

## The Church at Horseshoe Bay

### The Year 2023

The following Board of Trustees members were elected by the Congregation at the annual meeting on 18 January 2023: Ken Burgess, Doug Hart, Frank Kloke, and Larry Morgan.

The following served as **Board Officers and Department/Committee Chairs** in 2023:

Kyle Womack	<i>Chairperson</i>
Doug Hart	Worship Dept. Casual Worship Chair
Frank Kloke	Worship Dept. Traditional Worship Chair
Kristi Lofton	Music Dept. Chair
Terri Quinn	Membership Dept. Chair
James Mason	Outreach Dept. Chair
Bill Carrothers	Benevolence Dept. Chair, <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Wendy Christesson	Christian Education Dept. Chair, <i>Corporate Secretary</i>
Carol Rose	Congregational Fellowship Dept. Chair
Ann Higdon	Member Ministry Dept. (formerly Congregational Support) Chair
Ken Burgess	<i>Treasurer</i> , Stewardship Dept. (formerly Business Management) Chair
Clifford Grubbs	Campus Management Dept. (formerly Building & Grounds) Chair
Kyle Womack	Long Range Planning Dept. Chair
Brooks Herring	Communications Dept. (formerly Public Relations) Chair
Larry Morgan	Personnel Dept. Chair, <i>Vice Chairperson</i>
Clifford Grubbs	Security Committee Chair
Larry Morgan	Nominating Committee Chair, Search Co

### DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 2023

**Worship Department:** As always, the pastors of The Church at Horseshoe Bay strove to produce high quality worship experiences that meet the broad range of religious needs represented in this interdenominational Church. The liturgy, sermons, prayers, and musical choices were designed to underpin the Church's proposed values of grace, love, unity, worship, generosity, and discipleship. Our worship services sought to address, as practicable, a wide spectrum of religious traditions and theological positions represented in the Body of Christ.

The Worship Department involves the following committees for both the Traditional and Contemporary Services. The following volunteers were instrumental in supporting our worship service efforts in 2023:

Ushers and Greeters - Coordinators: Steve Jarrard (T) and Larry Higdon (C)

Wayne Ratisseau, Bill Knox, Diane Lott, Jerry Clinesmith, Bob Honnors, Lawrence & Lynn Erickson, Ann Higdon, Richard & Kay Drake, Bill & Jane Boisvert, Francis Highsmith, David & Carol Rose, Stan Smith, Jim Harrod, Jim & Ellen Hower, Paul & Ann Herring, Diane Lott, James & Deby Mason, Jerry Osborne, George Russell, Stan & Joyce Smith, Nick & Vicki Summitt, Mike & Geniece McKinney, David Wolfe, Russell & Mary Lee York, Phillip & Laura Belushi, Fred & Beryl Ann Owen, Jerry Daniel, Dwayne Agnew, Eddie Greer, Bev Fraiss, Dale & Linda Amstutz, Charlie & Jamie Deyhle, Larry & Marie Morgan, Linda DiFede, Bob & Jean Kiker, and John Quinn.

Communion Preparations - Coordinator: Ann Herring (T&C)

Jamie Deyhle, Paul Herring, Larry Higdon, Norman & Jimmie Homburg, Steve Jarrard, Pat McMurtrie, Marolyn Lampman, James Pilgreen, Kyle & Brenda Womack, Carol Rose, Wendy Christensen, Doug & Stephanie Hart, and Susie McCreary.

Sanctuary Services - Coordinator: DeDe Hodge

Charlie & Carolyn Thornton, Frances Highsmith, and Mary Alice Dunn

Altar Flowers - Coordinator: DeDe Hodge

Sermon Highlights: This year, the pastors' sermons were based on the following themes:

- Purpose of the Church - being "the arms of Christ" in our community and sharing the gospel in our time and place.
- Book of Nehemiah -
- Book of Mark - a contemplative series during Eastertide.
- Hebrews 11 - "A Cloud of Witnesses" - the completion of the study of Hebrews that began last year.
- Romans 1-16 - a (summer season) review of the benefits of being justified by faith and the relationship between grace and sin.
- Questions Asked **of** Jesus- a complement to the previous year's series on Questions Asked **by** Jesus.
- Advent season - a series of sermons on Psalm 23, where David expresses his trust in the LORD as his shepherd and his confidence in His care and protection.

Notable Liturgical Events:

- We were privileged to have Rev. O. S. Hawkins visit the church on August 6. Rev. Hawkins was asked to preach at both services on the Book of Romans and gave a compelling lesson.
- We observed Theological Education Sunday on September 17. Claire Cummiskey from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary was our guest and preached a sermon entitled "Living and Learning" inspired by 2 Timothy 3:14 through 4:5.
- We observed World Communion Sunday on October 1. This was an excellent occasion remembering together, in word, song, and action, that Christ has one body, spread though it may be across denominations and national borders.
- The annual Service of Remembrance was held on November 30 to honor loved ones that have passed before us, by reflecting how they shaped and impacted our lives, and the wisdom they passed onto us.

