

Monthly NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the HBC Newsletter!



We're so glad you're here. Whether you've been part of our church family for years or are just getting connected, this newsletter is a way to stay encouraged, informed, and inspired as we journey together as a family on mission. Inside, you'll find stories of God at work in our community, updates on upcoming events, and opportunities to grow and serve. We're excited for what God is doing in and through HBC this month!

To get in touch, please contact 08 8339 1243 or office@hillsbaptist.com

Jesus Glorified ◆ Lives Transformed ◆ Hope Revealed

Pastors NOTE

Beloved HBC family,

Last year our word was **Come and See**—and we did! Across our campuses, we witnessed Jesus at work through stories of gratitude, transformation, and faithfulness. From Christmas outreach to prison ministry, from hardship to renewed joy, God showed Himself faithful.

This year our word is **Consecration**—being set apart for God's purposes. Consecration is more than avoiding sin; it's living surrendered and intentional in every area of life. We begin with **21 days of prayer and fasting**, opening ourselves to God's presence and power.

In Term 1, we'll journey through **Exodus**, exploring what it means to be delivered to be holy, to live as holy ambassadors, and to experience holiness revealed in God's glory. This is not just Israel's story—it's ours. God calls us out of bondage, consecrates us for His mission, and invites us to walk with Him today.

Let's lean in together—through **Kingdom Life** (Feb 18), Alpha, Youth, playgroups, and Sunday worship—seeking to grow deeper with King Jesus and live as a people set apart for His glory.

I'm excited for this year of consecration. It may not be easy with change ahead, but God's presence, peace, and purpose remain the same. We are confident for a year of faithfulness and fruitfulness.

In Christ,

Nick van Ruth

Aldgate Campus Pastor





Come & See CHRISTMAS at Hills Baptist Church

The Christmas season at Hills Baptist Church was a joyful time, blessing both our church family and the wider community.

From the Stirling Pageant and Stirling Carols to the Lobethal Living Nativity, we were grateful for so many opportunities to share the hope and wonder of the Christmas story together.

We loved celebrating at our staff and elders end-of-year BBQ, a fun-filled Family Fun Day the Sunday before Christmas (see photos from our Aldgate campus), and gathering to worship at our Christmas Eve Carols and Christmas Day services.

It was also a gift to finish the year with our final Chat & Do and Playgroup gatherings.

A huge thank you to our amazing staff and volunteers. Your time, energy, and heart made this Christmas season so special for everyone.



Stirling CAROLS



Stirling PAGEANT





Family Fun DAY

Living NATIVITY

Staff & Elders BBQ

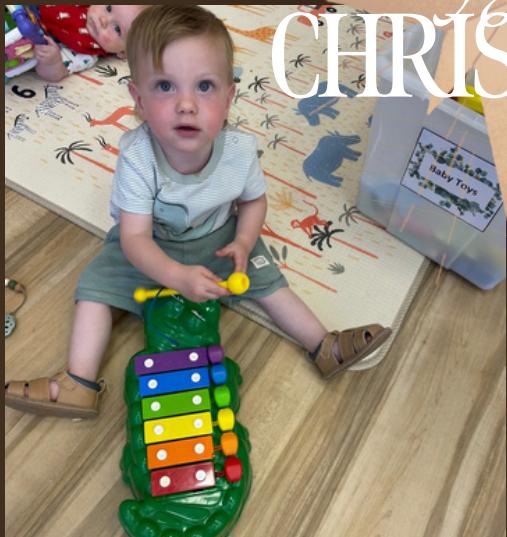


Christmas EVE CAROLS



Christmas Day SERVICES







PRAYER FASTING

21 Days

Sunday 25 January - Saturday 14 February 2026

If you've been around HBC for a while, you would know that at the start of every year, we call the church to an intentional time of prayer and fasting. As we begin 2026, we are setting aside 21 days from January 25 - February 14 to seek God together, to listen, to repent, to intercede, to be formed, and to open our whole lives before Him.

Fasting is, and always has been, an essential practice for the person hungering to grow in God. And we know that growing in our discipleship to Jesus is about so much more than knowing things about Him.

