



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](tel:08-8339-1243) or office@hillsbaptist.com

Jesus Glorified ♦ Lives Transformed ♦ Hope Revealed



From PASTOR DAVE

Earlier this month, I had the great joy of spending a morning with our interns where we took some time to explore the theme of 'discipleship' in the Hebrew prayer books we call the Psalms. Of particular interest to us were Psalms 120-134, the Songs of Ascents, which the Hebrew people sang and recited as they made their way to Jerusalem for the major festivals unto the Lord.

Each Psalm speaks to a stage of the journey, beginning at Psalm 120 as they leave home and set off on their pilgrimage, and culminating at Psalm 134 as they find themselves at the Temple in the presence of God.

It's a long difficult journey, but one that is clearly worthwhile.

One of the interesting reflections that came out of the session was how the tone of each Psalm shifts the nearer the people get to Jerusalem. When asked why this might be the case, it was noted that the journey begins in isolation - one family of multiple generations setting out together - but ends in celebration with potentially upwards of a million people gathering together in unison to worship God.

It was also noted that as each family journeyed towards the same destination, their paths would converge and the travelling party would go from one family, to many families, to multitudes, all walking in the same direction.

As we spoke, we talked about the power of journeying together, and the importance of festivals. We talked about how festivals serve to create moments where people's paths cross with other people who live outside their everyday sphere. They create opportunity for interactions that can encourage us and inspire us and strengthen us as together we walk towards Jesus.

These festival moments were so important for Israel, as they helped to unite the tribes in their shared worship of the one true God and remind them that they were a part of something much bigger than themselves.

Festivals are important for the people of God.

And this is why we're hosting GATHERED.

Our prayer is that GATHERED would be a festival space for us. That once a year we might enter into an opportunity to do something beyond our normal routine. That we might drop our personal agendas for one weekend, to gather together for mutual encouragement, inspiration, strengthening and intercession. That we would embrace a reality that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves, giving thanks and praise to God for all He has done, whilst also petitioning God for a move of His Spirit beyond anything we have seen before.

This is the heart of GATHERED.

My prayer is not just that you would come, but that you would catch this heart and join us with praise in your lungs and an expectant spirit that God might just use you to encourage someone else along the road.

Bless you heaps

Dave Shepherd
Senior Pastor



One body
One family
One church

gathered.



Friday October 9 - Sunday October 11

A time to refocus on God,
reconnect with one
another and rediscover the
mission He's called us to.

Throughout the weekend, we'll share in:

- ◆ extended times of worship,
- ◆ teaching from guest speakers,
- ◆ prayer gatherings,
- ◆ topical elective sessions,
- ◆ fellowship with others,
- ◆ great food and coffee,
- ◆ an engaging Kids Program,
- ◆ HBO's Got Talent,
- ◆ and more!

HILLSBAPTIST.COM/GATHERED

[Find Out More!](https://hillsbaptist.com/gathered)

Have you seen our lineup of elective speakers?

WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING TO GROW SPIRITUALLY, LEARN SOMETHING PRACTICAL, OR BE CHALLENGED IN A NEW WAY, THESE SESSIONS ARE A CHANCE TO LEAN IN AND BE EQUIPPED.

001

Awaken



Brian Ambrose

002

Bringing Hope



Bill & Norma Osborne

to the Destitute

003

Creation Care



Sally Shaw & Josh Bogle

004

Finishing Well Panel



Luke Austin & guests

005

Making Decisions



Sheree Sullivan

in Life & Business

006

Mental Wellbeing



Simon Dent

and Gospel Confidence

007

Navigating the



Nick van Ruth

Digital World

008

Q&A



Michael Hands & Dave Shepherd

009

The Gospel Comes



Stephen & Karen Moseley

with a House Key

010

What Kinds of



Ian Dicks

Relationships are Fruitful?



Remember
how good
last year
was ?!



REGISTER NOW!





SUPPORT OUR HILLS YOUTH CAMP
SET APART 2026

THE
COURAGEOUS
GENERATION

SEPTEMBER 26 - 29, MYLOR

WE'RE CALLING ON OUR HBC FAMILY TO
HELP MAKE CAMP AN AMAZING
EXPERIENCE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

CAN YOU SUPPORT?