Attendance Information for 2023: Comparing 2023 vs. 2022 attendance levels (by service) reflects modest growth. The 12-month average for the Contemporary Service increased by 20% and for the Traditional Service by 8%. Total attendance for all three Easter services was 857, including 85 (10% of total) at the 8.00 a.m. service. This year for Easter we were able to add sufficient seats inside the Sanctuary such that we could handle nominal overflow seating in the Narthex (less than 20 people), rather than Fellowship Hall, as has been done in the past.

	9:30 Contemporary Service		11:00 Traditional Service	
	Monthly	12-Month Average	Monthly	12-Month Average
January	93	94	115	147
February	96	96	167	149
March	124	99	124	149
April	154	100	229	150
May	112	102	131	150
June	90	102	166	151
July	85	102	168	153
August	108	106	153	154
September	112	108	146	154
October	90	105	178	159
November	110	106	136	157
December	130	109	179	158

#### **Attendance Information for 2023**

Worship Experience: The 9:30 a.m. Casual Service was officially renamed the Contemporary Service. This service continues to thrive and grow and serves as a meaningful counterpart to our 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service. Distribution of the bread and wine during Communion continued to be done individually in the front of the Sanctuary. We feel that this style of element distribution creates a more meaningful and spiritual atmosphere on the occasions when communion is conducted. Our combined services (blended Contemporary + Traditional) at 10:00 a.m. continued to be well received. Many have commented that they enjoy these occasions where we can fill up the sanctuary and worship as a complete body. As such, we will continue doing this for special occasions, such as Christmas, New Years, the Fall Fellowship Fair, and Independence Day celebrations.

#### **Music Department:**

Traditional Worship – John Ousley: Mr. Garry Kesler and the Choir presented Garry's final Palm Sunday Cantata as Minister of Music. The musical selections were accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble and all pieces were arranged for this ensemble by Mr. Kessler. The incoming Minister of Music Dr. John Mark Ousley was in attendance and was impressed with the singing and found the service to be moving and worshipful. It was a fine culmination of Mr. Kesler's time as Minister of Music.

From mid-April until mid-June, Angela Williamson served as Interim Choral Director. Angela did a fine job with the choir during this time, preparing and presenting several successful anthems. During this time the church suffered two lightning strikes that disabled much of the church's visual equipment.

Dr. Ousley began as Minister of Music in mid-June. Shortly after, the church suffered a second lighting strike that disabled the sanctuary audio system. Dr. Ousley pulled the smaller sound board from the Fellowship Hall and services went on without interruption or any drop in quality. Following the recommendation of Kyle Womack, Ridge AV was chosen to repair and update the church A/V system. The congregation approved all expenses for this upgrade.

For a combined service noting Independence Day, Ousley and John Griffing put together a combined service featuring the Choir, The Contemporary Worship Team, and an Instrumental Ensemble. The Instrumental Ensemble played an original arrangement by John Griffing, conducted by the composer. The Choir presented two pieces: *Hymn for America* by Stephen Paulus and *Battle Hymn of the Republic* by Wilhousky. All the music was well performed and well received. The Choir and Bell Choir took a well-deserved break for the months of July and August. During this time, Ousley worked closely with Griffing to improve the sound setup and mix.

The Bell Choir began rehearsals in October, working a lot on technique and musical fundamentals. This process culminated on November 19, with "Bell Choir Sunday," where they presented the Anthem and accompanied all hymns for the service.

The Choir Christmas Cantata "Carols of the Night" was Ousley's first Christmas Cantata as Minister of Music. In the months prior to the Cantata, Ousley reached an agreement with The Heart of Texas Orchestra to allow that ensemble to rehearse and hold performances at The Church at Horseshoe Bay. In exchange for this, Mary Jane & Graham Avery, founders, and managers of the orchestra, agreed to supply players for the church's two annual Cantatas, as honorarium for the use of church space. The result of this agreement was that the 2023 Christmas Cantata was accompanied by a full orchestra numbering 25, at a fraction of the cost for previous smaller instrumental ensembles from years past. This is the largest orchestra ever to perform at The Church at Horseshoe Bay. The Cantata was very well received by the congregation.

John Griffing and the Worship Team presented a well-attended and well-received special music Christmas service. Dr. Ousley joined the band on the drums, and other players and singers included Paul Peterson, Graham Avery, Katrina Hogue, Doug Fischer, Keenan Fletcher, and Linda McArthur.

Dr. Ousley worked closely with John Griffing and Pastor John Duncan to present three very successful and well attended services on Christmas Eve. These services included an original prelude by John Griffing, featuring strings and piano. Players and singers included the church choir, Keenan Fletcher, Bridget Ousley, David Brodrick, Jey Ping, Karen Jarrard, Debby Agnew, and Paul Peterson.

Contemporary Worship – John Griffing: Ousley and Griffing had a very constructive and rewarding teamwork collaboration this past year and made a lot of progress and process improvements. They were able to speak directly on any issues that needed to be addressed, and to head misunderstandings off at the pass. Ousley contributed tremendously in numerous areas, largely behind the scenes, that improved the contemporary worship experience for all.

The contemporary service grew both in attendance and in musical excellence. The team has grown in spiritual sensitivity, and in the musical maturity necessary for responsiveness to the Spirit in the worship services.