In the spiritual practice of fasting, we allow the whole self to humbly surrender before our holy God. We tune our hearts to the deep longing beneath every other longing: our desire for God Himself.

There are a number of additional prayer and worship gatherings that we encourage you to participate in over the three weeks and we've also curated this PDF resource to help direct and unify our prayers during this season.

[Download the Companion Guide Here](#)



ALPHA at HBC

**ALPHA IS A SAFE SPACE TO TALK
ABOUT LIFE, FAITH AND MEANING**

THERE'S A SEAT FOR YOU AT THE TABLE... BE OUR GUEST!

THE NEXT 9-WEEK COURSE BEGINS

**Tuesday February 3
at HBC Aldgate**

WHERE: 202 Old Mount Barker Rd, Aldgate

WHEN: Tuesday nights, 6:30pm - 9pm

Includes complimentary dinner & dessert

[More Info & Registration Here](#)



***Want to build a better,
stronger marriage?***

**THE NEXT COURSE BEGINS
Tuesday February 3rd
at HBC Mt Barker**

[More Info & Registration Here](#)



**Seven weeks of engaging teaching, intentional
private conversations with your spouse and
delicious, homemade desserts.**

What's On

More info at
hillsbaptist.com/whats-on

JANUARY

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Sunday 25	21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Begin	All Campuses
Friday 30	Hills Youth Begins	All Campuses

FEBRUARY

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Sunday 1	Hills Kids Begins	All Campuses
Sunday 1	Elders Commissioning	All Campuses
Tuesday 3	Alpha Course Begins (9 Weeks)	All Campuses
Tuesday 3	Alpha Marriage Course Begins (7 Weeks)	All Campuses
Wednesday 4	Seniors: Wednesday Walk and Talk	Verdun / Mt Barker
Wednesday 4	The HBC Way	All Campuses
Thursday 5	Boomers	Aldgate
Thursday 5	Dwelling Place Evening	All Campuses
Sunday 8	Tony Watts Lobethal Campus Pastor Commissioning	Lobethal
Sunday 8	Special Member's Meeting	All Campuses
Wednesday 11	Seniors: Wednesday Games	Verdun / Mt Barker
Friday 13 - Sunday 15	Young Adults Camp	All Campuses
Saturday 14	21 Days of Prayer & Fasting End	All Campuses
Wednesday 18	Kingdom Life 1 Begins (8 Weeks)	All Campuses
Thursday 19	HBC Internship Begins	All Campuses
Saturday 21	JNR YTH	All Campuses
Wednesday 25	Wednesday Worship	All Campuses

The HBC Way is a one-night short course designed to help you get to know who we are as a church and how to find your place to belong in our family on mission.

We'll explore our vision, mission, values, and kingdom priorities, share how we're structured and connected, and unpack what it means to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

You'll also discover practical ways to connect, serve, and step into the life of our community through Home Groups, courses, and more.

The HBC Way



WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 4



7:30 - 9pm



AT HBC
MT BARKER

KING DOM LIFE

FIRST INTAKE
BEGINS
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18

This 16-week intentional discipleship course provides a space for meaningful connection, biblical teaching, and Holy Spirit-led transformation. The first 8 weeks explore the nature of faith and the overarching biblical narrative, while the second 8 weeks focus on living out that faith in today's world.

Each session begins with fellowship and worship, followed by a 30-minute teaching, followed by small group discussion in huddles of 3-4, led by a dedicated mentor. Together, you'll reflect, pray, and commit to living out what God is speaking with encouragement and accountability throughout the week.

[More Info & Registration Here](#)

Meet JONTY SCHULZ

Can you tell us a little about yourself and your family, and what led you into pastoral ministry?

Steph and I grew up in the same family circles, but came to see each other in a different light during our university years. We got married in 2015 and have since had four kids and lived across a couple of states. Pastoral ministry was a call that I felt on my life from around about Year 10, and (in simple terms) it has been a waiting process for me (us) since then.

What first drew you to HBC, and what has excited you most about your new role?

Growing up at Aldgate Baptist Church, there was a familiarity aspect to HBC which was a drawcard, but also knowing that it is an established BCSANT church committed to developing leaders contributed as well. I've been excited by hearing people's stories and developing a deeper understanding of the framework HBC has put together to see His kingdom come.

