



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2025 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

I stumbled across a YouTube video of Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, who was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was shot down near Hanoi. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist prison. He was a leader among the Prisoners of War (POW) and was even considered a chaplain to the other POWs while also a POW himself.

One day long after his POW ordeal, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, “You’re Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!”

“How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb.

“I packed your parachute,” the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man, smiling and shaking Plumb’s hand said, “I guess it worked!?”

Plumb assured him, “It sure did – if your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform – a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell bottom trousers. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the Kitty Hawk. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said ‘Good morning, how are you,’ or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor.”

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn’t know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, “Who’s packing your parachute? Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day.”

Who’s packing your parachute...and who’s parachute are you packing?

We don’t necessarily have to move mountains or do something extraordinary. We simply need to be parachute packers for the people in our lives. We need to take the time with our actions that does something to help, love and support one another. We also need to take the time to acknowledge and give thanks for those who have packed our own parachute.

And we must remember that whether we are at the top of perceived importance like the fighter pilot, or working below deck and often going unnoticed like the parachute packer, we ALL have great value and we ALL have the ability to make a big difference.

The church is full of parachute packers and people who need parachutes. How will you find a way to serve at HPPC and beyond? May it be so.

Peace,

Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar September 2025

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
7	Ross	Elsa	Kathryn	Set Up: Elsa Serve: Elsa/Kandy
14	Ross	Luncheon	Kandy	
21	Ross	Anna	Anna	
28	Ross	Kathryn	Ann	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

June 2025	
Plate Income:	\$8,514.00
Expenses:	\$9,931.46
Total:	-\$1,417.46



Thriving through Prayer, Service & Generosity.

July 2025	
Plate Income:	\$5,145.00
Expenses:	\$9,113.98
Total:	-\$3,968.98

Thank you for your generous contributions as we continue to build for our future.

Food Pantry

As you give thanks for God's many blessings, please remember those who are hungry and in need. Your donations are greatly appreciated as we provide groceries to our neighbors.



Between August 5th and August 26th, 29 people received groceries.

A portion of the proceeds from the Holiday Market will go to the Food Pantry, but with the holiday season quickly approaching, the number of those served and in need will increase significantly.



SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2 Food Pantry	3	4	5 Int'l. Day of Charity	6 Hosea Eyob's Birthday Read a Book Day
7 Gus & Alyssa Laurel's Anniversary HOB	8 Gautham Singavarapu's Birthday Int'l. Literacy Day	9 Food Pantry	10	11 Joe & Elsa Aleman's Anniversary Patriot Day	12 Holly Balas's Birthday	13 Memorial Service
14 Gary Brizendine's Birthday Luncheon	15 Day of Democracy	16 Steven Navarro's Birthday Food Pantry	17 Shannon Spilman's Birthday	18	19	20 Charlie Eyob's & Alyssa Laurel's Birthdays Violin Recital
21 ASH Session Int'l. Day of Peace	22 Start of Fall	23 Food Pantry	24	25 Nat'l. Daughter's Day	26	27
28 Women's Group Nat.'l. Son's Day	29	30 T.K. Paisley's Birthday Food Pantry				



Kick back, start up the grill, enjoy some time outside, or stay home and enjoy a three-day weekend in celebration of Labor Day
SEPTEMBER 1ST!



Peace is fostered through education, discussion, and solidarity. Promote unity and oneness on International Day of Peace
SEPTEMBER 21ST!



Get ready for cooler temperatures and warmer colors as we say goodbye to summer and hello to fall
SEPTEMBER 22ND!



Church Happenings



August Session Highlights

- Doris presented the financial reports for June and July. The water bill has been high due to usage by homeless people. She has called the city to report it. Gary will put locks on the faucets.
- Alan will be preaching on August 31st, September 28th, October 21st, November 23rd and December 28th.
- Emily will be out from September 21st to September 28th for her relationship trip. She will also be out from October 10th to October 13th and from November 22nd to November 25th.
- The session reviewed the Wedding Agreement and Building Use Agreements. Rates will be raised, and the length of time for use will be changed. Henry and Karen will work together to make the changes and send them to the session when completed.
- The idea of having a “host” on-site during weddings and other outside building use was discussed. No decision was made. It will be discussed again at the September meeting.
- The Holiday Market will be held on Saturday, November 8th. The proceeds from the event will be distributed to our church outreach programs: Casa Marianella, Presbyterian Children’s Home, Micah 6 Food Pantry, our Food Pantry, and Mission Presbytery.
- The ramps and decking need to be replaced. Gary presented a sample that he made from treated wood. He will get an estimate for the use of composite decking and present it at the next meeting. Thank you, Gary.
- The Presbytery is offering loans for church improvements. Emily will provide information about it next month.
- It was decided to participate in Amplify Austin again in the spring. The cost to participate is \$200.00, but it brought in \$3,500.00 for the Food Pantry last spring.
- Esther graciously sent out 16 cards in July. Thank you as always, Esther.



Holiday Market 2025



It is that time of year again. Yes, as hard as it is to believe, our annual Holiday Market is only a little more than two months away! This year, it will be on Saturday, November 8th.

It is our only fundraising event, and for it to be successful, we need **EVERYONE'S** help. All proceeds go entirely to the community outreach programs we support: Casa Marianella, HPPC Food Pantry, Micah 6, Mission Presbytery which works both in our community and around the state, and Presbyterian Children's Home.

You ask, "How can I help?" There are many ways.