Volunteers were Karen Jarrard, Debby Agnew, David Heck, and Bridget Ousley. Compensated professionals who served consistently, with the same spirit as volunteers, were David Brodrick, Paul Peterson, Keenan Fletcher, and Katrina Hogue.

**Membership Department:** The Department held a brunch meeting at the chair's home in February to discuss how to increase membership, volunteer opportunities, get people to come to church, as well as other suggestions to make members and visitors feel more welcomed.

Handwritten church notes continued to be mailed to welcome new members the following month after joining, as well as posting their picture on the new member board in the Fellowship Hall as soon as they have met with one of the Pastors. The map to the church was updated to include locations of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), first aid kits, and fire extinguishers. It was also decided to include in the new member welcome packet 1) instructions regarding Shelby, so new members are aware of Shelby and know how to download the app on their phone and/or laptop and 2) a flyer with the future dates of the welcome reception, so new members can mark their calendars as early as possible.

A meeting among the Membership Chair, Outreach Chair, and both Pastors took place to discuss merging the Outreach Visitor reception and New Membership reception (funds from both committees were combined to cover costs). A decision was reached to merge the receptions and have them four times a year:

March, June, September, and January. Who better to talk with new visitors than new members that just joined the church and are possibly new to the area too! The recommendation was to 1) continue to have the receptions at private homes (a warm and inviting atmosphere), 2).be held on Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m., 3) have a limited number of Board members attend, and 4) continue to send out Evites and mailed invitations one month prior to the reception.

The first joint Let's Get Acquainted Welcome Reception was held at the home of Jamie & Charlie Deyhle in March and the second reception was held at the home of Leah & Ed Santry in June. Due to the reduced number of new members over the summer months, the September reception was not held, and it was determined that the welcome reception should be held twice a year and not four times a year: March and September.

The new Church Directory was distributed mid-year after a delay from the directory company. Additional copies were ordered for new member packets and could be purchased for \$10.00 by church members that did not have their picture taken for the directory.

The Membership Chair met with Pastor John Duncan to discuss streamlining the process for joining the church, so new members can be quickly introduced to the congregation (if they choose to do so) and get their picture up on the New Members board in the Fellowship Hall. The Pastor will attempt to make contact within the first week of knowing someone wants to join the church. After three unsuccessful attempts to get in touch with the prospective new member, their name/contact information will be forwarded to the membership chair who will continue to contact them and set up the initial Pastor meeting.

Membership statistics:

• New Members:	+38
• Active members deceased	-10
• Active members moved	-7
• Active members transferred/left church	-8
Total Membership, December 31, 2023:	570

Department volunteers were Mary Alice Dunn, Jimmie Homburg, Jamie King, Janice Merck, Marie Morgan, Terri Quinn (chair), Ronda Rodman, and Junell Van Horn.

A yearly summary of the church history was completed for the year 2022 and yearly summaries were added to the History tab of the church website for the years 2018 through 2022. At year-end, work was in progress to complete the so-called Digital Scrapbooks for the same set of years and add them to the church website.

**Outreach Department:** The department resumed the process of making phone calls to new visitors after contact was made by a pastor. Post cards extending a welcome and contact information were mailed to these visitors. During special events throughout the year, the Kiosk was staged in the Narthex and manned by a department member to welcome visitors, provide pamphlets, and answer questions. A total of 40 visitor cards were submitted this year; of those 12 joined the church. The department worked closely with the church staff in ensuring that enough pamphlets and other items were available. Review and recommended changes were also coordinated with the staff. A new request made to the members was to "Wear Your Name Tag" on the first Sunday of each month to help identify visitors.

The Kiosk was manned at the "Holidaze" community event hosted by the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance in December. There was very good turnout, with several individuals wanting more information about our church.

Sixty bags containing pamphlets, book markers, pens, etc. were given to the City of Horseshoe Bay to be included in their Welcome Bags that are given to new residents. This activity was discontinued in September due to the lack of feedback from those receiving the information.

Outreach assisted at two “Let’s Get Acquainted” meetings where new visitors and new members were informed about our church in a social setting. These events were held at church members’ homes and positive feedback was received from the attendees.

Department members were Gayle & Todd Corry, James Mason (chair), Steve Merck, Dorothy Pearrow, Nicolle Scott, David Rose, and Carolyn Thornton. Ronnie Adcock and Pam Carrothers joined the committee after the Fall Festival Fair in October.

Benevolence Department: The Benevolence Department’s mission is to oversee, allocate, and distribute designated monies of the Church Benevolence Fund to the greater benefit of benevolent and missionary causes, assisting the needy and promoting the Christian faith. The goal of the Church is to achieve *dollar-for-dollar* giving (where Benevolence giving equals what we spend on ourselves). In 2023, 62.0% of the Church budget was used for Benevolence programs, including in-kind and donations from special events of 3.6%.

At the beginning of the year the Benevolence Fund balance was \$310,084. During the year, \$491,672 were received into the fund, comprised of \$392,500 from Church Operations Budget, \$58,599 from General Contributions, \$15,281 from Donor Preference, \$25,434 from Contributions IRA/Nondeductible, and \$(142.00) from Christmas/Easter Flowers. Conversely, \$625,996 was dispersed as payments to 62 different agencies throughout the year. These agencies consisted of Children's Programs and Camps receiving \$129,432 or 20.68%, Education/Food Pantries/Veterans Affairs receiving \$155,151 or 24.78%, Family Programs receiving \$250,671 or 40.04%, and Foreign Ministries \$75,461 or 12.05% of money disbursed.

