

Heartland

Baptist Church



Alex Melton, Senior Pastor

When Jesus asked His disciples in Matthew 16, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter confessed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” On that confession, Jesus promised to build His church and gave the keys of the kingdom to His people (Matt. 16:13–19). Later, in Matthew 18:15–20, Jesus taught that the local church, gathered in His name, exercises authority to affirm what is true about the gospel and about one another’s discipleship. These passages remind us that Christ has entrusted His church—not just pastors or leaders, but the entire congregation—with responsibility for guarding the gospel and watching over one another’s lives.

This is why congregationalism matters. In Southern Baptist doctrine and life, the congregation is not a passive audience but an active body, prayerfully discerning God’s will together under the authority of Scripture with the leadership of faithful pastors. Every member has both the privilege and responsibility to participate in the life and health of the church.

One way we live this out is through Members’ Meetings. These are not simply business sessions; they are spiritual gatherings where we affirm new members, celebrate God’s work, make decisions about ministry, and, when necessary, practice loving accountability. Far from being optional, these meetings are vital expressions of our obedience to Christ’s design for His church.

When we attend and engage in Members’ Meetings, we declare together that Jesus is Lord, His gospel is true, and His people are committed to one another. By showing up, speaking in love, and listening with humility, we help ensure our church remains faithful to Christ and His mission.

Let us take seriously the keys of the kingdom entrusted to us. Engaged congregationalism is not just our tradition—it is our calling from Christ Himself. Join us on October 29th as we hear what the Lord has done over the last three months and consider the direction prayed through by pastors and leaders.

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.

MAINTENANCE HELP NEEDED: We, the church, are to be good stewards of what God has provided for us. He has provided a beautiful property and facility here at Heartland and it is our responsibility to take good care of it out of respect and love for the Lord. Each of us has been provided one or more spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit when we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We were to use those gifts faithfully as stewards of God’s grace to lift up and encourage other believers. Acts 4:10 says, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as God’s varied grace.” Pastor Alex recently spoke that all of us need to be find our place or places of ministry where we need to serve the church and the Lord. Our property doesn’t take care of itself. It needs constant attention so that things operate and the building and grounds stay fresh and beautiful. Are you someone who is good with their hands? Do you like fix things or make them look nicer? Do you have a few hours or more a week that you could give to help keep God’s house functioning and beautiful? If so, contact Mike Harris at 618-972-9145 or see me at church and may God bless you!

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 meet on Sunday nights from 5:30-7. We have groups for all ages. Our Men meet in Room 39. Our Women meet in Room 48 and are going through a Bible study called The Way of Wisdom, A study on the book of Proverbs. 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. **Impact Groups will not meet on October 5 or 26.**

Volunteer Schedule

Greeters
October 5:
Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Samuel Ollenbittle
Door Greeters: Pat Farley, Jo Joyce

October 12:
Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Susie Kreitner
Door Greeters: Bev Vatoles, Margaret Cox

October 19:
Connectors: Miranda Rendleman, Alliy Huggins
Door Greeters: David & Karen Hickerson

October 26:
Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Robin Shawback
Door Greeters: Brandon & Miranda Rendleman

Nursery & Kid’s Church

October 5:
Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Susie Kreitner
Nursery 10:30am: **One Volunteer still needed.***
Miranda Rendleman, Megan Hart, Karen Hickerson, Bekah Melton,
Kid’s Church: Jackie Parish, Jack Ollenbittle

October 12:
Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Marsha Anderson
Nursery 10:30am: **One Volunteer still needed.***
Karen Harris, Kim Collins, Hannah Cline, Lexi Hart
Kid’s Church: Pam Barry, Davis Bertels

October 19:
Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Anna Drury
Nursery 10:30am: Sam Ollenbittle, LuEllen Job, LeAnn Parish, Carole Fredrick, Evelyn Vatoles
Kid’s Church: Candace Stutz, Jack Ollenbittle

October 26:
Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Kelli Melton
Nursery 10:30am: Nate Hart, Ronda Jolly, Lisa Pedersen, Hannah Pedersen, Rylee Hart
Kid’s Church: Sandy Stolze, Paula Zugmaier

***We are still in need of adult volunteers for the Nursery during our Worship Service time. If you are interested in volunteering, please see LeAnn Parish or contact the church office.**

THANK YOU

FOR VOLUNTEERING!

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

Greeters: David Ollenbittle III

Nursery: LeAnn Parish

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

This Month at Heartland

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.

