



# January 2018

## The Grove Echoes

HICKORY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SAM

**M**any of us do not like changes. For the most part we like things the way that they are. We also know that as we live, things change, and so do we. As we come to this Christmas Season, I remind us of the change that God provided for us in the birth of the Christ-child. In Jesus, God put on flesh and blood and became one of us. I mentioned changes because we are facing many of them.

First, December 22, 2017 was the last day that Elizabeth Hamilton served as the Administrative Assistant at Hickory Grove United Methodist Church. We are thankful to God for Elizabeth and allowing her to be with us for a year. We wish her well as she provides more care for her grandparents and await the birth of her first child.

Secondly, we began to interview candidates for the Administrative Assistant position. I understand that we have received close to two hundred applications. SPRC is taking our time in the process so that we may hire the right person. When we make the hire, we will announce who will serve as the next Administrative Assistant.

Thirdly, SPRC has hired a new Director of Music and Fine Arts. He is the current one who has been filling that position. We welcome Lance Burnette to the position. We thank God for Lance's gifts and for Lance using them to worship God in this place, and in this ministry. Early in 2018 we will begin

the search for an Associate Director who will assist Lance in the music ministry of Hickory Grove.

Finally, we are making some changes regarding our worship schedules. These changes will occur on Sunday, January 7, 2018. There will not be any changes with the Traditional and the Contemporary venues. The Latino venue will move its worship time to 11:11 and they will begin to use the Chapel for their worship. The African venue will move its worship time to 11:11, and they will move to the sanctuary. Besides placing us all on campus near the same time, it will enhance our educational and age-level ministries. We hope that you will invite and receive members from these venues into your Sunday school classes. Children ministry will begin to offer "Mini-Church" to students from kindergarten to third grades. This will take place at 11:30. Finally, we hope that youth from the African and Latino venues will join our youth ministry.

We have many changes occurring. I hope that you will pray for us and cooperate as we allow God to guide us through these transitions. They are different and I pray that God will use them to transform us into the Multi-ethnic United Methodist Congregation that God wants us to become.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Sam



NEWS &  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The staff at Hickory Grove UMC would like to express our gratitude for the generous love offering that was presented to us. We are blessed to serve such a loving congregation.*

**Church Office Hours**

The church office will be closed Monday, January 1 to observe New Year's Day.

**WeCare Food Pantry**

The WeCare Food Pantry will resume its normal schedule beginning Saturday, January 13 from 10:00AM -12:00PM.

**2018 Facility Reservations**

As we approach the New Year, please make sure to contact the church office to schedule any facilities you may need to use. Email the church office at [office@hgumc.com](mailto:office@hgumc.com) or call 704-537-4686.

**2018 Flower Calendar**

The 2018 calendar has been posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

**Sunday Morning "Mini" Children's Church**

We are excited to offer a new opportunity to our children (Kindergarten-3rd Grade) beginning this month. Contact Abbi if you are available to help with this ministry from 11:30-12 on a rotational basis.

**Children and Youth Sunday School**

Sunday School classes are offered for children 5-years-old through Senior High School. They begin at 10:20 AM and conclude at 11 AM. Please bring your children to participate in these classes. The knowledge they will gain about the Bible is invaluable. Questions? Contact Abbi at [awilliams@hgumc.com](mailto:awilliams@hgumc.com).

**Program Council Retreat**

Program Council Retreat will be Saturday, January 13 from 9am-2pm in the FLC with lunch being served for all those serving on Program Council committees.

**Confirmation Classes**

Confirmation Classes will begin for 6<sup>th</sup> graders (or any who wish to take them) on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> in the Confirmation classroom located on the second floor of the Education building. Jane and Rick Lail will be leading this class again this year! If you would like for your student to be a part of these classes, contact Abbi at [awilliams@hgumc.com](mailto:awilliams@hgumc.com) prior to the start date. These classes are designed to teach our students about their faith, about Methodism, and provide an atmosphere where questions are most welcomed!