Included in the Department expenditures were \$15,281 for Gifts/Donor Preference and \$32,000 to non-supported agencies for disaster relief and mission work, for a total of \$47,281.

During the year, the Benevolence Department also oversaw several Special Event Activities raising in-kind or cash donations of \$38,500 as follows:

- Thanksgiving for Others: 300 grocery bags of food (estimated \$7,000 value) + \$2,000 cash.
- Elves for the Elderly: 90 bags of gifts (estimated \$4,000 value) + \$1,000 cash.
- Christmas for Others: gifts for 92 families/220 kids (estimated \$19,500 value) + \$5,000 cash from the Christmas Eve worship service

In October, the Department held a Thank You Appreciation Luncheon for its supported agencies, with the overall theme being, “Updates on How Your Agencies are Doing in 2023, Sharing Your Needs,” 35 agencies attended.

Also, during the year, a wall of heroes was created in the Benevolence office. Plaques were presented to:

- |                   |                                   |                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Gail Mathews    | Christmas for Others              | 20 years of service |
| • Edra Edwards    | Volunteers in Mission, Mexico     | 30 Years of service |
| • Carolyn Thorton | Benevolence Department            | 20 years of service |
| • Bessie Jackson  | Saint Fredricks Church,           | 30 years of service |
|                   | Outreach, Thanksgiving for Others |                     |

The department also created a space in the Narthex where agency thank you notes and announcements may be displayed.

In total during 2023, The Church at Horseshoe Bay Benevolence effort resulted in \$664,596 distributed as cash or in-kind donations. This represented 62.0% of what the Church spent on ourselves, as compared to

a 100% goal of *dollar-for-dollar*. This was also 59.5% more than the original 2023 benevolence budget allocation.

Specific goals stated and accomplished for the year:

- Presentations: Show monthly three-minute videos detailing on-site functions and actions of supported agencies.
- Newsletter: Insert Mission Moments when appropriate, detailing different Benevolence agencies' functions and actions, including the amount of budgeted Church funds and contact person of the Department. Several special events photographs appeared showing activities of Department actions.
- Agency Thank You Appreciation Luncheon
- Wall of Honor
- Bulletin Board for Agency Thank You and Announcement

Members serving the Department in 2021 were:

- Bill Carrothers – Chair
- Childrens's Programs  
Eileen Drake – Co-Chair  
Susan Byrd, Jo Ellen Henderson, Brooks Herring, Beth Winford
- Education/Food/Vet Programs  
Carla Rowland – Co-Chair  
Kathy Burgess, Forrest Dunlap, Jean Kiker, Sherry Kunka, Steve Merck
- Family Programs  
Carolyn Thornton – Co-Chair  
Georgia Newcomer, Vicki Strevey, Marsha Cathey, Donna Canter, Patricia White, Carrol Jackson
- Foreign Ministries  
Beth Dop – Co-Chair  
Mike Pickering

**Education Department:** With the new pianist David Brodrick and music minister John Ousley now on staff, the number of children attending church has increased significantly. Plans are in place to rework the Education Building to accommodate a children's class as well as the nursery. What a blessing and challenge.

Adult Christian Education (ACE) Groups: Currently there are twelve ACE groups. A new Sunday morning class, Time in The Bible, was started by David Rose and Doug Ivey. The Home Group leaders were Joe Dan Rowland (Over Coffee Men's Group), Ken Lindgren, Bobbie Walker, Marie and Larry Morgan (Over Appetizers), Nicole and Bryan Scott, and Art Hawkinson.

Seeker's Class studied *The Holy Land Revealed* by Jodi Magness; *C.S. Lewis on Christianity* by Hillsdale College's Michael Ward; *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton; *Why Evil Exists* with Professor Charles Mathewes, University of Virginia; and *Ancient Christianity* from Hillsdale College. The teachers for this class were Carole Clark, Linda Wilson, and Russell York.

Bible Alive continued its book-by-book study of the Bible and tackled *Luke, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John*, and *Jude* in 2023. The teachers in this class were Art Hawkinson, Jim Hower, and Jerry Osborne.

Women's Bible Study studied *You Are Never Alone* by Max Lucado; *Under the Old Oak Tree* and *Sacred Dung* with our own Pastor John Duncan; *Your God is Too Small* by J.B. Phillips; the book of *Romans*; and *Signs* by Dr. David Jeremiah. The teachers were Joan Randell and Diane Younker.

Faith Bridge finished up *The Story* by Randy Frazee and then studied *Life Rules in Relationships* by Andy Stanley; *In the Grip of Grace* by Max Lucado; *The God of the How and When* by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel; *Defining Moments* by Andy Stanley; and *Unshakable* by Rick Warren. With the amount of traveling the members of this class does, many teachers are necessary. The teachers were Jeff Jones, Joe Dan Rowland, Bryan Scott, Eddie Greer, Dwight King, Scooter Lofton, Gail Matthews, Brooks Herring, Michelle Herring, and Jean Kiker. Faith Bridge continued to alternate meeting times monthly, so the Traditional Service and Contemporary Service get equal time. This has worked surprisingly well!