COMMUNITY HOPE CENTER FOOD DRIVE: The ladies of the WMU are sponsoring a food drive for the Community Hope Center October 5-26. A blue barrel can be found in the lobby along with a list of their most needed items. Thank you for helping to feed those in need in our community!

PASTOR APPRECIATION, CHILI COOK-OFF, DESSERT COMPETITION: Sunday, October 5 at Noon. Please stay after our Worship Gathering to honor Pastor Alex with cards, letters and gifts. Please sign up at the Next Steps table if you plan on attending Pastor Appreciation so we are able to plan for drinks, etc. We will also have our Men's Chili Cook-off and Women's' Dessert Competition on this day. Please sign up at the Next Steps table if you would like to participate in the Chili Cook-off or Dessert Competition.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU): All ladies are welcome to attend WMU on Wednesday, October 8. We will be sharing an international meal at 6pm followed by our meeting at 6:30pm.

FEED THE NEED FUNDRAISER: We are partnering with Calvary Christian School on Friday, October 10 to meet two great needs: sharing the hope of the Gospel and strengthening Christian education. From 9am to 1pm, the students at Calvary Christian will be packing 5,000 meals to feed people in our community and Bangladesh while also pointing their hearts to Christ. You can join in by coming to Calvary Baptist Church anytime from 9am-1pm on October 10 to help pack meals. At the same time, CCS is raising funds to support Christian education in our community. If you would like to give to support, you can send a gift directly to Calvary Christian School.

YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE (YEC): All students grades 6-12 are invited to join us at the YEC on October 10-11. The students will get to enjoy fellowship, food, and fun, all while they are taught and equipped to share the gospel with others. The cost per student is \$40. Designate payment on your giving envelope by writing "Youth" on the box labeled "Other" or in the memo line of a check. If making payment online, please choose "Youth" from the list of accounts on the giving page. For more information, please see David Ollenbittle.

DISCOVER HEARTLAND: Sunday, October 12 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.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The November newsletter deadline is Monday, October 13. Please email your announcements to office@hbcalton.com.

DEACONS' MEETING: Monday, October 13 at 6pm.

GREAT COMMISSION TEAM MEETING: Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30pm.

MEN'S MINISTRY FALL EVENT: Men, get ready for an axe-throwing, game watching, bonfire having, hamburger/hot dog eating, s'more making good time. We will be having our annual fall men's event on Friday, October 17 at 6pm out back here at Heartland. Bring your sons, grandsons, friends, nephews, uncles, brothers...we'll spend some time in Christian fellowship doing some of the things we do best. Sign up at the Next Steps table by Sunday, October 12.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT: "Pumpkin Spice and Everything Nice" - Saturday, October 18 from 1-3pm. Look for more details coming soon in the weekly bulletin.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Sunday, October 26 from 4-6pm. Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat! We will have candy, hayrides

and a petting zoo. Please sign up at the Next Steps table to host a trunk, to serve in registration, or to serve as a greeter. A bin for candy donations can be found next to the kid's check-in desk in the lobby.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING: Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30pm. We will be voting on the 2026 Nominations.

MEN'S MINISTRY EVENT—SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE: Heartland Men—On Sunday, November 2 from 1-4pm we will be delivering and setting up beds with the Alton Chapter of Sleep In Heavenly Peace (SHP). Let's help SHP fulfill their mission of NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN! SHP believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional and mental support that a child needs. Lunch will be provided here at Heartland after our Worship Gathering. Please sign up at the Next Steps table.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday: 8:30am—3:30pm. The church office will be closed on Monday, October 13 in observance of Columbus Day.



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| 1 | Juan Lingov | 19 | Jackie Parish |
| 1 | Kelli Melton | 20 | Merci Stutz |
| 6 | Maud Dean Ewing | 22 | Trish Condray |
| 8 | Ronda Jolly | 26 | Charlie Livesay |
| 12 | Jason Cox | 28 | Rylynn Wiles |
| 13 | Ethna Joyce | 30 | Janice Ridder |
| 14 | Jim Cassidy | 31 | Graycen Barnes |
| 14 | R.J. Hetge | 31 | Karen Hickerson |
| 18 | Debbie Montel | | |

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

MEN'S EVENT—SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE
Sunday, November 2 from 1-4pm

COMMUNITY HOPE CENTER TOY DRIVE
November 2-30

WOMEN'S EVENT—CULTIVATE
Saturday, November 15 from 1-3pm

THANKSGIVING MEAL
Sunday, November 23 at Noon

Church Staff

Alex Melton, Senior Pastor
alex@hbcalton.com

Sarah Neuhaus, Office Coordinator
office@hbcalton.com