
HENLY TODAY

A WORD FROM PASTOR DON: WINDS OF CHANGE

The month of March is known for its winds. Warm, spring-like days are interlaced with bitterly cold days, and to some degree (no pun intended), it is difficult to know what to expect. On the Roman calendar, March (named for Mars, the god of war) was the first month of a year that ended in December. January and February were not included because they were months best lived indoors (I think there actually may be some sense to that!).

Some positive winds of change are blowing around Henly Baptist Church these days. As evidenced by last month's very successful Valentine's Banquet, we are reaching out and connecting with others in the broader Henly community to communicate that everyone is welcomed here.

Perhaps our best witness is in kindness. Mother Teresa expressed it this way: *"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier ... There are no great things, only small things with great love. Happy are those. Peace begins with a smile ... If you judge people, you have no time to love them. Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love. Each one of them is Jesus in disguise. If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."*

"People need people, and people need the Lord."

God created us for a sense of community, and the strength and support we find in new friendships are strengthened through worship. People need people, and people need the Lord. What better place to begin than the local church?

A women's Bible study is now meeting on Thursday afternoons at 3 pm in our Fellowship Hall. You must be present to benefit, but you don't have to be a member of our church to attend. It's a relaxed, no-homework, come-when-you-can format that has been well received so far.

The men in our congregation have recognized the need for something more as well, so they are planning a weekly Bible study, too, and, like the women's group, you don't have to be a member of our church to attend. See page 3 for more information about both new programs.



We've also begun a monthly book club as a forum to discuss a particular book and share our personal thoughts on the life lessons that can be learned from it. The book for March is Max Lucado's *Be Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*. The group will meet at the end of this month; date and time to be announced.

There is inherent value in feeding both our minds and our hearts with the things of God. I encourage you to participate in these new fellowship opportunities – and to lend your voice in planning more!

Don

FAMILY FOCUS: RANDY AND WANDA REYNOLDS

Randy and Wanda Reynolds have been residents of Henly for the past 14 years, but they've been affiliated with Henly Baptist Church for at least 15 years longer than that.

The Reynolds' first contact with our church was orchestrated by an invitation from Wayman Curry, whose family has been in the Henly Baptist congregation for generations. Randy and Wayman met by coincidence – or perhaps by Divine providence – in the West Pacific, on the island of Truk. At the time, Wayman was a Guam-based pilot for Continental Airlines. Randy, a United States Air Force flight surgeon, had just completed a three-year tour of duty on Guam and was headed to San Antonio for his next duty station, with a weeklong stop in Truk to go scuba diving. Wayman was flying the jet that took him off Guam for the last time!

Not being one to pass up an opportunity for adventure, the redheaded stranger from Texas who had piloted the Continental jet from Guam to Hawaii and back, was off duty for the rest of the week and decided to go scuba diving, too. Arriving in Truk, the two men struck up a conversation, and a budding friendship developed that has survived the test of time.

The Reynolds agree that our church felt like home the first time they walked through the door in 1992. Three years later, the U.S. Air Force took Randy away for 10 years, with tours of duty in Korea, Australia, Phoenix and Hawaii before returning to San Antonio. Once back in the area, it was an easy decision to reconnect with Henly Baptist Church ... and settle in Henly.

Randy and Wanda met at Sul Ross University in Alpine. Wanda grew up in the West Texas town of Snyder where her dad taught school and her mother was a full-time homemaker. Randy's parents were in Dallas. His father was a physician and his mother taught piano.

It obviously was love at first sight because Wanda had an openness for the kinds of dating activities Randy enjoyed most. Hiking, exploring caves and looking for snakes may not appeal to many, but Wanda was willing to give it a try!

Today, Randy serves as a deacon and Sunday School teacher, and for several years Wanda has served as our church pianist. For many years Wanda was in charge of beautifying our church and fellowship hall for holidays and special occasions, often using her own vast collections of seasonal decorations. Wanda is also a volunteer with the Bluebonnet Auxiliary and currently serves as president.

Randy retired from the U.S. Air Force 10 years ago, but still practices medicine with a group that specializes in wound care. Photography is one of Randy's many hobbies, and he has photographed almost every courthouse in Texas. In addition, he's done extensive research in genealogy and recently published a book on his family ancestors.

Randy and Wanda, we're so glad you decided to make Henly Baptist your church home, and we're all better because of your presence, leadership and love.



Henly Today is a monthly publication of Henly Baptist Church. Pastor and Executive Editor: Don Forrester. Our mission is to report on and encourage participation in all church activities, share stories of our church family, and to support the fulfillment of our church's 100-year-plus mission "to be a spiritual lighthouse in the community through the practice of Christ's teachings, evangelism, outreach, and social and benevolent ministries." Please send your news, comments and address updates to: HenlyToday@gmail.com.

OUR LEGACY IN COLOR AND LIGHT

This stained glass window is in memory of Joseph Madison “Jodie” Smitherman and Hazel Emma Herbst, my grandparents. They married on September 9, 1930, in Mason County, and sometime thereafter bought a ranch and moved to Henly. They raised chickens, cows, pigs, sheep and goats as well as tended an extensive garden that included a variety of fruit trees. Their main crop was tomatoes, which they sold at the local grocery store in Dripping Springs for many years. Before this, Jodie had been a professional sheep and goat shearer, traveling to different areas shearing, and selling mohair and wool.

Jodie and Hazel were part of the original Henly pioneer families who collectively decided to donate any money made from selling eggs to the Henly Baptist Church building fund. Jodie, along with other members from the community, built the original church building, and he served as a deacon until his death in 1973. They raised a daughter, Louise (my mother), and a son, Joe, both of whom finished college early and became lifelong teachers.

My grandparents’ memorial window symbolizes the “good shepherd” who would lay down his life for his sheep. It is a fitting tribute to Jodie because of his years as a shearer and rancher, as well as the way he lived his life. He gently guided his family, church and community by example. He was always anticipating needs and doing for others, as well as selflessly working his ranch, his brother’s ranch, and helping everyone in the community – all with a wry sense of humor and goodwill.

The playing children in the memorial window are a tribute to Hazel as a loving mother and grandmother. She was the cohesive bond of the family who declared every Saturday as “Kid Day” at her house after the marriages of Louise to Ben Gravenor (a member of another Henly Baptist Church founding family) and Joe to Anita Beckman, and the births of their children. Ben and Louise had two daughters, and Joe and Anita had two sons and a daughter. The families would get together every Saturday so that the adults could visit and do whatever needed to be done while we kids were set free to happily play outside with our cousins all day.



- Annette Gravenor

Annual Easter Celebration

Sunday, April 12

11 am Church Service

12 noon Lunch

- ▶ Bring side dishes and desserts for lunch (church provides meat).
- ▶ Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for worship and fellowship.

Women’s Bible Study

Thursdays, 3 - 4:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

- ▶ Participants take turns choosing a different Bible passage to explore in depth each week.
- ▶ Everyone shares her interpretations, personal takeaways, life application ideas.

Men’s Bible Study

Date and time to be announced

Fellowship Hall

- ▶ Interested? Call Richard Pierce, 979-824-3715, or Don Forrester, 202-770-9490.

Monthly Book Club

Date, time and place to be announced

March book is *Be Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World* by Max Lucado

GUMBO FEST & ALL THE REST

JAMBALAYA

CRAWFISH PIE

FILE GUMBO

We're Gonna Have Big Fun On The Bayou!
.....The HBC Bayou

4th Sunday Lunch for March will Feature Gumbo
All Cajun Inspired Dishes Welcome!

Sunday, March 22, 2020
Following Church Service

