We begin our journey to the cross with Ash Wednesday and follow Christ for forty days to Holy Week. Join us each Sunday in Lent as we encounter temptation, darkness, forgiveness, healing, and life.

**Wednesdays**

**Ash Wednesday Service**
March 1 at 6:45 p.m.
*Dinner at 6 p.m. in Sapp Hall*

**Lenten Reflection with Rev. Jody Harrison**
March 22 at 6:30 p.m.
*Dinner at 6 p.m. in Sapp Hall*

**Sundays**

**Sunday, March 5**
Encountering Temptation (Mt. 4:1-11)
Anthem: “The Crown of Roses”
Communion & Share Your Table

**Sunday, March 12**
Encountering Darkness (John 3:1-17)
Anthem: “God So Loved the World”
Taize Worship at 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, March 19**
Encountering Forgiveness (John 4:5-42)
Anthem: “Come to the Water”

**Sunday, March 26**
Encountering Healing (John 9:1-41)
Anthem: “Lord’s My Shepherd”

**Sunday, April 2**
Encountering Life (John 11:1-45)
Anthem: “Out of the Depths”
Communion & Share Your Table

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

— Mt. 16:24
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March 1—Isaiah 58:6

May All Be One

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I always have this feeling that once Advent is over there will be time to breathe. One might call this an alternative truth because it never ever happens. Before we even have time to put the Christmas decorations away, we’re running as fast as we can. There’s a new budget, a new Council, hopes and dreams and meetings and, yes, planning Lent.

This year has been exceptionally hard. We’ve lost several of our long time members and friends and so, in addition to everything, we’re grieving. I sat down after Bill Crawford’s service and said to those around me that this is hard. We’ve lost people we’ve known and loved and who have served this church with their whole hearts. The one thing I know for sure is that they would want us to continue on full force, because they loved this church with their whole hearts.

I am very excited about a few things we’re looking at in 2017. The completion of the library renovation opens that space up for some different uses. Our Faith and Film series will be held in there, we’re hoping to have a Kerygma class or some other type of Bible study in that room, the Book Club has begun using the space, and every Sunday morning we see our Young Adults gathering during the Sunday School hour.

We’re hoping over the next few months to change a few things in the Sanctuary. By removing a pew on either side closer up, those with walkers or wheelchairs will be able to sit closer up and not have to sit in the back. We also know that research shows us that visitors feel the most welcome when they enter a church that is about 75% full. If there are too many people, they don’t feel like there is room for them, but less than that, and they feel vulnerable. So in hopes to make the room feel fuller we’re going to remove some pews at the back and just see what happens. This also gives us an opportunity to be creative in the way we use the open space in the back.

I was invited this last week to lead and participate in a few sessions at the Texas Baptist Women in Ministry Conference held at Logston School of Theology in Abilene, TX. What a wonderful time of meeting many young women who have felt called into ministry and who are beginning their journey here in Texas. It was rather eye opening for me to realize I’ve become the “Old Timer” in Women’s Ministry in Texas. I led a table discussion with students wanting to go into Pastoral leadership and was so moved that we’ve reached a place in time where women feel supported in their calls and while we have a long ways to go to find places for women to serve, the doors are opening and we’re moving in the right direction. I was honored to be asked to speak and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate.

I continue to feel blessed to be your pastor and I am excited to see how God is working in our church.

Rev. Cheryl Kimble
EMMA CRANFORD

Emma uses her voice, guitar, and flute to bless Highland Park in worship and at special events like our mission trip fundraisers (pictured at right) and at youth camp. She also serves the wider community on mission trips. Emma represents Highland Park with humble service in all she does—even playing her flute at the Rose Bowl parade with her marching band!
We are proud to partner with our Catholic and Muslim sisters and brothers for a series of free interreligious dialogue panels called “May All Be One”. We will gather for dinner as usual each Wednesday, then travel to the dialogue site. Join us as we honor our differences and celebrate our similarities!

**Holy Texts & Key Figures**
Wednesday, March 29 at 7 pm | Dinner in Sapp Hall at 6 pm
St. Theresa’s Catholic Church, 4311 Small Dr., Austin, 78731
Panel: Imam Okan Dogan, Fr. Bud Roland, and Dr. Larry Bethune

**Tradition**
Wednesday, April 5 at 7 pm | Dinner in Sapp Hall at 5:30 pm
St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 5455 Bee Cave Rd, West Lake Hills, 78746
Panel: Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Fr. Larry Covington, and Dr. Mustafa Koroglu

**Living the Faith**
Wednesday, April 19 at 7 pm | Dinner in Sapp Hall at 6 pm
Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Dr., Austin, 78731
Panel: Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Jon Campbell, and Dr. Fatih Akdag

**Addressing Extremism**
Wednesday, April 26 at 7 pm | Dinner in Sapp Hall at 6 pm
Dialogue Institute, 12400 Amherst Dr., Austin, 78727
Panel: Dr. Guner Arslan, Rev. Jody Harrison, and Fr. Larry Covington

[Eventbrite Link] MAY-ALL-BE-ONE.EVENTBRITE.COM
Notes from the February Ministry Council Meeting

Prioritizing church events and activities: Discussed being aware of the reality that as a congregation we cannot do as many things as we did as a larger congregation. Emphasis is on quality and not quantity. Cheryl is hopeful that the four interfaith Wednesday night presentations will draw people and perhaps give us an idea of additional presentations on Wednesday nights.

