

Heartland

Baptist Church



Alex Melton, Senior Pastor

"The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task." (1 Timothy 3:1, ESV)

As we embrace elder-led congregationalism, our focus now turns to the men who will serve as our first lay elders. This is not a corporate board position; it is a spiritual office set on protecting the Gospel and God's church. Therefore it demands a life that holds fast to and models the gospel. When we identify potential shepherds, we do not look primarily for business acumen, professional success, or mere popularity. We look to the Spirit-ordained standards of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

We are looking for men whose character is quietly undeniable. We need men who are above reproach, faithfully devoted to their wives, and raising children who respect them. We seek men who are not given to drunkenness or violent quarrels, but who are gentle, hospitable, and not a lover of money. Crucially, an elder must hold firm to the trustworthy word, able to exhort in sound doctrine and rebuke those who contradict it. Character always precedes competence; a man's private life in his home must match his public posture in the church.

As you read this, I want to personally urge you to consider who the Lord may be calling and, if you are a man, search your heart and ask if the Lord is calling you. Do you desire this noble task? Have you sensed the Lord setting you apart for the oversight of His flock? The Holy Spirit typically works through a dual witness: an internal aspiration to shepherd God's people, and the external confirmation of the congregation recognizing that calling in your life.

Do not dismiss the conviction if it arises. Talk with your wife, pray over the qualifications, and come speak with Pastor Wes or me. We desperately need godly men to share the weight of shepherding this church. Consider the call, and let us labor together for the glory of Christ.

Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families

What to think of 250 years of the United States of America? As unpopular as it may be to many in this day and age, we need not and should not forget the Biblical and Christian foundation and heritage of our country. Consider these truths:

— Leviticus 25:10 "Proclaim liberty through all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" Was often heard in sermons of the Revolutionary Period. This verse is inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia;

— Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty in which Christ has made us free..." was an oft used text in the preaching, sermons and pamphlets of the day encouraging the colonials to stand and even fight for independence;

— George Washington and John Adams often quoted Exodus 18:21 "Moreover, you shall provide out of all the people able men, such as this who fear God, man of truth, hating covetousness..." contending that an independent and self-governing country must be a moral country led by moral men;

— Another often-cited verse was Psalm 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD";

— Many, if not a majority of the Founding Fathers of this country were strong and vocal Christians, 29 of other 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence held college or more advanced degrees in Bible, Theology and/or Divinity - at least 50 of the 56 signers identified themselves as Christian believers;

— 218 known Christian clergy served as chaplains in the Continental Army;

— The British called the out-spoken Christian clergy the Black Robed Regiment for the influence of their preaching in the pursuit of independence;

— The Reverend John Witherspoon —Signer of the Declaration of Independence — "I entreat you in the most earnest manner to believe in Jesus Christ, for there is no salvation in any other [Acts 4:12]. . . . [I]f you are not reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, if you are not clothed with the spotless robe of His righteousness, you must forever perish." (From his sermon: "The Absolute Necessity of Salvation Through Christ," January 2, 1758, The Works of John Witherspoon (Edinburgh: J. Ogle, 1815), V:276, 278.)

— John Adams — "Suppose a nation in some distant Region should take the Bible for their only law Book... Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry... What a Utopia, what a Paradise would this region be". He also noted, "Without national morality, a Republican Government cannot be maintained"

— "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." — George Santayana, The Life of Reason, 1905.

I pray as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Our Independence we will remember those founders who sacrificed, suffered and died to make us free and the God and Scripture they looked to as a foundation for our nation.

Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

July 5:

Connectors: Sam Ollenbittle, Karen Harris

Door Greeters: Jen Haycraft, Glennita Seal

July 12:

Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Susie Kreitner

Door Greeters: Pat Farley, Jo Joyce

July 19:

Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Miranda Rendleman

Door Greeters: David & Karen Hickerson

July 26:

Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Robin Shawback

Door Greeters: Brandon & Miranda Rendleman

Nursery & Kid's Church

July 5:

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Susie Kreitner

Nursery 10:30am: **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Miranda Rendleman, Megan Hart, Karen Hickerson, Ryder Hart

Kid's Church: Jack Ollenbittle

July 12:

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Marsha Anderson

Nursery 10:30am: **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Karen Harris, Kim Collins, Hannah Cline, Savannah Cline

Kid's Church: Pam Barry

July 19:

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Anna Drury

Nursery 10:30am: Sam Ollenbittle, LuEllen Job,

LeAnn Parish, Carole Fredrick, Drea Vatole

Kid's Church: Jackie Parish

July 26:

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Kelli Melton

Nursery 10:30am: Nate Hart, Ronda Jolly, Lisa

Pedersen, Hannah Pedersen, Davis Bertels

Kid's Church: Pam Barry

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office or:

Greeters: Church Office

Nursery: LeAnn Parish

Kid's Church: Jackie Parish at 618-789-2974

**THANK YOU
FOR VOLUNTEERING!**

Deacon Ministry

If you have a need or know of someone who needs assistance, has become ill, hospitalized, or is in need of a ride to church please contact the church office at 618-462-1276 or Ted Burleson at 618-462-3032.