**UMM Meeting**

The January United Methodist Men's meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28 from 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM in the FLC Trinity Room. Breakfast will be served. Wives and significant others are welcome to participate in the meal. We will discuss 2018 plans and participation in Trustee work days.

**Metro District Multi-Ethnic Conversation**

Sign up now for the Metro District Multi-Ethnic Conversation led by Dr. Mark DeYmaze and Rev. Stephanie Hand. Dr. Mark DeYmaze is the author of the book we are currently studying and discussing in our church wide, small group meetings. This session will be held at North Davidson UMC on January 27, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration deadline is 1/22/18. To register go to: <http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-3197221/Multi-Cultural-Multi-Ethnic-Conversation> or call Star Howell at 704-455-3089.



Welcome to the New Year! A new year with new opportunities and perhaps a new outlook on everyday life. December was jam packed for us as always with the Christmas season and all that it holds. The Children visited Aldersgate Retirement Community and sang Christmas carols with some residents. They also shared the Christmas story and candy canes. Our Youth had a successful fundraiser at Chick-fil-A on the 11<sup>th</sup> to raise support for their Summer Mission Trip to Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville. They sang Christmas carols around the tree along with the Chick-fil-A cow. We also collected cans for Snack Pack! Thank you to all who came out and shared a meal at Chick-fil-A that evening.

On Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM our children will be participating in the Celebration of the 3 Kings! Children should come with a shoe-box or similarly sized plastic container to decorate and fill with grass for the camels of the 3 Kings! Food will be provided as well as a reading of the Christmas story. This is a tradition of many Latino countries and we are excited to share it with all the children of our church!

We are beginning a new and exciting Children's educational opportunity on Sunday, January 7 during our 11:11 worship services. Children in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are welcome to attend **Mini Church!** This program will be from 11:30-12 noon on Sundays in the Learning Center located in the Education Building. We will be learning some music to

share in church services and some unforgettable Bible stories. If you are available and willing to help, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Following the worship services on Sunday, January 7 we will also be having a **Youth Group Soup Fundraiser** to benefit their Summer Mission Trip. We will sell Loaded Baked Potato soup by the pint in a container that can be reheated or frozen. Stop by and pick up some yummy soup for yourself and your family!

This year we will not be having a Sweetheart Banquet, but instead we will be having a Spring Banquet! Be on the lookout for more details as they become available. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this event which will benefit the Youth Summer Mission Trip.

Thank you to everyone who blessed our family at our Sprinkle a few weeks ago. We love all of the gifts, sweet words, and hugs that we were given. We are so blessed- so much beyond measure! Our little family also thanks you all in advance as we will welcome our new baby girl this month. Once we decide on a name, we will let everyone know! Until then, please be in prayer for us as new parents of two girls and feel free to come and visit us!

Happy New Year, everyone!  
Abbi

## P R E S C H O O L

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—"One Night in Bethlehem".
- 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.

It was a really busy month! 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 "Let the children come to me." Luke 18:16.

Happy 2018!

Sharon Freeze  
Preschool Director  
preschool@hgumc.com | 704-537-4658



## MUSIC & FINE ARTS

What a wonderful season of worship here at Hickory Grove during Advent and Christmas!! Many thanks to all of you who participate in your worship venue each week to bring your best and minister to all of us here at HGUMC.

I have to extend a special THANK YOU to those who participated in our cantata, *Sing Joy to All the World*. You all did an outstanding job! The attendance for the cantata was one of the best we've had in years. Thank you to those volunteers who picked up a neighbor and/or church member and brought them to worship with us. We are so blessed to have members step up when asked...and immediately respond!!

If you missed our 6:30pm Christmas Eve service you certainly missed out on the beautiful carols and candlelight, dynamic sermon and communion. We had a large crowd attend with many visitors.

As we usher in 2018 I look forward to the path God is leading HGUMC. As Sam mentioned, there's lots of changes happening. I hope you embrace those changes AND get involved. We can never have enough volunteers to serve as Greeters or Ushers. And the Choir always has open seats to be filled. Ask God how you can use your gifts for His ministry in your church.

