

# SCENE



Safety at SH: Top from Clockwise - Safety Team members John Williamson and Kevin Pond at the front doors, Vic Smith watches the Cameras, Don Willock and John Shriver at North Entrance, Angel Lledo prepares to head to the parking lot.

## SH SAFETY TEAM

A SPECIAL THANKS TO JOHN SHRIVER FOR THE INFORMATION IN THIS ARTICLE. -EDITOR

1 Peter 5:2 "Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly--for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God."

In 2021 when John and Tricia Shriver first came to Surrey Hills, the first person they met was Vic Smith, who was head of the safety and greeting team at that time and John told him he would like to help. Almost four years later, John has established a comprehensive Safety Team Ministry system which reflects order and planning on his part. John and Tricia have a small business, Eyes & Ears Gun Training, in which they train individuals on Concealed Carry and Home Defense to obtain their Oklahoma CCW license. They have trained at least six men and women in the church family. On any Sunday morning as many as 8 men and women are in position to handle conflicts should they arise. Any safety team member who carries a concealed weapon is required to have a CCW permit. John has implemented an intense and ongoing training program in conjunction with Sheepdog Church Security, a training organization based in Minnesota, to ensure that team members are well equipped for various situations. The Sheepdog Church Security training includes Security Team Fundamentals, Active Assailant, De-escalating Disruptive Persons, Protecting Children from Abuse, Basic Use of Force Law, Arson and Fire Safety, Storms and Disasters, and Mass Trauma. Many church ministry leaders...

CONTINUED - SEE SH SAFETY TEAM CONTIUED

---

# KNOW YOUR SURREY HILLS FAMILY

---

By David Brainard

## FLAVITA HOFFMAN



There is not enough room in this entire newsletter to exhaust the reasons why to admire Flavita Hoffman. She is the epitome of graciousness. She is both soft spoken and outspoken. "My husband says I talk too much", she'll say.

But when she talks, people listen. She is in my GROWTH Group. Our leader, Bob Appenzeller, admires her for her wisdom. She is the only person I know who not only does the GROWTH Group lesson in her book in advance, but types out the answers and keeps them in a notebook complete with scripture references to back them up. She has journaled for over fifty years, has all those journals, and goes back to read them regularly. I appreciate the words of spiritual encouragement she sends to me as insightful emails almost daily. I'm sure she's not just sending them to me, but her personal touch makes it seem that way. She and husband Mark volunteer as chaplains at Mercy Hospital and are involved in many other community outreaches, such as serving as chaplains at the state fair. She is a talented photographer and takes beautiful pictures of nature and landscapes. She takes all the photographs for our newsletter and is involved in creative art projects. She regularly greets people with a bulletin before church. Flavita is an original. You should strike up a conversation with her sometime. That will be easy.

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. Doug Brown

On January 1, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson, soon to be inaugurated, wrote a now famous and infamous letter to the Danbury Baptist Association. Jefferson was responding to a letter sent to him by the church in Danbury, CT. The letter celebrated the election and pointed to God's ordination of Jefferson as soon to be president. The letter also highlighted Jefferson's already long service in the new nation. The letter's core was to seek Jefferson's position on the freedom of religion under his new administration. In response, and what has been cussed and discussed, Jefferson highlighted the First Amendment's protection of religious liberty, stating that it created "a wall of separation between Church & State." I call this famous and infamous because no matter your position on religion in the United States, this line is both encouraging and discouraging. Both sides of the spectrum want more and less to be said about this issue.

As we step into 2025, 223 years separated from Jefferson's letter, let's celebrate that we still have freedom of religion in the United States! Much good has been done in Jesus' name in the United States, and we should praise Him for that work. We give thanks for God's blessings on His church. While we are tempted to look back and see how things were, let's expect that God still has plans for us and new opportunities lie ahead. I also encourage us to be thankful for churches like the Danbury Baptist Association that are willing to write and defend the freedom to worship God without burdens and restraints from a government.

My prayer for 2025 is that we will make much of Jesus and make Him famous in all we do. That we will not be restrained in any way in sharing Jesus. I challenge you to use the freedoms that we enjoy to build a wall, a platform, from which we shout, "Jesus is Lord!"

