



THE STAFF
STANDARD

HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

SUMMER 2014

HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Church-wide Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:55 a.m.

Taize Service: 7:30 p.m. 2nd Sunday of each month

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner and Program: 5:30 p.m.

HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST STAFF

Cheryl Kimble, Pastor

Kevin Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Catherine Bartoli, Director of Music

Kelley DeCleene, Director of Church Operations

John Guerra, Church Custodian

Susan Hammack, Church Bookkeeper

Hayley Kimble, Children & Young Families Ministry Coordinator

Alan Werner, Sunday Assistant Custodian

Dr. C. Ray Burchette, Pastor Emeritus

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From our **Pastor:**

Summer is over and school is back in full swing. I can't believe it's already September and we've elected a Nominating Committee to start work on next year! Who has turned the speed up on my life? Nancy Lamb showed me a calendar once that said, "Caution! Items on Calendar may be closer than they seem" and that's how I feel right now.

While time seems to be flying by, there is a lot happening here at HPBC. We had an amazing summer with our youth and children through VBS, camps, and mission trips. The building has been like a giant game of Tetris with things moving here to there and things changing every day. Our music program had a great summer with our Family Choir singing six Sundays during the summer, wonderful music during our worship times, a great hymn sing and ice cream social that was an amazing time together, and now our beloved Dustin is heading across the great pond to study at the Royal Conservatory. Many of our people have been working hard this summer keeping up with those in the hospital and those on our Touch List, as well as those members who are home bound and can't be in church on a regular basis. There have also been many hours of volunteering by our members working in missions across this city and our nation from Drive a Senior, Friendship International, Baptist Community Center, God's Family Dinner, and Micah 6 of Austin, all the way to Boulder, Colorado. Let's not forget the hours that volunteers spend here answering phones in the office, helping repair things around our building, helping take care of our yard, cleaning closets and cabinets, and anything else that needs to be done.

Highland Park is an amazing place to just watch how much happens every day. It's amazing to see what hard workers you are and what a great community you are to one another. We have many wonderful educational opportunities ahead for us on Wednesday nights. I'm grateful to the Christian Education Ministry and all the work they've done to fill our Wednesday nights with a wide variety of subjects and opportunities, I hope you'll try and attend as many as possible. I love walking around the Sunday school classes each week and seeing all the great things being discussed and shared. Worship continues to be a meaningful time together. The Worship Ministry has begun to look at worship between now and Advent, and yes, we've even started talking about an Advent theme (there is that time flying thing again).

I hope you all know that all of this doesn't happen without each one of you. You each have an important place in this community and when you're not here there is a vacancy. We need you, we need you in the

pews, we need you in the Sunday school classes, we need you on Wednesday nights, we need you on ministries, we need your help when we go into the community to work and help those in need. When you give of yourself you receive much in return. Thanks for being such a giving community and I look forward to beginning this new season with you.

Amen and amen,
Cheryl

From our **Director of Music:**

What? Labor Day already?! What happened to Summer?

I don't know about you, but my summer flew by! It started with an experiment successful beyond my dreams. The Family Choir pulled in many folks not normally in choir and we had a great time praising God in song. Dustin pulled out one for his Labor Day weekend postlude, "Take Up Your Cross." I was very pleased with the participation in this new format and plan to repeat it next summer. My only hope is that we can incorporate more of the youngsters. I'd love to see two or three generations of families involved.

The Sanctuary Choir has resumed and is preparing anthems ranging from English church repertoire to gospel. During Advent, we will present several selections from Handel's *Messiah* as we hear the prophecies of Isaiah. New members are encouraged to join us in Wednesday rehearsals (7:30 p.m.) and on Sunday as we prepare a joyful noise for worship.

We are also initiating a fund drive to replace Bessie, our ailing pipe organ. We hope you will help us in our efforts to raise the funds to purchase a Rodgers digital instrument that will help us praise God with a mighty sound.

Our children's choir will gear up on Sunday, Sept. 14th, meeting during Sunday School time, and I hope to see lots of kiddos there!

