a.m.
Taize Worship on Sunday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m., the second Sunday evening of each month
Please join us. All are welcome