Early on a Sunday Morning started the year with O.S. Hawkins' *The Nehemiah Code*; then *The New Testament You Never Knew* by N.T. Wright and Michael Bird; *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg; *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton; *The First Christians* video series; and *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table* by Louie Giglio. Dwane Agnew, Ann Higdon, Kyle Womack, Jim Jorden and Kyle Womack shared the teaching in this class.

Time in the Bible took on a chronological guide to the Bible and was taught by Doug Ivy and David Rose.

Books and Scones had a difficult time after Beverly Brascom stepped down after 14 years of leading this group. Many of the members have moved or are too ill to attend. What used to be a group of about 30 is now down to five or so. Mary Ellen Keith is heading up this group with help from the remaining members. The books read in 2023 were *C.S. Lewis, A Biography of Friendship* by Colin Duriez; *When Invisible Children Sing* by Dr. Chi Huang; *Through My Father's Eyes* by Franklin Graham; *Miracles Answer Book* by Lee Strobel; *Heart of the Story* by Randy Frazee; *For One More Day* by Mitch Albom; *If My People, A Prayer Guide for Our Nation* by Jack Countryman; *Under the Old Oak Tree* by John D. Duncan; and *The Daniel Key* by Ann Graham Lotz.

Library: Sondra Fox continued to be the quiet librarian who keeps everything up to date, a blessing!

**Congregational Fellowship Department:** Congregational Fellowship consists of the following committees: Men of Faith, Women of the Word, Special Events, and Coffee Fellowship.

Men of Faith: The goal of the Men of Faith is to create opportunities for fellowship and fun, spiritual growth, and sharing the gospel message for men of our community by initiating and supporting programs that demonstrate Christian values. MOF held two outstanding programs this year.

Our first was held on March 22-23. Jim "The Rookie" Morris was our guest speaker. A movie that depicted his life was shown on Wednesday evening, March 22 and he gave his testimony and talked about his life the following day. Wives were invited to both presentations.

On April 20, our guest speaker was Mark Whitacre. His life was also depicted in a movie called "The Informant." He was an American business executive who came to public attention in 1995 when, as president of the Decatur, Illinois-based Bioproducts Division at Archer Daniels Midland, he became the highest-level corporate executive in U.S. history to become an FBI whistleblower. He and other executives were involved in a multi-million-dollar price-fixing scheme. He spent 8 years in prison and now works providing one-of-a-kind insight into corporate ethics, corporate greed, and the waning signs of flawed corporate leadership. Mark provided our group with an uplifting and inspirational presentation.

Men of Faith held a monthly prayer breakfast the last Saturday of each month. Eddie Greer served as Chair, Johnny White as Vice- Chair and in charge of programs, Bob Thomas as Treasurer.

Women of the Word: The Mission of the Women of the Word ministry is to glorify God by encouraging women in the Lord and reaching out with the love of God. We seek to equip our women through projects



of Christian education and spiritual renewal, outreach and benevolent ministries, and fellowship with one another. Every woman in the church is automatically a Woman of the Word.

The year began with the WOW Committee taking down the Christmas/Advent decorations on January 2. In February, we began our drive for collecting requested items for the Highland Lakes Children's Advocacy Center. Judy Duncan and Patricia White oversaw this yearly campaign. In March, Dee Wolfe and Carol Rose prepared lunch for our church staff.

On April 13, several members of the committee went on a day trip to Kerrville just for fun to see The Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden and lunch afterward. On April 27, we held a Spring Brunch for the ladies of our church and community. Our speaker was Rachel Norris, who gave a very moving and inspirational talk while working on her pottery wheel. The brunch (rather than the usual luncheon) was catered by Choccolatte's and was enjoyed by everyone. May 9 was our last meeting before the summer break, and we enjoyed a salad lunch together.

During the summer break there was still lots of work to be done planning the fall retreat. The retreat committee consisted of Lynn Erickson, Marie Morgan, Rose Anne Mick, Andra Stevens, and Patricia White. On August 31, Dee Wolfe again prepared lunch for the staff.

In September, the regular WOW Committee meetings resumed. In October we participated in the church's Fall Festival Fair and gained some new WOW Committee members as a result. On November 9 we had our Fall Retreat at Camp Buckner with approximately 50 ladies attending. Our speaker was Genna Stotts who spoke about Discovering God Beyond the Text with Scripture Notebooking.

Near the end of November, we decorated the church for Advent, and in December we continued taking care of the poinsettias by keeping them watered. All this was under the capable leadership of Karen Jarrard. December is a busy month for the WOW Committee. We gave a very nice Christmas luncheon for the church staff with Dee Wolfe taking the lead. Also, we filled gift baskets for the staff and gave gift cards to the AV "kids." All this is done to show how very much we love and appreciate our pastors and all the staff who give so much to serve our church. We ended the year with our yearly WOW Committee luncheon catered by Katie Burgess.