All in all, music is very alive at HPBC. That said, we need more BODIES in our groups! Please consider the gifts you have and how you can return them to God. Singing in a choir is one of the easiest ways you can contribute to the life of the church: one rehearsal a week, no homework or special equipment required, and a special seat during worship. Not that we don't work hard at what we do, but we have fun while we do it. I hope you will join us and maybe bring your child to choir so that we can build on the fine music tradition here.

In Christ's peace,
Catherine

From our Associate Pastor:

Summer started for me at breakfast in Sapp Hall honoring Kyndal Brower, Derek Dillard, Christina Houser, Ian Lane, John Longoria, Abby Osgood, Claire Spencer, Jack Spencer, Trent Wilson, and their families. Around the tables with laughter and the smell of coffee and cinnamon we told stories about our graduates growing up. We dreamt about what's next and thanked God for weaving our lives together.

Three weeks later, we were with our friends under the canopy of tall, dark green pine trees on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas at Southwest Baptist Youth Camp. It was our first year on this campus, by far the largest campus we've taken our camp. When we negotiated the contract we chose the oldest, most run down, beat up, worn out, dorms on campus. They cost less. We were less likely to hurt them and they're near the heart of the campus. What we were given was the newest, most modern, fancy residence hall I've ever seen – *given*, at no additional charge. These rooms rent for \$50 per person more than what we booked. They gave them to us.

Sunday evening our crew is sitting in a circle in these comfortable chairs at our church group time. We're responding to some stories our camp pastor, Ryon Price from Second Baptist Lubbock, had just told in worship, when one of our youth shares about an old, raw, deep wound. And time stopped. You've been in places like this – *holy ground*. Someone opens their life to you, wide open. Trust thick enough to see and Love shows up, even in our pain. My whole life, I will never forget this night.

The next week we're back in Austin putting our hands and hearts to work at Vacation Bible School which was a whirl and a blast.

We spent three Wednesdays at Cheryl and Roy's home eating, talking about our faith and swimming.

Monday, July 21 we went to children's camp at Brownwood Christian Retreat on Lake Brownwood, which looked like it had more water in it this summer than the last three. Our camp pastor, Laura Mayo from Covenant Houston, cooked each night as she preached. There is something deeply rite about eating at the end of worship. Well, I guess I always like to eat. Our theme was *There's Room at God's Table*, and our kids got it, but frankly I think you teach them and me that lesson all the time. The pool was out of commission but not one of our kids whined about it. Friday afternoon we came home.

Early Saturday morning we met near the Southwest Airlines counter at ABIA to depart on our Colorado mission trip adventure. We hit the ground in Denver at 11:30, rented two vans, stopped for lunch, picked up Megan, then drove to Boulder. As we pulled up to Pine Street Church, where we thought we were staying, Bob

Ballance, their pastor, met us and had ready for us some landscaping work: trees, bushes, and flowers to be planted; a raised garden to extend; mulch to be spread; trimming and mowing to be done. We asked if we could unload before we went to work. He said no – *which caught me off guard*. Then he told us that we would be staying at his and Catherine's home, all 18 of us. He was worried the church would be too hot. We stayed there four nights. Their dining room table was moved to make room for us to sleep and stacked on it, clean and freshly folded each morning, were stacks and stacks of white towels, washcloths and hand towels that smelled great. It looked like that table you see at a nice spa. I've never been so spoiled on a mission trip. The whole trip went like that.

372 volunteer hours helping six families and a church all impacted by the massive flooding of last September. Three days of high country adventure, white water rafting, hiking, repelling, climbing, rain, stars, Colorado blue sky, clear streams of snow melt, brilliant rainbows, cold nights, Aspen forests, Hot Springs, sleet, the Columbine Memorial and communion the last night. **AMAZING ADVENTURE!**

The Wednesday following mission trip we were back at Roy and Cheryl's home, eating again, a real meal at the table celebrating our seniors.

That Sunday you gave our youth the worship service and they spoke to you about God's liberating love which came to be the theme of our summer together.

Now, this Sunday, we'll be in Sapp Hall with the smell of coffee and cinnamon sharing breakfast with children, youth, and their families and we'll begin dreaming again about a new adventure together.

See ya soon.

Yahoo, Peace, and Thanks be to God!