This Month at Heartland

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE: Join us for our Coffee/Donut Fellowship at 8:45am followed by Small Groups at 9:15am and our Worship Gathering at 10:30am. Sermons are available online at <https://vimeo.com/hbcalton>. Our Worship Gathering is livestreamed on our Facebook page.

IMPACT GROUPS: Impact Groups resume on Sunday, August 16 from 5:30-7pm. We have groups for all ages. Our Men meet in Room 39, and our Women meet in Room 48. Heartland Students (6th-12th grade) meet in Room 31, and Kids (PreK-5th grade) meet in the Children's Wing. Childcare is available in our Children's Wing for babies (age 0-2). Please enter the church through Door "A" (the office door) on Sunday nights.

LUNCH & PRAYER WITH THE PASTORS: Wednesdays at 11:30am. Bring a lunch and spend some time with our pastors as we eat, pray, and share from the Word. Lunch & Prayer with the Pastors will not meet on August 5.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU): WMU meets on Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30pm. All ladies interested in national/international missionaries, studying God's word, and doing various outreach projects are welcome to join us.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT – CULTIVATE: Ladies, plan to join us on Saturday, July 11 from 11am—1pm for the next Cultivate. See more details in the weekly bulletin.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The August newsletter deadline is Monday, July 13. Please email your announcements to office@hbcalton.com.

CENTRIKID CAMP: July 13—17 at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO. CentriKid is for completed 2nd grade through completed 6th grade students. Please see Jackie Parish if you have any questions.

POOLS FOR SCHOOLS: July 26 – August 9. We will be collecting school supplies for North Elementary and Alton High School. A list of needed school supplies is coming soon!

DISCOVER HEARTLAND: Sunday, July 26 from Noon-1:30pm. This is a free lunch for all interested in learning about Heartland and ways to be more involved. Please sign up at the Next Steps table.

DEACONS' MEETING: Sunday, July 26 at 2pm.

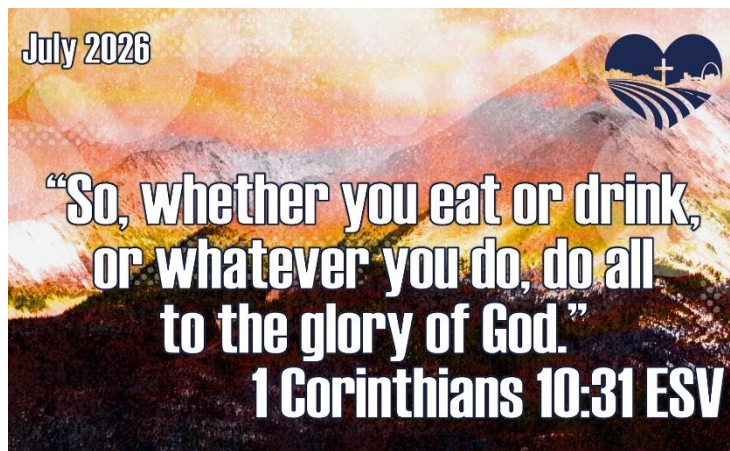
VBS 2026: We are excited for your child to join us for VBS this summer! August 2-6 from 6-8pm, kids will be challenged to answer Jesus' important question to His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" As they explore all the ways light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals, kids will discover that Jesus is the light who brings hope to a dark world. They will do all of this through an engaging time in Bible study, singing and dancing in music, fun games in recreation, and using their own creativity in crafts. VBS is open all kids 4 years old (must turn 4 by 9/1/26) through completed 5th grade. Please pre-register at hbcalton.com/vbs. Bring a friend and we will see you in August for VBS as we explore "Illumination Station"!

YOUTH VBS DAYS: August 3-6—Four Days of Food, Fun, and Faith! Join us for an unforgettable Youth VBS experience, designed just for students! Each day from Noon-3pm, we will kick things off with great food, dive into truth from God's Word, and then head into a fun-filled activity you won't want to miss— from bowling and swimming to board games and an epic slip and slide!



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS: If you have not signed up to receive church announcements via text you are encouraged to do so. Scan the QR code or text "Heartland" to 618-268-7020 to receive church announcements via text.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday: 8:30am—3:30pm. The church office will be closed on Thursday, July 2 in observance of Independence Day.



2	Aiden Brooks-McGowen	12	Bradley Hart
3	Gene McGowen	15	Linda Witcher
3	Eli Melton	16	Clayton Crane
8	Jody Lingow	23	Cheryl Robinson
9	Don Burger	25	Hunter Thomas
9	Hannah Cline	28	Ted Burleson
11	Margaret Witt	30	Ilene Bowman

COMING UP IN AUGUST

VBS
August 2-6 from 6-8pm

YOUTH VBS DAYS
August 3-6 from Noon-3pm

FAMILY NIGHT AT GLAZEBROOK PARK BALL FIELDS
Sunday, August 9 at 4pm

IMPACT GROUPS RESUME
Sunday, August 16 from 5:30-7pm

LOADS OF LOVE
Thursday, August 27 from 10am-Noon

HBC MISSIONS OFFERING
Sunday, August 30



Church Staff

Alex Melton, Senior Pastor
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Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families
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Sarah Neuhaus, Office Coordinator
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