#### WOW Committee Officers 2022-2023

Chairperson	Patricia White
Vice Chairperson	Kristi Lofton
Secretary	Dee Wolfe
Treasurer	Darlene Bowles
Corresponding Secretary	Wendy Christesson
Chaplain	Jimmie Homburg

#### WOW Committee Chairs – 2022 - 2023

Sunshine House – Month of February	Ann Herring/Hannah Drago
Spring Luncheon	Mary Robison
Fall Retreat	Lynn Erickson/Rose Ann Mick/Marie Morgan/Andra Stevens/Patricia White
Luncheons Registration/Tickets/Name Tags	Carol Rose/Beth Dop
Publicity/Posters	Brooks Herring, Board Member
Photography	Nicole Scott
Fall Fellowship Fair	Lynn Erickson
Easter	Karen Jarrard
Advent	Karen Jarrard/Gloria Dickey
Church Staff Christmas Luncheon	Dee Wolfe and Committee
WOW Christmas Luncheon	Ann Higdon

The members of the WOW Committee were: Laura Belushi, Kay Borota, Darlene Bowles, Donna Canter, Wendy Christesson, Jamie Deyhle, Gloria Dickey, Beth Dop, Hanna Drago, Judy Duncan, Lynn Erickson, Marlene Everly, Sandi Gorski, Ann Herring, Ann Higdon, Sanny Sue Hoffman, Jimmie Homburg, Karen Jarrard, Jamie King, Kristi Lofton, Lenee Marshall, Pat McMurtrie, Janice Merck, Rose Anne Mick, Marie Morgan, Brenda Morrison, Dorothy Pearrow, Mary Robison, Carol Rose, Nicole Scott, Ivana Sorrell, Trudy Stafford, Andra Stevens, Joanne Thomas, Patricia White, Beth Winford, Dee Wolfe, and Diane Younker.

**Special Events:** This committee is made up of women of the church who plan “special events” for the church membership. Special Events were involved in three activities in 2023.

The first event was the Chili/Soup dinner held on Wednesday, January 18, in conjunction with the church’s Annual Meeting. The dinner was at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall with the Annual Meeting beginning at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. Both events were advertised in the weekly announcements, and on the screens in the Sanctuary and by the ministers. DeDe Hodge also sent out an email blast asking people to volunteer to bring either chili or soup, and to RSVP if they were coming. We had approximately 145-150 people in attendance, including the chili/soup makers, who served 12 chilis and 12 soups. The total cost for food and decorations was \$308.46.

The second event of the year was Garry Kesler’s Retirement Celebration held on April 19, in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner was followed by a program to honor Garry. There were approximately 200 people in attendance. “It’s All Good” barbecue of Spicewood catered the event. The program consisted of a poem performed by Sharon Penny, a tribute by Johnny White, and tribute songs by the Pistol and Rosebuds group. Total expense was \$4,412.29.

The third event was a church picnic held July 2, in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the 10:00 blended worship service. The event was announced in the church’s weekly announcement, in the Sunday announcements and in both the *HSB Beacon* and *The Highlander*. People were asked to RSVP if they would be attending and whether they wanted a hamburger or hotdog. Members of the congregation provided desserts. Total expenses were \$827.60.

Members of the Special Events Committee were: Susan Byrd, Marsha Cathey, Gloria Dickey, Cindi Halpin, Gail Heathington, Ellen Hower, Tommy Kepner, Carolyn Lee, Jan McAuley, Lenee Marshall, Beryl Ann Owen, Sharon Penny, Ronda Rodman, Carla Rowland, Joyce Smith, Junell Van Horn, Beth Winford, and Mary Lee York.

**Coffee Fellowship:** The Coffee Fellowship format started in March 2022 continued to successfully bring people together from both the Contemporary and Traditional worship services. Katie and Will Burgess were the caterers who provided delicious food for the fellowship time. Members of the church were asked to volunteer to help in preparing and serving the food. Board Trustee Ken Burgess continued to coordinate this activity. Expenses per week averaged approximately \$400.

**Member Ministry Department:** The name of this department was changed from Congregational Support to Member Ministry in 2023, to more accurately reflect how these committees minister to our church family. The Member Ministry committees most often work behind the scenes to provide care and support to our congregation. The Fall Fellowship Fair, held in October, provided a wonderful opportunity to add new members to several committees, which is always appreciated.

**The Caring Cards Ministry,** chaired by Rose Anne Mick, expanded their ministry to include happy events as well as continuing to send cards to members who need prayer. During the past year, they sent 148

special cards to members who were celebrating a birthday or anniversary along with those needing encouragement.

The Memorial Care Ministry, chaired by Jo Ann Warren, began the year by reviewing the guidelines for serving memorial receptions, taking inventory of needed supplies, and assigning members for each month of 2023. The committee was able to provide or assist with receptions for six families following memorial services.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, chaired by Ruth Newman, knitted 12 beautiful shawls that were prayed over and presented to members who were blessed with this gift. The Prayer Teams are honored to pray over and deliver these beautiful creations to anyone going through a difficult time who needs to know they are loved and prayed for.

Our Prayer Ministry, chaired by Wendy Christesson, met weekly, rain or shine. They continued to be faithful in their prayers for our congregation and any requests they received. They remind us that intercessory prayer is a marathon, not a sprint as they diligently prayed for those in need. What a gift these Prayer Warriors provide to our church family!