Council’s executive committee: Council affirmed Jody Harrison as vice chair and Alana Mallard as secretary-treasurer, with treasurer duties delegated to Finance Ministry.

Church documents: As many of our documents are outdated, Council members will take February and March to review our Constitution, Bylaws, Guidelines for Church Operations and Procedures, and Ministry Handbook, including a conflict of interest statement by each council member. Comments due to Herb Wilson by April 2 for consideration by a work group that Herb will convene. As always, comments from all HPBC members are welcomed.

65th Anniversary Celebration on April 30: Nancy Osgood said Hospitality will spearhead this effort, and Alana Mallard suggested that each ministry chair might think of a role their ministry could play in planning or implementing the celebration. Discussed possibilities such as missions banners, outreach to adult youth and Sunday School classes, yard signs. Agreed that this would not be a huge event: a worship service, potluck meal after worship, possibly a Saturday night get-together with adult youth group. Scheduled a yard sign making party for March 8, ministries meeting night.

Interfaith support: Discussed importance of communicating four Wednesday nights of interfaith dialogue – St. Theresa’s on March 29, St. John Neumann on April 5, HPBC on April 19, Raindrop Muslim Community on April 26. We’ll eat at 5:30 p.m. on April 5, to allow time to travel as the meetings are 7-9 p.m. Also discussed suggestion by Alana Mallard that we consider a banner outside supporting our Muslim brothers and sisters. The banner we agreed on will say this: “We respect and support all peaceful expressions of any faith.”

If you have anything you would like the Ministry Council to discuss at the next meeting on Sunday, March 12, please contact the church office by Sunday, March 5.
**Administration**

A schedule for volunteers to count the collection receipts for each Sunday has been distributed to all Finance Ministry members and is beginning to show some positive results. Special thanks to Nathan Thane for his help in putting this system together.

**Family Life & Fellowship**

Family Life had good response to our sign-up sheets at Ministry Fair and several stayed to help clean the kitchen and bride’s room. The next church-wide event will be Palm Sunday. We stand ready to help with plans for the 65th birthday of our church.

**Missions**

We are increasing financial support to local missions and the Bolick’s Chilean Mission. Jeanie Petrie agreed to research monitoring our missions’ nonprofit statuses, possibly through Charity Navigator or another nonprofit rating system. We will begin quarterly missions payments instead of monthly payments, in order to save time, supplies, and money. April 8 is iACT’s Spring Blitz. HPBC will participate in the day’s activities of painting, building, and fixing up, and we are looking for a workday team leader.

**Christian Education**

We have sorted and moved approximately 14 boxes of donated books given to the library. HPBC was invited and we have accepted to participate as a host church in the event, “MAY ALL BE ONE – An Interreligious Dialogue” (see page 5). Previously scheduled speakers for these Wednesday Weavings were notified of this change and asked if we can re-schedule their presentations.

**Outreach and Communications**

We are working to find out what is involved in posting church events/activities on local neighborhood websites. We have also retrieved a list of all current HPBC members and are planning to do some outreach to members we have not seen or heard from in a while. We continue to work on printed visitor materials and have a draft of a new “We Are Called” booklet. We are beginning some discussion about finding a phrase that communicates our theology, our community, and what makes us different.

Future plans include a Lent/Easter Mailer to our target neighborhoods, promotion of the 65th Anniversary, revitalization of Touch Groups, creating a New Member Checklist to make sure new members are getting engaged in church life, a reboot of the Social Media Team, and a collection of stories: When was Highland Park church to you?

**Worship**

Worship Ministry is anxiously awaiting Lent and Easter. The sanctuary was de-Christmastized with the help of Don Dillard, Nathan Thane, Margaret Stafford, and Belinda Lane. We had a couple of new people sign up to be on the liturgist rotation. We are planning to get a group together to tackle the pulpit side closets and the main closet in the underground.
Support our mission partners during Austin’s biggest non-profit fundraiser!

Micah 6 of Austin, Drive a Senior, NAMI Austin, Central Texas Food Bank, Refugee Services of Texas, Austin Habitat for Humanity, Caritas of Austin, iACT, Foundation for the Homeless, and many other local non-profits are participating.

AMPLIFYATX.ORG