

Heartland

Baptist Church



Alex Melton, Senior Pastor

"This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you." Titus 1:5

As your Lead Pastor I rejoice daily in the privilege of shepherding this flock for almost 7 years. Yet Scripture is clear that no single under-shepherd is meant to bear the load alone. From Antioch to Crete, God "appointed elders *in every church*" (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). Embracing elder-led congregationalism is not a trendy move, but a return to this wise, biblical pattern. It offers at least four tangible blessings to me and, by extension, to all of us.

1. Shared Shepherding: When multiple qualified men watch over the saints, it allows for greater pastoral care. The church is blessed as hospital visits, counseling sessions, and member care multiply. The partnership of a plurality of elders frees me to devote unhurried time to prayer and the ministry of the Word without anyone slipping through the cracks.

2. Collective Wisdom: I value the diverse gifts and life experiences of potential fellow elders. Proverbs reminds us that "in an abundance of counselors there is safety." Decisions about vision, staffing, and discipline are sharper when filtered through many Spirit-led minds, not just mine.

3. Real Accountability: A plurality guards my heart and your trust. Brothers who know me well can ask the hard questions, correct blind spots, and model mutual submission before the congregation. Such transparency is a shield against pride, fatigue, and moral failure.

4. Long-term Stability: Should illness, sabbatical, or eventual succession arise, an active elder team ensures continuity of pastoral care and doctrine. The church's health will never hinge on one man's availability.

We will hold a **first reading and open discussion of the Constitution & Bylaws revisions on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30pm**. The congregational vote is scheduled for **May 31st**. I ask every member to read the draft, pray, and join the conversation. Your participation helps us follow Christ's design faithfully and joyfully.

Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families

Wow! Time sure does fly by! April has gone like a flash. May is upon us and summer is just around the corner. And this season of late spring moving into May, if you are like me, gets filled up with lots of things — end of the school year, graduations, time to plant the garden and flowers, spring cleaning, looking forward to summer and vacations, etc.

And you just might have thought I forgot to mention a most important day in May? Mother's Day, May 10. Well, actually that is what I would like to share just a moment about. There are many moms, and women of note in the Bible — Mary, Jesus' mother, Deborah, Jochebed, Lydia, Joanna, and many more. All women to be thankful for and remembered. They are all Proverbs 31 and Titus 2 women.

I have been blessed in my life with many Proverbs 31 and Titus 2 women and I hope you have been too. But, I would like to mention the notable ones in my life — my mom, Darlene (Rowe) Hahn, my late wife, Linda (Lefler) Hahn, my wife, Sheila (Crocker) Hahn, my daughters, Casey (Hahn) Elliott and Grace Hahn, and my daughters-in-law, Kirsten (Heep) Hahn and Samantha (Gabbert) Hahn.

These seven women are all Proverbs 31 and Titus 2 women. All but one are moms. Some are grandmothers and one a great grandmother and two have gone home to the Lord. All these have blessed me in many ways. My mom. My wife and late wife. My daughters and daughters-in-law, especially as they bless my sons as their wives and mother of their children. I praise and thank the Lord for them every day!

Thank the Lord for all the mom's out there and all the Proverbs 31 and Titus 2 women God has given to you and me. Happy Mother's Day to all!



Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

May 3:

Connectors: Sam Ollenbittle, Karen Harris
Door Greeters: Jen Haycraft, Glennita Seal

May 10:

Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Susie Kreitner
Door Greeters: Evie Pedersen, Avery Pedersen

May 17:

Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Miranda Rendleman
Door Greeters: David & Karen Hickerson

May 24:

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

May 31:

Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Karen Harris
Door Greeters: Jen Haycraft, Glennita Seal

Nursery & Kid's Church

May 3:

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Susie Kreitner
Nursery 10:30am: ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Miranda Rendleman, Megan Hart, Karen Hickerson, Ryder Hart
Kid's Church: Jack Ollenbittle

May 10:

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Marsha Anderson
Nursery 10:30am: ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Karen Harris, Kim Collins, Hannah Cline, Savannah Cline
Kid's Church: Jackie Parish

May 17

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Anna Drury
Nursery 10:30am: Sam Ollenbittle, LuEllen Job, LeAnn Parish, Carole Fredrick, Drea Vatole
Kid's Church: Pam Barry

May 24:

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Kelli Melton
Nursery 10:30am: Nate Hart, Ronda Jolly, Lisa Pedersen, Hannah Pedersen, Davis Bertels
Kid's Church: Jackie Parish

May 31:

Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Candace Stutz
Nursery 10:30am: Nate Hart, Chad Stutz, Sam Ollenbittle, Ed Kreitner, Rylee Hart
Kid's Church: Pam Barry

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

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.

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.

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.

SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING: Sunday, May 3 at 10:30am. We will be voting on the 2026/27 budget.