The Driving Force, chaired by Wayne Rattiseau, was called upon 17 times to provide rides for medical appointments. This committee is so faithful, whether it was a trip to Austin for a doctor appointment or a series of ten trips for cancer treatments, someone on the committee always stepped forward to provide transportation for our church family.

The Freezer Friends Ministry, chaired by Beth Dop, cooked, and stocked our freezer with hundreds of wonderful meals for congregation members who are ill, recovering, or homebound. Their delicious meals have been a blessing to many during this past year.

The Visitation Force, chaired by Ann Higdon, added several new members. They resumed this ministry with our homebound members, bringing joy, along with food, gifts, flowers, and their friendship to these special church members.

**Campus Management Department:** The name of this department was changed from Building and Grounds to Campus Management in 2023. We had a typical year with most of our church maintenance. We replaced and painted several areas on the exterior that had wood rot. Repaired some minor leaks in the roof. Replaced and did maintenance on the air conditioners.

The Remembrance Garden had a hard summer due to more above-normal temperatures. A large amount of work was done on the sprinkler system. The wooden bridge was torn down and replaced due to wood rot.

The biggest expense was the replacement of the whole ACTV system. After a lightning storm hit the Church, it caused total damage to most of our electrical system. A new lighting protection system was also added.

With buildings and grounds the size of our Church, there will always be continued maintenance and grounds in need of work.

**Communications Department:** The year 2023 was a very normal year for church communications activities, having fully exited the effects of COVID. The title was changed in 2022 from the Public Relations Department to the Communications Department in conjunction with adopting a new Board and staff organizational structure.

The approach of the communications effort was to secure as much unpaid media attention as possible while continuing to utilize the billboard on RR 2147 and limited newspaper advertising in the *HSB Beacon* and *The Highlander*. The objective of Communications was to provide exposure in external media that was engaging for members and non-members alike in an effort to grow attendance and volunteer participation by members, and to increase membership from the growing Horseshoe Bay community. These objectives were generally achieved.

While most of the work of the Communications Department focused on external communications, there was close alignment with the Office Manager on internal communications to reinforce the following key messages:

- The Church at Horseshoe Bay is a *community* of believers where you can ‘belong’ and deepen your spirituality.
- We have a unique fellowship among members that are neighbors in the City.
- The church provides opportunities to worship around important spiritual activities on the calendar such as Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, etc.
- The continuing theme from 2022 was: Grow Together!

The primary goals of the committee were the following, and these were generally achieved:

1. Update graphics on the billboard on RR 2147. Done in early February 2023.
2. Expand post card mailings to areas outside the 78657 zip code, e.g. the housing developments happening at Hwy. 71/U.S. 281; utilize postcards distributed to everyone in these 78657+ zip codes six times throughout the year. Three mailings were done.
3. Continue to focus unpaid media (articles and photos) in the *HSB Beacon* and *The Highlander*, with the goal in 2023 of having 15+ articles/photos in each of these newspapers. Improve performance in 2023 versus 2022 of having follow-up articles and photos of church activities (vs. the emphasis on articles leading up to activities).
4. Make personal contact with staff at the *HSB Beacon* and *The Highlander* to express appreciation for their publication of our church-related articles.
5. Work with the Benevolence Chair to publicize benevolent activities about the church internally and externally, and work with Member Ministry Chair to publicize congregational support activities like Freezer Friends and the Prayer Shawl ministry.
6. Work with the Outreach Department as needed to update church materials included in newcomer packets to the many Horseshoe Bay POAs.
7. Continue monitoring the capabilities of The Picayune media outlets and determine how to best use these outlets. The DailyTrib.com outlet was used for the 2024 Lee Strobel event.
8. Continue updating the Brand Standards Manual and share it with the entire Board in January or February.
9. Finalize the roles and responsibilities of the Communications Department in the church’s Policy and Procedures Manual.
10. Continue working with the Horseshoe Bay POA on the church signs on RR 2147.
11. Assist in developing communications for the planned giving program.
12. Update church photography and video library and organize these files for ease of use in future publicity.

This was not achieved as a suitable photographer was not identified.

A highlight of the year was securing two volunteers (Charlotte Cicatello; graphic artist; Fran Elliott; editor) to help with the work of the Communications Committee; their contributions were most helpful. The year was very productive in terms of securing columns, articles, and photos in the *HSB Beacon* and *The Highlander* newspapers:

- Columns in 2023 by Senior Pastor Malcolm McQueen included the following: Faith Seeking Understanding column about Ash Wednesday, Easter, Pentecost, Independence Day, and Remembrance Service.