What's one hope or dream you have as you look ahead to the future of the Church?

It is my dream that we grow towards fulfilling Jesus' prayer for us to be one. I appreciate that the complete fulfilment of this prayer is unlikely to be achieved this side of Jesus' return, however don't see that as a reason not to give it a crack!

Outside of church life, what do you enjoy doing to rest, recharge, or have fun?

I'm a big fan of the outdoors- camping, gardening, running, footy. We're talking a big resurgence for the Strath Roosters B Grade in 2026.

How can we be praying for you?

However you feel led by God is the simple answer, but one of the main things on my heart at the moment is to gain a deep understanding what God's up to with the HBC Mount Barker 4pm congregation and establishing relationships there.



Finance UPDATE

Overall giving is 1% above budget for the financial year. Giving towards the new building project continues from the all-in campaign, having raised \$31k so far this financial year, with interest on saved building funds contributing an additional \$12k year to date.

Our overall expenses excluding building project costs are 2% below budget YTD. This is very good as we prepare to borrow money for the building project as we are keeping to projected income and planned costs.

Thank you for your continued faithful giving.

Campus	YTD	YTD vs Budget
Aldgate	238,684	1.0%
Mt Barker / Verdun	435,787	-1.8%
Lobethal	91,635	16.4%
Total	766,106	1.0%



Want To Give?

Text: Text 'Give to 0437 883 102

Online: Credit Card or EFT at hillsbaptist.com/give

Cash: Drop in the box at a Sunday service

More from GOVERNING COUNCIL

Work is progressing on the Mt Barker Assembly Hall building project with KBGS. A few key topics underway:

- The loan application is in preparation stage.
- Voting to allow use of funds from manse property sale is planned for early Feb.
- Work on the MOU and Lease to secure funds is also in progress.
- Start of work on the ground is pending council approval

Come Work With Us

We currently have several exciting opportunities to join the team at Hills Baptist Church. Our Aldgate campus is looking for an Associate Pastor and a Young Adults Pastor, while our **Lobethal campus is seeking a Children's Ministry Worker.**

If you feel called to serve and make a difference at HBC, we'd love to hear from you!

[Find Out More Here](#)

a tale of two

Kings

13 - 15
february
2026

save the date



Attention HBC Young Adults (Age 18-30) ANNUAL COMBINED YA CAMP

This weekend away will be a time of intentional focus on God, having our hearts and minds refreshed and the opportunity to connect meaningfully with one another. A great way to start this new year!

Over the weekend, we will hear from Luke Austin and Dave Shepherd exploring the theme 'A Tale of Two Kings', in addition to electives, worship, small groups, personal reflection, and fun.

Good food will once again be a top priority, and our in-house catering team will ensure that everyone is well catered for.

We're excited to spend time with you all and have a joyful, memorable camp experience!



Mylor Adventure Camp



Friday Feb 13 - Sunday Feb 15

[Register Here](#)

Young Adults Camp KITCHEN HELP

This year, we will be building a core team of volunteers to work alongside Carolyn Grace in catering our Young Adults Camp.

We will split teams into two groups: one to cover breakfast and prep lunch, and one to cover lunch pack-down and dinner over those days.

If you can help with either the morning or afternoon shift, please get in touch with:

Carolyn Grace (Camp Caterer)
carolyngrace.gce@protonmail.com
0401 337 448

or Kate Jansen (Camp Coordinator)
kate.jansen@hillsbaptist.com
0478 069 259

Supported Missionaries UPDATE

Dave and Lil Barnett

Serving with Bible Society: Pitjantjatjara Bible Translation



[Read The Latest from the Barnetts](#)

Quiet Place RETREATS

*Step out of the traffic! Take a long,
loving look at me, your High God,
above politics, above everything.
Psalm 46:10 (The Message)*

ONE DAY RETREATS

Saturday March 28th

Saturday June 20th

TWO DAY RETREAT

Friday Oct 30 – Sunday Nov 1

CONTEMPLATIVE WALKS

Saturday May 9

Saturday August 8

Saturday September 26

*locations to be advised



Home GROUPS

[Find A Group Here](#)

Thinking About Joining a Home Group? Now's the Perfect Time.