Sign up to pray
Help in the kitchen
Help set up or pack down
Provide financial assistance

[Sign Up To Help Here](#)

Quiet Place

TWO DAY RETREAT

Friday October 30 - Sunday November 1
Sevenhill Retreat Centre, Clare Valley

This two-day retreat is an opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and spend intentional time in God's presence. Through periods of silence, solitude, reflection, and shared community, you will be encouraged to listen to your Heavenly Father, deepen your relationship with Him, and experience afresh the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

[Sign Up Here](#)

ALDGATE WOMEN

Girls Night Out

PARTY GAMES EDITION





Global Week of 24-7 Prayer

6 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

At Hills Baptist Church

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Global Week of 24-7 Prayer. We sensed a stirring and a growing anticipation for all that God is doing in our community and across the earth, and we are grateful to co-labour with Him in prayer. One participant shared, "There's something so uniting about praying with others. As we met together each day, I experienced a new momentum and hunger. The more we prayed, the more I wanted to keep praying. I left our times together feeling so encouraged."

As we move forward, let's continue to pray with faith and expectancy. Do not give up. God hears every prayer, and His work continues as we wait for the outcome.

At King's Baptist Grammar School, Mount Barker

Last week the library turned into a prayer room for the Global Week of Prayer. Library lessons were flooded with prayer opportunities that were interactive and tactile. Children named their worries on a rock and left it with God in a bowl, they built lego replicas of the things they are thankful for and they covered a wall with prayers. From the ELC to Grade 5, prayer is a part of daily life at King's Baptist Grammar.





house to house





Verdun Houses

This year, our Verdun campus launched a new House System, creating smaller environments within our growing congregation where people can experience greater care, connection, and opportunities to serve. Already, the Houses have been building community through social gatherings, from lunches after church to the Green House bonfire (pictured here), while also serving the wider church family on a rotating basis through welcome, hospitality, and setup/packdown teams every six weeks.

We are incredibly grateful for the way our community has embraced this new initiative. It has been wonderful to see relationships deepen and a stronger sense of belonging develop across the campus. As we prepare for our move to Mount Barker at the end of the year, we are excited to see how God continues to grow and strengthen these House communities in the season ahead.



Building Project Update

Friday the 4th of September will be remembered as a momentous day in the life of our church family and it's partnership with Kings Baptist Grammar School.

Together with Melinda Cousins (Director of Ministries BCSANT), Don Grimmatt (KBGS Principal), and Darren McDonald (KBGS Business Manager), Angela Jolly (HBC Chair) and David Shepherd (HBC Senior Pastor) signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement that officially unites us in our shared mission in Mount Barker.

The preparation of these documents has been of significant importance, as they provide the missional framework for how we will work together. They also provide important protections around the partnership, so that in years to come HBC and KBGS may not stray from their shared Biblical value system and mandate of making disciples.

Along with the signing of paperwork, we're also excited to share that works are progressing quickly! The walls are up, the roof is on, and the structure is very quickly approaching lock up. All going well, we are anticipating handover of the facility sometime in mid-November., with worship services commencing mid-December.

Please continue praying for the project. God has been so faithful in providing this space, may we be faithful in giving it all back to Him.

If God is stirring your heart to give to this project, you can do that here >>

[Give](#)



From the GOVERNING COUNCIL

Governing Council met this month to discuss and deliberate on a number of important matters across HBC.

Work continues to ensure the logistics for Bollen Road are in place and that our Verdun/Mt Barker campus is ready to move to the new site. We have also recently reached the milestone of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Baptist Churches of South Australia & Northern Territory, Kings Baptist Grammar School and Hills Baptist Church. We praise and thank God for this partnership. Please pray that it will grow God's Kingdom in the Adelaide Hills beyond what we can imagine.

Work is beginning on our strategic direction for the coming years. Please pray for wisdom for Dave, the HBC staff team and GC as we discern where God is leading HBC.

Finally, Governing Elder nominations will open on 27 September 2026. Members will be emailed an information pack and nomination form, with hard copies available at each campus. Please pray for wise, humble and courageous leaders to be raised up among us in these Eldership roles.



Angela Jolly
Chair

Paul Grace
Treasurer

Ben Jarvis
Secretary

Nathan Sanders

Seb Wrangles

Adrian Francis

Finance Report

For this financial year our budgeted offering income is 5% higher than the previous year, which is a similar increase to the last few years and reflects numerical growth of members.

Our offering income for both July and August is a little below target, see table below.

