

# The Grove Echoes

## January 2022

HICKORY GROVE UMC  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
[www.hickorygroveumc.com](http://www.hickorygroveumc.com)



From My Perspective.....

Advent and Epiphany Greetings to you all!

As we come to January, we are at a time of looking back and looking forward, at the same time. In fact, the name of the month comes from the name of a Roman god, Janus, the god of beginnings. This god was represented by a two-faced statue, one face looking backward and one face looking forward.

As we look at January 2022, in many ways we find ourselves like that statue:



- We look back at a full year of pandemic and look forward thanking God that we are still here and able to move forward into the new year!
- We look back at rising food, energy and basic living expenses and look forward thanking God for making a way through that situation and allowing many of us to be in a position to stabilize our own situations and in some cases help others.
- We look back at Hickory Grove UMC at the concerns of 2021: deferred maintenance and leaks in many places; poorer attendance than we would like in our worship services; financial concerns over meeting on-going expenses; but as we look back, we see how God enabled us to take care of many of those things! Repairs were made to the gym roof; a new roof was put on the WeCare House; ceiling tiles were replaced in the gym; through the PPP loans provided by our government, we were able to maintain staffing – and those loans were forgiven! We do not have to pay them back! We were able to establish a relationship with ARC Ministries, Inc. that provides that ministry with a place to worship, grow and touch souls for God and provides revenue to help HGUMC work to achieve goals we have established! Though our in-person attendance is not where we would like it to be, The Word Of God is also reaching people through our Facebook Live and YouTube broadcasts of worship services from ALL Venues, even outside of Charlotte, NC! And all these things that God has enabled us to do, will carry us forward into 2022!

So, as we prepare to look forward, enter 2022, and celebrate the manifestation of Jesus the Christ in the World, let us look back realizing that though times have been tough, we made it through the power of God and will only continue to make it through the power of God.

Continued on page 2



**Hickory Grove United Methodist Church**  
6401 Hickory Grove Road ♦ Charlotte, NC 28215 ♦ 704-537-4686  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 2:30pm and Friday 8:30am - Noon



## From My Perspective..... continued

When we encounter troubles and tough situations in 2022, let's remember these four principles:

### I. KNOW THAT IT WILL PASS

We don't know how long our situation will last or what will be the outcome, but know that in God's time, it will pass. Put our faith and trust in God to show us the way over, around, through the storm, or just pray for the strength to wait out the storm.

### II. REMEMBER THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH

Too often, we try to handle it ourselves. Or we go to others for advice. We do everything but call on God.

### III. KEEP YOUR HEART FIXED ON GOD

Be confident in God, keep our hearts fixed on God's ability to handle the situation and be patient. One of our biggest problems is wanting to move too fast and too soon. Remember our source and who is in control.

### IV. PRAISE GOD ANYHOW

No matter what, praise God anyhow, If it takes a long time, praise God anyhow,

If things seem to be going wrong and not being fixed, praise God anyhow!

*Pastor George*

### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

Traditional Worship Service: 9:00 am, Sanctuary

Sunday School Classes: 10:00 am, various rooms

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am, Family Worship Center

Latino Worship Service: 11:00 am, Gym

African Worship Service: 12:00 pm, Sanctuary

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

February Grove Echoes  
Deadline ~  
Thursday, January 20.

