

ROLLING
HILLS
BAPTIST

MINISTERS AT LARGE...

The Membership of RHBC

PASTORAL AND
SUPPORT STAFF:

Steve Sheely

Pastor

David Savage

Minister of Music

Yuna Hutchison

Director of Children & Youth

Secretary

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ROLLING HILLS
BAPTIST
CHURCH

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

Voice of the Dove

www.rhbcdove.org

March, 2021



A weekly gathering of prayer, study and edification

Our Wednesday night Bible study is an opportunity to recharge your batteries and face the rest of your week with encouragement and spiritual nourishment. Come join us on Wednesday Nights!

We are studying The Book of Acts and how those stories connect to the corresponding epistles. This is a fun study that is like the old "ViewMasters" - two lenses providing a 3-D effect!

Midweek Mosaic is held via Zoom. You will need a smartphone or a laptop or desktop with a microphone and a camera. If you need help let us know! Or if you need the Zoom information be sure to reach out and we can get you connected. See you Wednesday!



ROLLING HILLS
BAPTIST
CHURCH

"We need to cherish both:
the times of predictable church life
AND the challenges of adapting to a changing world."



Steve Sheely

Voice of the Dove

"A Community Joyfully Embodying Christ"

Volume 51, Issue 2

March, 2021

From the Pastor's Quill

*"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant
for the people and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.*

*"I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.
See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you." I announce them to you."*

--Isaiah 42:6-9

I love our church. I love who we are. I love the way we do things. The way we worship. The songs we sing. The questions we ask during a Bible study. The food we enjoy at our quarterly lunches. The way we turn to the Spirit and scripture when we make key decisions.



But mostly I love you. Your smiles and laughter. Your prayers. Your friendship and encouragement.

As a pastor I am frequently torn. Torn between everything that is meaningful to me in our church and the changes in our world we must adapt to as we embody Christ for one another and the world around us. Church leaders have been on the horns of this dilemma for centuries.

As we look at scripture we probably fail to realize that, in many cases, the Bible will tell us more stories of change and friction than decades of peace and stability. I suppose that's no surprise. We need to cherish both: the times of predictable church life AND the challenges of adapting to a changing world.

So while there were undoubtedly extended periods in the life of God's people where the practices of faith and worship were wonderfully predictable and even comfortable, there were also times of great change and upheaval:

- Leaving Pharaoh and traveling to the Promised Land
- Subduing hostile nations in the Promised Land
- Building the Temple
- Fending off Syrians, Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and Romans
- Jesus confronting the religious toxicity of His time
- Pentecost and including Non-Jews in God's amazing purposes

...to name a few.

No doubt we face changes – whether we like it or not. A lot of conversation is beginning about church life in a post-pandemic world. Our new website, online worship and study, the Revelation 21 initiative and a reconsideration of our governing structure are some of the ways we are already anticipating being a church. Can you believe that we may be ahead of the curve?

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But notice how Isaiah the prophet describes facing changes as God's people – with a wonderful and exciting sense of hope. God is great – greater than whatever obstacles or mysteries we may encounter. But also notice this: the great tasks of God's people remains the same. No matter what social changes, viruses and technology may bring, we are still called to be

*“...a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”*

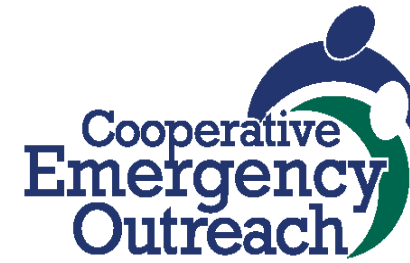
We can do these things. We always have. We always will. So let's move forward together as a community joyfully embodying Christ.

Peace,




Exactly why we love Pastor Steve!

We couldn't physically come to church so Pastor Steve Live streamed our Sunday Service at his living room!!!



Ongoing Collection...

- Cereal
- Canned Meat
- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Soups
- Crackers
- Jelly
- Pet food
- Diapers

*Monetary Donations
always accepted!*



Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, Mar. 5 at 7:00 am

The Rolling Pin



Circle of Friends

*Will meet
Mar. 10 at 10:00 am
Susan Young
Shiloh Museum,
Guest speaker
at the church*



Women's Prayer Group

Thursday, Mar. 5 at 11:30 am

Beth Brewer's
1856 Oakborn Circle
Butterfield Trail Village



**Grieving Parents
Support Group**

March 8 at 6:00 pm

This is a group of parents who have lost a child of any age. Held via Zoom. Let us know if you need the Zoom meeting information.