We have recently made our first capital contribution (\$500,000) towards the new Assembly Hall being built at Mount Barker. Due to faithful giving over the years to the various building fund campaigns at both HBC and previously at Mount Barker Baptist Church, we were able to make this first payment with cash.

We still have some cash on hand which will go towards our next payment, as well as using our loan which has been approved, so we are all systems go to get to the finish line of the build.

Campus	YTD	YTD vs Budget
Aldgate	79,482	-1.9%
Mt Barker / Verdun	141,686	-5.6%
Lobethal	29,721	-13.9%
Total	250,890	-5.6%

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



Sock Knitting Workshop



What's On

More info at
hillsbaptist.com/whats-on

SEPTEMBER

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Saturday 19	Open Mic Night	All Campuses
Saturday 26	Quiet Place Contemplative Walk	All Campuses
Sat 26 - Tues 29	Set Apart Hills Youth Camp	All Campuses

OCTOBER

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Friday 2	Asking For A Friend: Young Adults Q&A	All Campuses
Fri 9 - Sun 11	Gathered Conference	All Campuses
Sunday 25	National Church Life Survey	All Campuses
Friday 30	Quiet Place Two-Day Retreat	All Campuses

NOVEMBER

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Saturday 7	JNR YTH In House	All Campuses
Saturday 14	Gig Night: Young Adults Camp Fundraiser	All Campuses
Sunday 29	HBC AGM	All Campuses

gathered.

Friday October 9 -
Sunday October 11

Regular Gatherings

FOR EVERYONE	RECURRENCE	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Sunday Services	Every Sunday 9:30am & 5pm Every Sunday 9:30am Every Sunday 9:30am Every Sunday 4pm	Aldgate Lobethal Verdun Mount Barker
Home Groups	Weekly at various times	All Campuses

GENERATIONS	RECURRENCE	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Hills Youth	Friday nights during school term	All Campuses
Boomers	First Thursday of the month	Aldgate
Seniors: Walk & Talk Seniors: Wednesday Games Seniors: Wednesday Worship	First Wednesday of the month Second Wednesday of the month Fourth Wednesday of the month	Mount Barker

PRAYER & WORSHIP	RECURRENCE	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Dwelling Place Evening	First Thursday of the month	All Campuses
Dwelling Place Mornings	Every Thursday morning	All Campuses
Intercessory Prayer	Every Monday night Every Tuesday morning Every Wednesday afternoon	Aldgate Lobethal Verdun/Mt Barker
Mens Prayer / Womens Prayer	Every Wednesday morning	Aldgate
Pre-Service Prayer	Every Sunday before the service	All Campuses

COMMUNITY CONNECTION	RECURRENCE	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Playgroup	Wednesday mornings during the school term Thursday mornings during the school term	Lobethal Mount Barker
FaithWorx Business	First Tuesday morning of the month	All Campuses
Mainly Music	Thursday mornings during the school term	Aldgate
Mens Shed	Every Thursday & Friday morning	Mount Barker
Chat & Do	Every Friday morning	Mount Barker

HBC will be joining the National Church Life Survey (NCLS).

On **Sunday October 25**, we will take time after our services to fill out the survey. Why? To join hundreds of thousands of voices to contribute to the most comprehensive view of church life in the world. This survey comes around every 5 years and gives the church, our denomination and the wider church insights into what God is doing in and through the church.

The NCLS gives our church a valuable opportunity to listen to the voices of each of our campuses, understand our strengths and challenges, and make informed decisions for the future. It provides a trusted snapshot of our church's health, vitality, wellbeing, and leadership, and helps us identify areas for growth. By participating, we can see how we compare with similar churches, contribute to the wider story of the Australian church, and gain practical insights that support our mission, discipleship, and leadership development for years to come.

**YOU CAN HEAR ALL VOICES
& TAKE TIME TO LISTEN**



**MAKE INFORMED CHOICES
IN MINISTRY & MISSION**



**FIND OUT ABOUT
ATTENDERS' WELLBEING**



**UNDERSTAND THE
HOPES OF ATTENDERS**



**TAKE STOCK OF YOUR
CHURCH'S HEALTH**



**IDENTIFY YOUR STRENGTHS
& USE THEM TO GROW**



**SEE HOW YOU COMPARE
TO OTHER CHURCHES**



**SUSTAIN & SUPPORT
LEADERSHIP PRACTICES**



**ADD TO THE PROFILE OF
YOUR DENOMINATION**



**INFORM WIDER
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY**





Hills
Baptist
Church