## SH SAFETY TEAM CONTINUED

...and volunteers have participated in the Protecting Children from Abuse and some medical training. This next year John and Don Willock plan for more training and education for team members. Depending on funding, the team hopes to improve our camera system, alarm system and overall facility security. "When I first came here it took me more than six months to identify what the building layout was, and it is an ongoing process to know how to protect a facility with 18 entrances" John said. Team members like Ray Kitko do routine checks on the emergency lighting, fire extinguishers, AED's and he monitors the Kingsgate entrance most weekends. The Safety Team tries to monitor all events held at the church. During Vacation Bible School last summer, the Safety Team was able to locate and reunite a lost child with the parents. Most Sundays you will find Angel Lledo patrolling the parking lot. Sanctuary and Foyer safety is covered by Jason Austin, John Williamson, Kevin Pond, Greg Peters, Brandon McDonald, Stephen Graham, Don Willock and John Shriver. Vic Smith, Mark Hoffman and Ken Kamphaus are assigned to watch the monitor connected to the exterior and interior cameras on Sunday mornings while greeters Bob Regnier, Jerri Conine and Tricia Shriver know to watch for any unusual behavior. Wednesday evening activities are monitored by Don Willock, Stephen Graham, Greg Peters, Brandon McDonald and John Shriver. Youth activities are monitored by Courtney Keck. Firearm training is being spearheaded now by Don Willock and Steve Graham. Medical safety will be coordinated by Mark Hoffman, Jesse Blouin and Dan Harris. People involved on the safety team usually wear Safety Team badges and everyone is encouraged to get to know the team members. "If you see something out of the ordinary, Tell a Safety Team Member". "The safety team will continue to train and address any emergency," said John, "including Fire Evacuation and Tornado Safety, CPR, STOP THE BLEED, AED training, Protecting Children from Abuse within the Youth, Children and Nursery Ministries and intruders into the church." The Surrey Hills Baptist Church community can rest assured that they are being protected while on campus by a dedicated Safety Team Ministry.

ISAIAH 21:6,8 This is what the Lord says to me: "Go, post a lookout....and the lookout shouted, "Day after day, my Lord, I stand on the watchtower; every night I stay at my post!"

## NEWSLETTER IS ONLINE

The newsletter can now be viewed on the church website if you don't pick up a hard copy on the first Sunday of each month.

### A HUGE THANK YOU TO KRISTIN HULIN

She is doing the layouts for the newsletter in addition to her regular workload. Everything that is organized, graphic, and beautiful in the newsletter is because of Kristin's talent and time.

**We appreciate you,  
Kristin.**

-Editor

## CONGRATS

The Eagle Eye Editor's Award goes to Mark Hoffman who found two typos in the December newsletter. Mea culpa. Rusty and hasty eyes doing the proofing. I hope there will be no more awards given, but I am human  
SO...

-Editor

## GROWING DEEPER SPIRITUALLY

### My Father-in-Law

By Denise Willock

He was a large man, not obese, just tall and a man who would “fill the doorway” as my husband says. I remember him fondly; my husband remembers him as a hardworking, and faithful family man. Although he attended church faithfully in his younger years, he got away from church when his children entered their teen years.

My husband remembers when he was young an incident that affected his father greatly. The family was traveling and was involved in a head-on collision. My husband, Don, was unconscious and appeared lifeless. Don’s father cried out to God to save his son! And if God did, he said he would serve him the rest of his life. This probably accounted for his faithful church attendance when his children were young.

After Don and I were married we often visited his parents. Always, the TV was on and visiting was difficult as his dad seemed more interested in the TV than us. One day I told Don that I prayed that his TV would blow up. The next time we visited, lo and behold, the TV was out on the front porch. When we entered Don asked his dad about it and he reported that the thing just went and blew up! Of course, he had a new one in it’s place. Don told his dad what I had prayed, and he said, “So you’re the reason it blew up!” He didn’t seem too happy about it at all!

A while later, Don had a very upsetting conviction come upon him that if his dad died, he would not be going to heaven! Don prayed fervently for his dad, and remembering what his dad had vowed to God during the family auto accident years ago, cried out to God to save his dad, and he, Don, would take that vow upon himself.