As we step into a new year, it's a great moment to think about where you're planted and who you're walking with. At HBC, we love being one big family, gathering on Sundays to worship, learn, and celebrate as one church. But throughout the week, it's in our Home Groups that we truly do life together.

Home Groups are smaller circles where we can go deeper, grow in faith, and live out our discipleship to Jesus side-by-side. They're spaces to connect, care for one another, pray, study God's Word, and build the kind of relationships that help us follow Jesus more closely.

If you're looking to belong, to be known, or simply to take a next step in community, there's a group waiting to welcome you. Why not make 2026 the year you jump in?

We'd love to help you find a Home Group that feels like family.



Friday Mornings 10am-12pm
Mount Barker Church of Christ

*Bring your own craft or
join in with shared activities!*

IBC Playgroup

Wednesday mornings in Lobethal
Thursday mornings in Mt Barker
*During school term

Birth to school age

MEN'S SHED

Thursday and Friday mornings 9am - 12pm
293 Hawthorn Rd, Mount Barker

*Woodwork, Metal Work, Scrap Metal
and White Goods Collection*

**ART
CONNECT**

Wednesday Afternoons 1pm - 3pm
19 Victoria Road, Mount Barker

*A weekly social group creating
community through a love of ART.*



Reframe Peace

~~Conflict~~



Cultivating lasting peace in the workplace

with Dr Jonathan Andrews

'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.'

(Romans 12:18)

Working and relating with other people is often the hardest thing that we do.

Think of the person at work that gets on your nerves. Sometimes they use their speakerphone as if no one else is in the room. Other times, they seem to undermine every suggestion you make in a meeting.

How do you deal with that person?

Being an example of godly character in the workplace is easy when people get along and everything is going well. But that's not the consistent reality in most workplaces.

Come along to Reframe Peace, hear from Dr Jonathan Andrews (author, lecturer & clinical psychologist) and learn how to share the light of Christ and cultivate God's peace in the workplace, wherever you work.



Dr Jonathan Andrews

Dr Jonathan Andrews is a Clinical Psychologist with over 20 years of experience in private practice. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland. Jonathan is the author of 'The Reconnected Heart: How Relationships Help Us Heal'. He works for Heart In Mind, a practice where staff are committed to collaborating with their clients to see them recover and even flourish.

Reframe Peace

~~Conflict~~

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday 7 Feb 2026

Time: 8:30 - 12:30 pm

RSVP: Thursday 5 Feb 2026

Venue: Tabor College Adelaide
181 Goodwood Rd, Millswood

Cost:

\$38 Early Bird (by 23 Dec 2025)

\$48 Standard

\$38 Concession

Coffee & Morning Tea included

Register:

engageworkfaith.org.au/reframe-peace/



*The Lord is my shepherd, sometimes He makes me wait.
He makes me lay down unsure of how it will be.
He leads me to masses of paperwork and appointments
- I get very low.*

*He guides me to an advocate through a system like a maze,
who gently explains!*

Even so, a death valley opened up which was hard. It wasn't a parallel journey with anyone else, it was a journey on my own.

*My cries for help numbered 30 pages. Where could I go?
I was directed to prepare six small meals each day
while the food was rejected.
My efforts were unwanted.*

*My friends sent containers of food while I cried plenty of tears.
Awaiting the replies.*

*Surely your word would arrive: "this illness will not be to death"
You received me at your table while I waited for My Aged Care.
Your answer came by an official letter. My cup overflows.
You anointed my mind to think more clearly, I arose -
when the assistance came.*

*Surely the efforts of phone calls and paperwork were needed.
They solved my difficult days.*

*Thankfully I dwell in the house of the Lord. Not in my house,
forever.*

By Sheila Whittam

Are You FOLLOWING?



Ready for a
NEXT STEP?

- Join a home group
- Be baptised
- Sign up to serve
- Register for a discipleship course
- Become an HBC member

[Express Interest Here](#)



◆
Hills
Baptist
Church