- Columns in 2023 by Co-Pastor John Duncan included the following: Faith – Right Now, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Christmas.
- Articles about the church that were published included the following: 1) Men of Faith breakfast with Jim ‘The Rookie’ Morris, 2) Ash Wednesday services, 3) WOW Spring Brunch with Rachel Norris, 4) Men of Faith breakfast with Marc Whitacre, ‘The Informant,’ 5) Palm Sunday Cantata, 6) Stations of the Cross, 7) Garry Kesler’s retirement, 8) John Ousley, new Minister of Music, 9) National Day of Prayer, 10) July 2 special service, 11) WOW Fall Retreat, 12) Lee Strobel event: “Spiritual Journey: Why We Believe,” 13) Benevolence Bazaar, 14) Thanksgiving for Others, 15) Elves for the Elderly, 16) Christmas for Others, and 17) the Christmas cantata.
- In total, there were 35 articles/columns plus 22 photos in the *HSB Beacon*. In *The Highlander*, there were 82 articles/columns/“Let’s Be Brief” plus 22 photos. In addition, the Highland Lakes Crisis Network published several articles in their newsletters and on their website about Men of Faith events.
- Postcards were mailed to all 78657+ addresses and P.O. boxes about the following: 1) Easter Season, 2) returning to church in the Fall, and 3) Advent Season activities schedule.
- Newspaper ads were placed for the following activities: 1) Lenten (Easter) season in the *HSB Beacon*, 2) Advent and Christmas church activities/schedule (four weeks of ads in the *HSB Beacon* and two ads in *The Highlander*).
- Note: the editors of the *HSB Beacon*, *The Highlander*, and *The Picayune* were contacted and asked to run articles and photos about the February 2024 event with Lee Strobel in their family of newspapers and publications since Strobel appeals to a wide spectrum of the area population. In addition, a rack card was printed to be used as a handout.

Other key activities included the following:

- Completed new business cards for church staff along with a general “welcome” business card for use by the Board and staff, all using the new brand standards. Also completed the update of all church stationery using the new brand standards.
- Updated area publications with new service times and Christian Education times and updated the graphics in the Horseshoe Bay POA directory to look more professional (this is a free page for the church in their directory).
- Redistributed the website copy for rejuvenation of the Planned Giving program to benefit the church’s Endowment Fund.
- Made social media posts on Facebook and Instagram about all the above-noted activities (plus many more). These were done by the church staff. In addition, reminders were sent to all members in the church bulletin about how to receive all Facebook posts by the church.
- Completed work with the Horseshoe Bay POA on updating the church sign at the intersection of RR 2147/Thanksgiving Mountain Drive in conjunction with the POA’s complete update of this intersection. The churches’ signs remain too small to be effectively read by passing motorists, despite pleas to make them larger. The POA did not request the church to make any financial contribution for the new signs.
- Updated posters at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

**Stewardship Department:** The name of this department was changed from Business Management to Stewardship in 2023. It encompasses the work of the Finance, Investment, and Insurance Committees, as well as representation on the Endowment Board.

Several significant investment strategies regarding our existing cash-on-hand accounts led to a significant impact on our income. There was a significant claim on our insurance this year because of the lightning strikes that occurred in the spring. Ken Burgess was chair of the Investment Committee.

The **Endowment Board** revised its charter agreement for presentation to the Congregation for approval. The Board was able to significantly help the church by contributing funds for the new A/V/L project and the new choir loft. Members of the Board included Ken Burgess, Bill Carrothers, Jim Harrod, Carroll Jackson, and Bob Thomas (chair).

In 2023, we combined the **Personnel Committee** and the **Nominations Committee** into one group. The major change to staff was the arrival of John Ousley to replace Garry Kesler, who retired in April. The committee met informally with all full-time staff for performance reviews and made recommendations on salaries for the coming year. Based on recommendations from this committee, the Board also approved a new staff organizational chart (attached), which will offer clarity and administrative guidance for the entire staff.

Four church members were recommended by the Nominations Committee to begin service as Trustees - two new board members to begin their first three-year terms (Eileen Drake and Lee Peterson), and two existing board members begin their second three-year terms (Carol Rose and Bill Carrothers).

The members were Wayne Brascom, Bill Carrothers, Eddie Greer, Ann Higdon, Larry Morgan (chair), Carol Rose, and Kyle Womack (*ex-officio*).

The **Planning Committee** this year included the entire Board of Trustees. The primary focus was to shepherd the process for replacing two key staff positions: Minister of Music and Pastor, with the retirements of Garry Kesler and Malcolm McQueen. Typically, this would have been the year for the committee to conduct a church-wide survey. However, it was felt that a survey would be more meaningful if conducted in 2024 after these major staff positions were filled. Discussions started on when and how to develop a children's ministry for the congregation. There are now more children (primarily from staff families) participating in church activities than previously. Moreover, future demographic changes in the area may present the opportunity/need for addressing a children's ministry. We received several informative presentations from both the City of Horseshoe Bay and the City of Marble Falls on growth, development, and demographics of our area.

**ad hoc Pastor Search Committee:** This committee was commissioned in June to seek a pastor, anticipating Malcom McQueen's retirement in February 2024. This group developed a Church Information Package and advertising channels to communicate with candidates. Over 300 resumes were received. At year's end, a short list of potential candidates had been identified, and interviews were in progress. The committee included twelve people: four from the Board, four from the Personnel Committee, and four from the congregation-at-large. Members were Laura Belushi, Wayne Brascom, Bill Carrothers, Wendy Christenson, Eddie Greer, Doug Hart, Jean Kiker, Scooter Lofton, Larry Morgan (chair), Nicole Scott, Bobbie Walker, and Sandra Williams.

Jim Jorden  
5 May 2024