Shortly after this, Don’s mom called and said we needed to come and visit! When we arrived, we were shocked, and yet delighted, to see the TV was off and Don’s dad was at the coffee table surrounded by a Bible and Bible commentaries studying God’s Word. This was a miracle of God’s grace for his dad, and Don continues to praise the Lord for his Dad’s salvation.

Don’s dad died about 10 months later. But joy and hope fill our hearts as we know we will see him again someday!

# SINGERS WANTED

Do you like to sing? Do you love to sing? What if all you can do is to make a joyful noise?

We are SING HALLELUJAH!, and we are looking for all of the above - people who love to praise our LORD in song! We would love for you to join our ministry in sharing old hymns with our church body.

There are plenty of scriptures about singing to the Lord, but one of my favorites is:

*"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands." Psalm 100:1 KJV*

We sing about once a month, and practice on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary. We even finish in time to eat dinner at church!

If you're interested, email [nbird@gmail.com](mailto:nbird@gmail.com), leave a message with Kristin, or just show up on Wednesday nights ready to sing!

## RESOLUTIONS FOR LIFE

In 1636 the Puritans founded Harvard, the first college in America. It had one degree program - Ministry. If you attended most of the colleges in those days you were training for one profession - ministry, and used one textbook, the Bible. Today the Bible is howled off the Harvard campus, scorned as a joke for weak and narrow minds, instead of being hailed as the ultimate source of truth.

In 1716 Jonathan Edwards, one of America's great theologians, headed to Yale College at the age of 13. (Thirteen? Was he a child genius? Well, yes. But there were no high schools then so a young man's choices were a trade or college.) Assessing how he wished to live his life (at 13!) he produced a list of "resolves" - what we call resolutions. (Recall what you were doing at age 13. I was shooting hoops in the backyard, wondering what was for supper. I wasn't making a list like the following:)

### **A Young Puritan's Code**

Resolved, (means "decided" - a form of "resolution") to live with all my might while I do live

Resolved, never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life

Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge

Resolved, ...to improve...(myself) in the most profitable way I possibly can

Resolved, to study the scriptures...constantly, steadily, frequently

Resolved, to maintain the strictest temperance in eating and drinking

Resolved, never to suffer the least motions of anger to irrational beings (one of my faves - any irrational beings on the road these days? Pulling into the lane ahead of you? Oblivious to their turn signal? Going 20 miles below the speed limit? "You irrational being," I mutter. Jonathan would be proud).

Resolved, after afflictions, to inquire what I am better for them; what good have I got, and what might I have got by them (Afflictions? My response is usually "Why did this happen to me?")

(Wow. There are 14 of these.) Note the word "Puritan" in the title. These days it is linked mostly with being narrow or closed minded. "Don't be so "puritanical." (Honestly, I don't see anything here I disagree with, do you?) Written over 300 years ago, Jonathan's words still offer good advice. (This list was in the first textbook I used in English class in 1977, and not in any edition since. If you are a young person reading this, I challenge you to come up with your own code. What are a few principles you would choose for life?)

-Editor



**"THE BEGINNING"  
OF THE NEW YEAR**

**This is the time of the year to start thinking about what you want to accomplish and how can you Serve Our Lord and Savior and be all that God wants you to be.**

"Listen my son; accept what I say  
and the years of your life will be many.  
I will guide you in the way of wisdom  
and lead you along straight paths.  
When you walk, your steps will not be hampered,  
When you run, you will not stumble,  
Hold on to instruction; do not let it go,  
Guard it well, for it is your life."

**Proverbs 4:10-13**

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
And your plans will succeed".

**Proverbs 16:3**

**Reaching people who need Christ**

Requires taking the gospel beyond the walls of the Church  
Share Jesus with someone this week!  
Invite them to Church

**God gave us the Tools & Resources**

If you want to be Stirred, Motivated & Challenged...  
Join us in the study of God's Word:  
In Our Worship Service, Classes and Bible Studies  
This is part of Walking with the Lord.

**"Christ is the Beginning"**