Budget Summary

| | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| End of 2020 undesignated giving | \$13,383.00 | YTD: \$164,459.02 |
| End of 2020 transfer from Endowment Interest | | YTD: \$5,000.00 |
| End of 2020 budgeted expenses | (13,918.59) | YTD: (\$191,170.41) |
| End of 2020 giving minus expenses | (\$539.59) | YTD: \$8,288.61 |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 6:00 Midweek Mosaic | 4 | 5 Office closed | 6 |
| 7 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service | 8 6:00 Grieving Parents Support | 9 | 10 6:00 Midweek Mosaic | 11 | 12 Office closed | 13 |
| 14 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service | 15 | 16 | 17 6:00 Midweek Mosaic | 18 | 19 Office closed | 20 |
| 21 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service | 22 | 23 | 24 6:00 Midweek Mosaic | 25 | 26 Office closed | 27 |
| | <i>Spring Break</i> | | | | | |
| 28 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service | 29 | 30 | 31 | March | | |

March Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Mar. 2 John Sweetser | Mar. 15 Cammy Willett |
| Mar. 4 Hadley Twilley | Mar. 16 Phyllis Eddins |
| Mar. 9 Carolyn Norman | Mar. 20 Kendel Jones |
| Mar. 13 Stacy Grovey | Mar. 20 Steve Maurer |
| Mar. 14 Dann Nobel | Mar. 29 Al Vaughn |

March Anniversaries

- Mar. 15, 1958 Earl & Phyllis Eddins
 Mar. 21, 1981 Dann & Kathy Nobel

Elaine Happenings!

By Pat Kienzle



On March 5, it will be 24 years since I received the exciting news that led to our ministry in Elaine. It was not until April of the following year that I made the first visit. Our youth made a trip to Helena around that time. That was before CBF's TOGETHER FOR HOPE.

Elaine is getting closer and closer. Too bad that doesn't mean distance. If all continues to improve with COVID, a trip should be planned for late April or early May and another for the summer.

I head of plans for a soccer camp! I'll go to help with logistics, but soccer is not my field of service.



Two grants have been submitted and one more is due April 1. They are focused on resources and entrepreneurship. There is a good chance we will be looking for supplies and workers to build a portable mini-golf course. We may have to try it out before taking it south.

Book Blessings!! A group of dedicated historians and friends have taken the Scipio Jones book as the first of a series. The goal is to funnel any profits into another black history book for children. Anything extra from Scipio Jones would go to help support the Lee Street Community Center.

Brother Andrew sharing his enthusiastic leadership with a background of Elaine birdhouses!

Send us your Selfies!

Take a selfie of you (with or without a mask!) and send it to us! We want to put your pictures in the next issue of the Dove so we can all see each other!

Send your selfies to rhbaptist@sbcglobal.net



Committee Restructuring Conversations to Begin

First Zoom meeting scheduled for March 7, 2021

by Ellen Jones, Chair of the Deacons



Your deacons have been working to revise the organizational structure of our church. Due to changes in our church and today's pandemic restrictions this was deemed necessary. Also, it has been a challenge to find enough church members to participate in our 11 different church committees. But even as we all have experienced life changes as never before, with change comes opportunity. We believe making these changes will enable all of us to focus on our: church mission to "Joyfully Embody Christ."

Over a year ago we considered combining the work of our committees, but this plan did not meet the needs of our church. Then we started with the very basics. We asked "What is the very basic purpose of our church? What does our mission statement mean?" One of the definitions I thought really fit for a church was ---giving a visible form of something or someone, on our case that would be Christ. This is what/who makes us different from all other organizations.

From there we looked at the basic church functions presented to us by our pastor and adopted by our church over 12 years ago. They are:

- Encounter God
- Grow Spiritually
- Serve One Another
- Build Bridges
- Make Friends

We felt if what we did fell into one of these basic functions we would "Embody Christ." Do the activities of our church fall into at least one of these basic church functions? Do we have church members and attendees willing to participate in activities that fulfill or church functions to meet our mission --- embodying Christ to others? If they do not do we really want to continue using resources to do them?

Support Council

As we examined the functions of all of our committees we tried to determine which basic function they met. There were some committee work that is defined by the constitution. They were primarily functions of the staff, financial oversight and physical facilities committees.