### **Hickory Grove UMC Church Staff**

**Rev. Phyllis K. Coates, Senior Pastor** revpkc@bellsouth.net Cell: 336-508-0291 Parsonage: 980-430-5544

**Rev. George M. Coates, Executive Pastor** gcoates@hgumc.com Cell: 336-681-3440

**Rev. Precious Wilson, Assistant Pastor and African Venue Administrator** pwilson@hgumc.com  
Cell: 704-756-6553

**Rev. Candido Albino, Assistant Pastor** calbino@hgumc.com Cell: 704-995-2302

**Rev. Alex Kwiagaye, Minister of African Venue and Recreation** akwiagaye@hgumc.com Cell: 401-632-8068

**Andrew Cumbow, Music Director** acumbow@hgumc.com (*leave of absence*)

**James (Jim) Lowery, Organist** jlowery@hgumc.com

**Sharon Freeze, Preschool Director** preschool@hgumc.com 704-537-4686, Ext. 25

**Matthew Baucom, Maintenance** maintenance@hgumc.com 704-537-4686, Ext. 18

**Gail Reynolds, Office Administrator & Finance Secretary** greynolds@hgumc.com 704-537-4686, Ext. 11

# News



The Preschool Staff wishes you all a Happy New Year! We are especially grateful to be a part of the ministry here at Hickory Grove UMC. We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break after a month filled with 1) learning, practicing, and performing our Christmas program – “The Angels Are Here” 2) doing lots of art activities and making decorations and special gifts for our families 3) celebrating the real reason for Christmas, the birth of the Christ child, as we collected canned goods for the We Care ministry at our Birthday Party for Jesus. (We were so happy to collect 253 items for We Care!) It was a really busy month! In addition, we were able to place the order for the new playground equipment – see article below for financial needs.

As we settle into January, we look forward to returning to our regular monthly activities and our annual Pajama Day - yes, everyone gets to wear pajamas this day!

Our Bible Memory verse for January is “Jesus grew in wisdom” from Luke 2:52.

Happy 2022!

Sharon Freeze  
Preschool Director  
[preschool@hgumc.com](mailto:preschool@hgumc.com)  
704-537-4658

## **Playground Update**

The new playground equipment has been ordered! We are very excited about this and should find out soon about delivery and installation though it seems this won't take place until early spring. We have paid the 50% deposit and the remainder is due at installation. Can you help us reach this goal? Donations can be made through the church and designated for Preschool. Here are the numbers to date:

Total Cost of project	\$ 24,887.11
Collections to date:	
Contributed by Preschool funds and fundraisers	\$ 11,526.75
Trustees	\$ 2,500.00
Donations received as of 1/2/2022	<hr/> \$ 7,645.00 \$ 21,671.75
Amount Still Needed	<hr/> \$ 3,215.36

**Bible Study:** The church and the community are invited to an in-depth Bible Study on the book of John. This 12-week session will use the Disciple Bible study Invitation to John by Robert Kysar.

The group will meet in the Trinity Room of the Family Life Center on Thursdays beginning January 13 at 7 - 8:15 pm. You may obtain a copy of the study guide on your own or we can order one for you. It is available from Amazon or Cokesbury; there is a version available on Kindle for \$10. If you need assistance with purchasing a book, please let us know. The group members will commit to weekly preparation.

The group will meet each week to learn and discuss that week's material. There will be video segments shown each week that enhance the study. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you! Questions? Contact Tom Fox via email [thfox@windstream.net](mailto:thfox@windstream.net).



WeCare Food Needs:  
Bar soap, toilet paper, and  
canned pasta

The Food Pantry will be open on  
Saturdays, January 8 and 22.

**Funeral Stewards** ~ There comes a time in everyone's life when they lose a loved one and they must help plan a memorial service or celebration of life. During these services, Funeral Stewards at Hickory Grove UMC assist by greeting attendees, handing out service bulletins, and assisting the family and guests.

There is no known time for these services; but, volunteers who would gladly be available when the time arises are needed. A warm smile and compassion are all that is required.

Please contact Tony Russell at 704.502.7108.

**Room In the Inn ~ January 13, 2022**

[https://www.signupgenius.com/  
go/20F0E4DADA729A57-room6](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4DADA729A57-room6)

If you have any questions contact: Bette Miller  
(704)905-2312; bettemiller59@gmail.com

**The biography printed below** is from the notebook that contains the church cemetery list, biographies, and plot plans ~ The Eagle Scout Project submitted by Jamie Walters in 1983.

Jamie wrote ~ Each individual buried in the church cemetery was unique. My project was not an attempt to compile a history of each person, but rather an attempt to recognize veterans, community, and church leaders. A complete history would be beyond the limits of this project and would involve too much time and expense. Individuals wishing to add biographical information are encouraged to contact the church. Acknowledgements and special thanks go to: Miss Lila Mae Dulin, Mrs. Rachel ("Granny") Knotts, Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor and Mr. Marvin Wilson who provided invaluable information and encouragement.

### **Walter M. "Buddy" Baker**

W.M. "Buddy" Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Baker, was born on September 26, 1900. He was married to Daisy Noles, and was a church steward.