- Make handmade items to sell, whether arts and crafts, soup mixes, baked goods, or other individually packaged food items.
- Bring food and drinks to be served while guests shop, and kitchen supplies, or make a monetary donation to help purchase them.
- Donate a raffle prize and/or buy and sell tickets. Business connections you may have are a great way to get prize donations. Telling co-workers, friends, and family about the raffle is a great way to bring in visitors. The drawing and odds of winning fantastic prizes generates a substantial portion of our proceeds.
- Come early on November 8th to help with preparation, purchase items, and assist with sales.



Each of these small contributions makes a big difference in the lives of those in our community who are in need.

Additional Information

1. We will have updates on the exciting prizes included in the raffle as the Holiday Market gets closer. They typically include gift cards, designer handbags, TVs, and other electronic items, as well as gift baskets and overnight getaways, among other items.
2. The Holiday Market is advertised in local publications, and postcards will be mailed out and placed at other churches' Christmas Holiday fairs. If you would like to have some postcards to distribute, please ask Karen. They include all the details and are eye-catching ways that remind people to stop by and shop.
3. For information about the charities that receive benefits from the proceeds, please visit <https://www.hydeparkaustin.org/givingback/>. Some people do inquire.
4. Please let Karen or Elsa know how you are going to help with your time and talents, and feel free to ask for specific items needed as we get closer to November 8th.





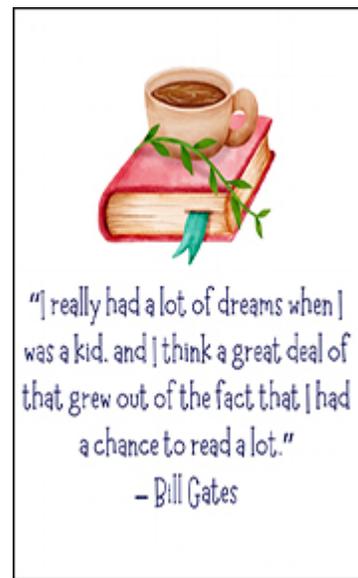
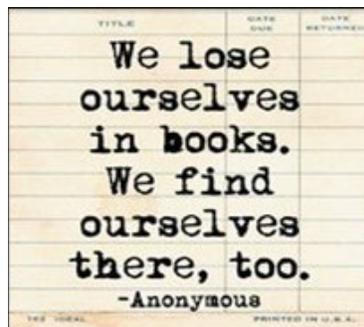
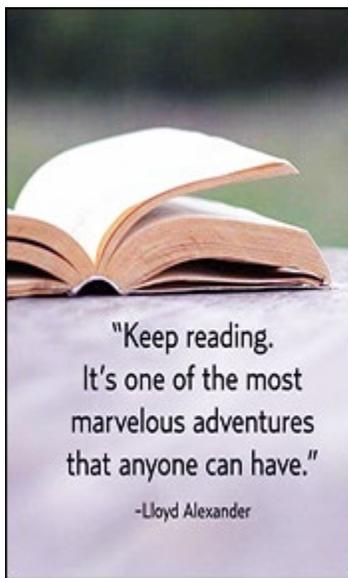
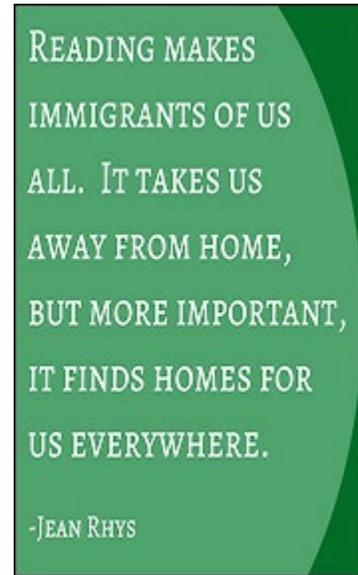
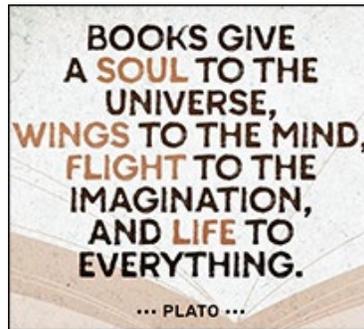
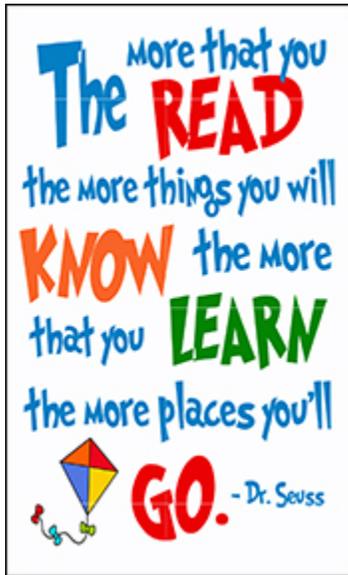
Let's Return to Reading



September is the time when we celebrate both Read a Book Day and International Literacy Day, yet books are scarcer as most of us turn to Google and other search engines for our primary source of information.

Among other things, reading opens our imaginations, builds knowledge, helps develop empathy and critical thinking skills, and reduces stress.

Below are some quotes about the enjoyment of an old-fashioned book and some of the things hidden between its pages.



Take time to turn a few pages and see where it takes you. After all, *"In the end, we'll all become stories."* - Margaret Atwood