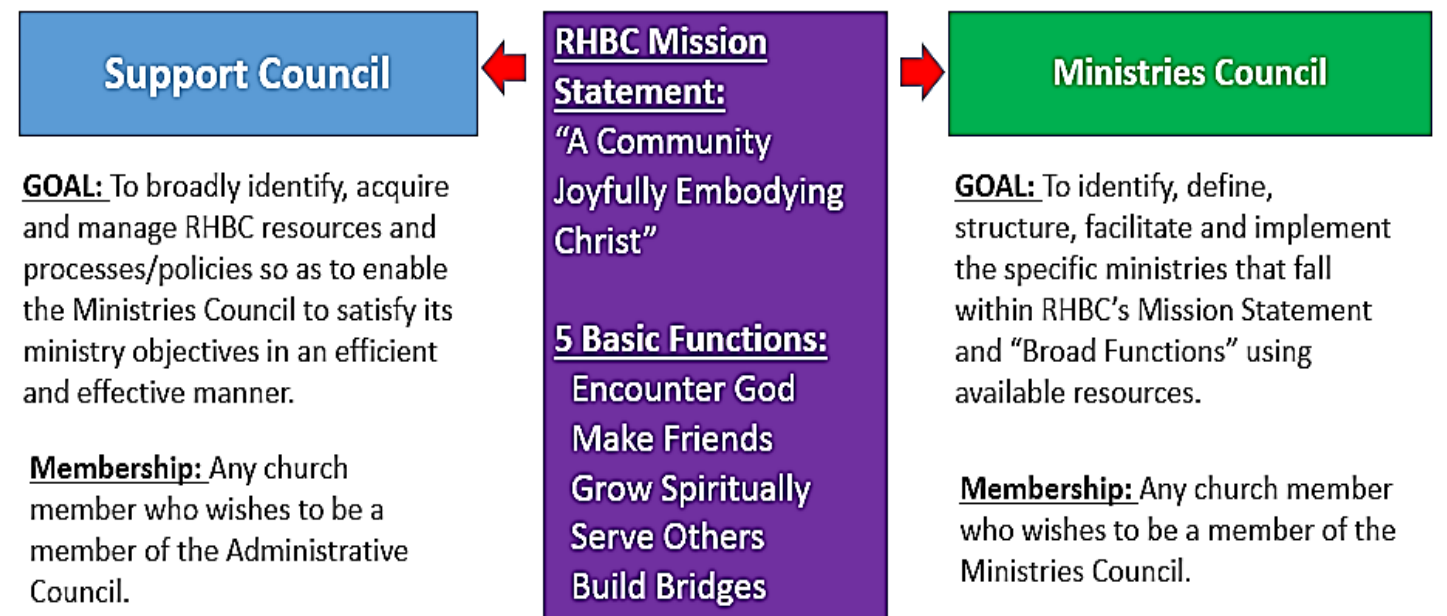
These are classified under the title "Support Council." The proposed Support Council exists to help the Ministries Council to fulfill the 5 basic functions of our church: to broadly identify, acquire and manage RHBC resources and processes/policies so as to enable the Ministries Council to satisfy its ministry objectives in an efficient and effective manner. The Support Council will be composed of any church member who wants to participate.

Ministries Council

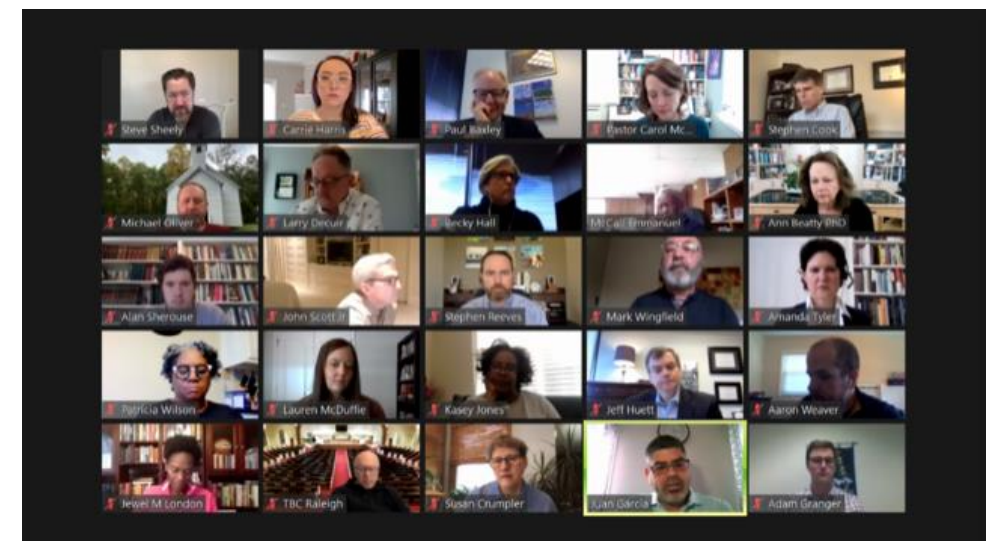
The rest of the committees duties fell under the "Ministries Council" and would be organized according to our five basic church functions. We felt this would help all to be better informed of all church activities and allow more efficient use of resource's (time, talent, money, etc.). The goal of the Ministries Council is to identify, define, structure, facilitate and implement the specific ministries that fall within RHBC's Mission Statement and our five basic functions using available resources. The Ministries Council will be composed of any church member who wishes to participate.