Buddy Baker was killed on March 26, 1930 when a freight engine crashed into the side of his gasoline truck at the Sixteenth Street rail crossing. "According to information from eyewitnesses at the scene of the crash, Baker was headed east on Sixteenth Street and halted when the engine of the Columbia local freight blocked the crossing. When this engine on the fifth track from North Tryon Street pulled off the crossing, Baker started on. The other engine on the sixth track hit the truck about the driver's seat, pushing it down the track and turning it over. The driver was pinned beneath the wreckage and the weight of the loaded truck, which had 500 gallons of gasoline on board, 'snuffing' out the life of the driver."

Mr. Baker is buried in plot 11

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From an undated newspaper article in the possession of Lila Mae Dulin, Charlotte, NC.

From the Finance Committee

	November 2021		November 2020
	General Fund		General Fund
Receipts	\$28,440		\$32,836
Expenses	\$40,803		\$32,957
variance	\$(12,364)		\$( 121)

	November 2021		November 2020
	Building Fund		Building Fund
Receipts	\$6,095		\$7,423



**Food Collection for WeCare**



**Christmas Program ~ "The Angels Are Here"**

**Memorials and Honorariums (received in the office 11/28/2021-12/31/2021)**

If we receive your donation after that date, the Memorial/Honorarium will be listed in the February Grove Echoes.

**Memorials:**

**Betty Cox**

Building Fund: George and Barbara Summerell  
WeCare & Snack Pack: The Prescott Family  
Snack Pack: Gary Little  
Snack Pack: Mary Martin  
Playground Equipment: Betty Nunn  
General: Cokesbury-Epworth Class  
Building Fund: Robyn and Paul Powell  
General: Glenda Sublett  
WeCare: Robert and Debora Cox  
General: George and Stacey Brennert

**Gene Nunn**

Snack Pack: Betty Nunn

**Todd Brown**

Snack Pack: Betty Nunn

**JoAnn McMurray**

Snack Pack: Jo Walters  
WeCare: Jeff and Channing Kirkpatrick  
General: Leah Baker  
Playground Equipment: Patty Smith

**Janice Martin**

WeCare: Jeff and Channing Kirkpatrick  
Playground Equipment: Patty Smith

**Jeff Robinson**

General: Kathleen Robinson

**John Dobbins**

Playground Equipment: Frances Dobbins  
Gym Roof: Wayne and Carolyn Depuy

**Neal and Shirley Carnes**

General: Wayne and Carolyn Depuy

**Honorariums**

**Jeff and Channing Kirkpatrick**

Snack Pack: Robbie Bost  
Snack Pack: Richard and Judy White

**Larry and Ruth Wood**

Snack Pack: Robbie Bost

**Kathleen Robinson**

WeCare: Robbie Bost

**Coy and Doris Shue**

WeCare: Robbie Bost

*Honorariums continued in the 2nd column...*

**Honorariums continued...**

**Evelyn Davis**

WeCare: Robbie Bost

**James and Virginia Parker**

Snack Pack: Betty Nunn

**Nancy Scerdy**

WeCare: Betty Nunn  
General: Cokesbury-Epworth Class

**Pete and Nancy Scerdy**

Snack Pack: Jean Long  
Snack Pack: Mary Martin

**Connie Wood**

WeCare: Betty Nunn

**Patty Marks**

WeCare: Jeff and Channing Kirkpatrick

**Richard and Judy White**

WeCare: Jeff and Channing Kirkpatrick

**Robbie Bost**

WeCare: Jeff and Channing Kirkpatrick  
General: Kathleen Robinson

**Frank Carbone**

General: Cokesbury-Epworth Class

**Jo Walters**

Snack Pack: Wednesday Morning Bible  
Study Group

**Tuesday Morning Study Group**

Playground Equipment: Patty Smith

**Joyce Dulin**

General: Cathy McCauley

**Dianne Locklin**

General: Cathy McCauley

**Jean Long**

WeCare: Ann and Jim Phipps

**Clyde Kiker**

WeCare: Jeff and Channing Kirkpatrick

*Donations from a previous month...*

**JoAnn McMurray**

General: Denny and Becky Baldwin

**Vivian Williams**

General: Denny and Becky Baldwin

**Rosemary Petty**

General: Denny and Becky Baldwin

**Harold Ballard**

General: Denny and Becky Baldwin