Kevin

From our **director of**
church operations:

Wow, it's been a busy summer here at HPBC. A good, productive busy, that is. Activities slowed down and that allowed us to pick up a few more projects.

I built on Herb Wilson's previous work and sorted and organized more building keys. With the great help of Nancy Osgood, Joe Stafford, and the Administration Ministry, the parking lot was resurfaced and restriped, building issues have been addressed, trees have been trimmed, and many rooms are being revamped for fall activities. I continue my work toward HPBC's "Master Binder," storing any and all information about the operations and equipment of the church and building. It's an ongoing project and I invite your submissions. From a list of the Sanctuary banners to the kind of shingles we use on the roof, I want to get it all recorded on the computer and make it easily accessible to all for future reference. If you have some of that valuable information, on paper, on your computer, or just in your mind, please do share.

As you may know, Foundation for the Homeless moved out of the parsonage house at the end of April and out of the main building shortly thereafter. They are now happily all under one roof, operating out of a larger space in the Easter Seals of Central Texas building. This year they celebrated their 25th anniversary of helping homeless families in the Austin area and it's exciting to see how much their organization has grown and achieved. We received a beautiful plaque from FFH as a thank you for our involvement with the Inter-faith Hospitality Network and their organization. They will hold their Spirit of Compassion Celebration and Awards on November 15, 2014, and as always, we are invited to volunteer or attend. Nancy Osgood, Jim Nuckols, and a few others are now fixing up the parsonage house so it can continue to be a place of service, mission work, and growth in our community.

Another big transition in our building was saying goodbye to our dear friends at the Rise School of Austin. Our ice cream social with them was really special to me, and I heard endless thanks from the teachers, family, and administrative staff for that send-off and HPBC's support throughout the years. At their June graduation ceremony, they presented us with a precious picture of their entire school in front of the Sapp Hall curtain. I love that reminder that we were a part of their story. Cheryl and I had the opportunity to visit their beautiful new building before their school year started. A local artist had been commissioned to create an incredible mosaic mural in their entryway

and the school invited us to lay some tiles with them. It was very special to be a part of that. Please save the date for the Dedication and Grand Opening of their new building on Thursday, October 2, 2014. I hope a big group of us can go out and celebrate with them.

The wonderful staffs of both Foundation for the Homeless and the Rise School of Austin will definitely be missed, but it's exciting to see that HPBC could be a part of both groups' expansion and dreams.

In July, we had the pleasure of welcoming the students and staff of Summer Stock Austin into our building for two weeks, where they practiced and prepared for a three-week performance run at the Long Center. I had the opportunity to see the Footloose performance and was amazed at the talent and the ability of the group to put together three amazing shows in just two weeks! They were very appreciative and loved our space. We hope this will be an ongoing relationship with Summer Stock.

Finally, this summer, we welcomed Huntington-Surrey School into the school space that the Rise School vacated. HSS is a private high school so we definitely expect differences from the preschoolers of Rise. They are a close-knit, welcoming community and we are so pleased to have them here. John Guerra and his son Joseph worked hard to strip and wax the floors (they were so clean you could have eaten off of them!) and Nancy Osgood oversaw painting and plumbing projects in the school area to prepare it for HSS. Finally, we had the carpets out back professionally cleaned. The teachers have been hard at work each day getting their classrooms ready for the first day of school on September 8. HSS has invited us to their Open House this Sunday, September 7 from 3-5 p.m. Parents, students, and many groups in our community have been invited, and this will be a wonderful opportunity for us to give them a big warm HPBC welcome! Come see the transformation in the school area and meet the administration and teachers. Light refreshments will be served. Oh, and next time you see Nancy Osgood, be sure to give her a big pat on the back for all of her incredible work for HPBC.

This month, many groups will begin meeting again, including the Boy Scout Troop 410, Cub Scout Pack 55, and Lifetime Learning classes. HPBC continues to be a place with ever open doors and open hearts. With the mostly business side of my position taking over the summer, I am so glad that Wednesday night dinners have started again and I get to see all your smiling faces and participate in what the church is doing each week. Thank you for being such a loving, special community to me.

In Him,
Kelley