We realize there are existing opportunities that as a church body we will want to continue. We also realize there will be new opportunities as we stay an activity part of our community and world. For example , a year ago who would of dreamed we would have on going services, Sunday school and Bible study groups virtually? There is still a lot of work to do and we need the help of each and every one of you to meet our mission. The opportunities have just begun.

We have scheduled a Zoom conversation about these changes on Sunday, after worship on March 7th. You will receive information about this meeting in an RHBC E-news. We hope you can participate!



Our Pastor is serving his first year of a three-year term on the CBF's Governing Board, which functions like a Board of Directors.





Uniquely Yuna

Children's Activity director

I remember people talking about how many years It had been since we got some good snow and they would love to have a lot of snow !
DREAM CAME TRUE!!!

I had some friends and families who shared pictures of their fun snow day so I would like to share!

I hope everybody is staying connected with each other!

Don't forget there's always a way to stay connected.

Yuna Hutchison



We braved the weather and delivered Valentine's Bags to the children of our church. We hope everybody enjoyed it.



What was your favorite part of a snow day? Snow fight? Or Building a snow man that doesn't melt?



Choir Crier

By David Savage

For the second time in my history of writing Dove articles, I did not send out my infamous "Fat Tuesday" email/txt, instead I worried about the subzero weather, my pipes freezing, getting into town, and 'All that Snow'. I didn't feel special or privileged as everyone else was in the same snowmobile.

I was also thrown off by the postponement of Ash Wednesday. Unlike my cousins in south Texas, it was a day at the park for me. I hope everyone else faired okay. I am always intrigued by the various traditions surrounding the days leading up to Easter. Even though I didn't send out my afore mentioned "Fat Tuesday" email/text, I still received several responses to the obvious question that comes up each year during Lent, "What are you giving up for Lent this year." Some of the responses are expected, some are random, some are very thought provoking, and some are very insightful. I always get this response, "Nothing, I'm a Baptist, I don't celebrate Lent. I don't give up anything." This response has always bothered me, partially because it is true, and partially because it is not true.

A few years ago in an Ash Wednesday Service, Steve ask us to share with the group what we were giving up for Lent. This old Baptist didn't say a word. My Baptist DNA kicked in. My likes and dislikes are made up from my past experiences and change comes slowly. I laugh about my family's responses each year, but I realize that I'm not that different. My family put up with me and my emails/text, they put up with my opinions, they put up with the things that I say and do, they put up with me even when we disagree, they put up with me because we are family.

After the many issues with ZOOM, Teams, FaceBook, and other forms of communication that I have been required to learn to stay in touch with the outside world, I thought about giving up all social medium platforms, but then I realized that I don't have a choice if I wanted to stay involved, so, I've decided to go back to my old standby and 'take up' something rather than to 'give up' something. As I say each year, maybe I should 'take up' encouraging/comforting as in I Thessalonians 5:11? No more 'Negative Nancy' for me, I want to vent less and to encourage more!!

As I mentioned in my last Dove article, don't hesitate to ask for assistance. The members of our Church are always willing to help in any way they can. All of this to say, everything in life, including the things in our past, make us who we are. We need to discover the Spiritual DNA of those around us and celebrate these differences. As I said last year, how many times are we like the Pharisees? How many times do we ask the same question over and over and over again, hoping for an answer with which we agree? As we enter the Season of Lent, we have a chance to focus on the areas in our life where we are blind. We have a chance to give the credit to God for all of the miracles He has performed in our lives. We have a chance to share with others how Jesus has opened our eyes. Although we should not need a reason to do all of these things, Lent provides us with that opportunity. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, to Pentecost, we should take every opportunity to celebrate the Easter Season with those around us. We need to make changes throughout the year when the opportunity is presented, not just during Lent. After all, we are family!!!