CHURCH PICNIC: Sunday, May 3 at Noon. Fried chicken & drinks will be provided by the church. Please sign up at the Next Steps table and indicate how many family members are attending and what side dish and dessert you plan on bringing.

CULTIVATE-WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Ladies, Join us on Saturday, May 9 from 11am-1pm in the church Fellowship Hall to enjoy lunch, continue a time of teaching/discussion on spiritual gifts, and prayer. Please sign up at the Next Steps table to let us know you're coming. Food sign up is optional for those who would like to bring food to share. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us!

PARENT AND CHILD COMMISSIONING: Sunday, May 10. At Heartland, we are committed to impacting the next generation with the Gospel. Part of that commitment is a promise by the church to provide resources to support families and a commitment by families to raise their kids in Gospel-centered homes. If you are a parent of a child of any age, who has never dedicated your child to the Lord or made a commitment to raise them in a gospel-centered home, talk with Pastor Alex or Pastor Wes about taking part in this commissioning service.

VITALITY WOMEN'S CLINIC BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN: This year's Vitality Women's Clinic Baby Bottle Campaign runs May 10 through June 21. Please pick up an empty baby bottle on Mother's Day, May 10 and return your full baby bottle on or before Father's Day, June 21. Thank you for your support of Vitality Women's Clinic!

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU): WMU meets on Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30pm. All ladies interested in national/international missionaries, studying God's word, and doing various outreach projects are welcome to join us.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION: Sunday, May 17. If you have a graduating senior that you would like to recognize please email a picture of your graduate to office@hbcalton.com by May 10. Please also include their full name, the high school they attended, and their plans after graduation. If they plan on attending college, please let us know where and what degree they will be pursuing.

NEXT GEN MINISTRY TRAINING: Sunday, May 17 from Noon-1pm. Please see Tammy Boren for more information.

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The June newsletter deadline is Monday, May 18. Please email your announcements to office@hbcalton.com.

AHG COURT OF AWARDS: You are all invited to the Court of Awards for our American Heritage Girls on Monday, May 18 from 6-8pm in the Sanctuary. Come celebrate with us! Please contact Miranda Rendleman if you have any questions.

AHG CPR/FIRST AID CLASS: Saturday, May 23 from 8am-Noon in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$50.00 per person. Payment can be made by cash or check. Checks should be

made payable to Bob Gale. Please sign up at the Next Steps table. If you have any questions, please see Miranda Rendleman.

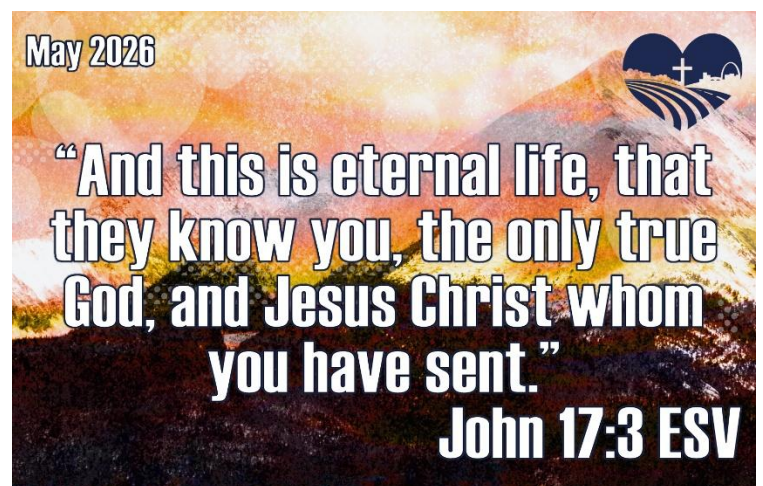
SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING: Sunday, May 31 at Noon. We will be voting on the Constitution & Bylaws revision.

CENTRIKID CAMP: July 13—17 at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO. CentriKid is for completed 2nd grade through completed 6th grade students. Please see Jackie Parish if you have any questions.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS: If you have not signed up to receive church announcements via text you are encouraged to do so. Scan the QR code or text "Heartland" to 618-268-7020 to receive church announcements via text.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday: 8:30am—3:30pm. The church office will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.



2	Samuel Condray	22	Holly Huggins
9	Matt Jolly	23	Alliy Huggins
10	Lisa Pimentel	24	Timothy Andoe
13	Eli Stutz	25	Sandra Stolz
18	Lyla Croxford	26	Thelma Ray
19	Alexis Hart	31	Ben Huggins
19	Alex Melton	31	Daniel Parish
20	Ryder Hart		

COMING UP IN JUNE

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION
Sunday, June 7

SUPER SUMMER-YOUTH EVENT
June 16-20

Church Staff

Alex Melton, Senior Pastor
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Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families
wes@hbcalton.com

Sarah Neuhaus, Office Coordinator
office@hbcalton.com