Wishing all of you a very Blessed New Year!

Lance

*\*I hope you will enjoy the enclosed cantata pictures taken by photographer Ruth Mauldin.*

## A MESSAGE FROM MYER DAHN

Happy New Year Family!

Otee and I extend our greetings and hope you enjoyed your holiday celebration. As we celebrate the season, I want to update you on activities of the African Ministry. First, I want to thank you for your support during the African Ministry Musical Gala. It was successful. We raised little over 2,000.00 dollars. The amount raised is currently being used to upgrade our soccer field in preparation of our spring recreation activities.

The African Ministry will transition in the sanctuary beginning January 7, 2018. Members from the African venue are very excited as this will challenge members to enhance the ministry's outreach program.

Happy New Year!

Otee & Myer

## STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SPRC is very excited to welcome **Gail Reynolds** to the Hickory Grove family. Gail is the new Office Administrator/Financial Secretary. Gail is a native Charlottean and a graduate of UNCC. She and her husband Morris have a Pomeranian named *Lady*. Gail has been an elementary school teacher and church office administrator. She is a member at Durham Memorial Baptist Church and enjoys crafts and gardening. Gail is very happy to be at Hickory Grove and is looking forward to meeting everyone. Please introduce yourself to Gail the next time you are in the office.

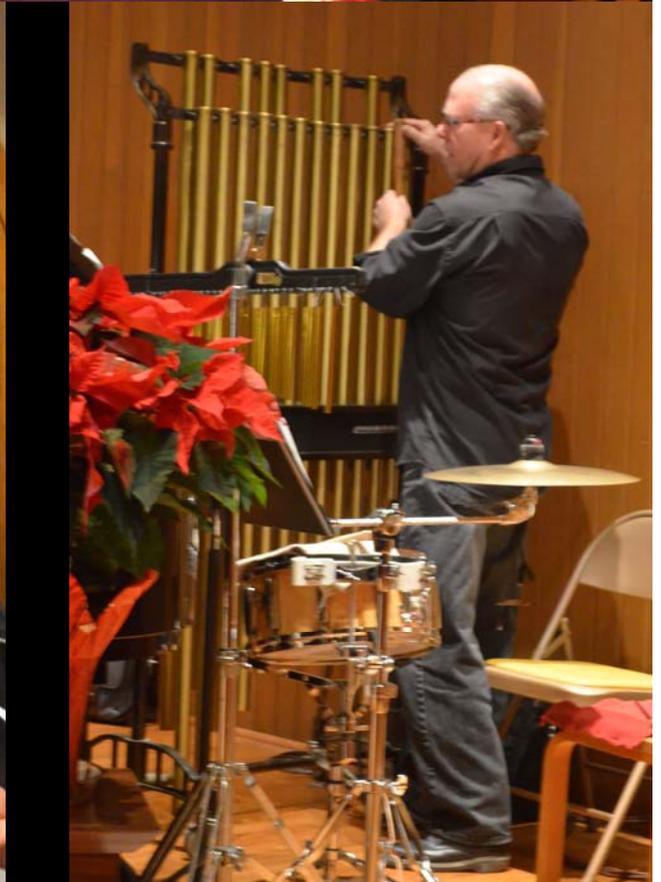
Dee Dee Edwards, *SPRC Chair*

# Christmas Cantata | Sunday, December 17, 2017

*Sing Joy to All the World*

by Lloyd Larson

— Special thanks to photographer Ruth Mauldin. —





HGUMC Committee Chairs and Committee members please save the date for the 2018 Laity Roundtable.

You need to register ahead of time for the classes at:

<http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-3197662/Metro-District-Leadership-Training>

**District Leadership Training—Laity Roundtable Seminars**

February 3, 2018 - BLAIR ROAD UMC (snow date Feb. 10)  
(9135 Blair Rd Mint Hill, NC 28227)

**Registration Deadline: 1/27/18**

Opening Worship: 8:30am  
FIRST SESSION: 9:00am -10:15am  
SECOND SESSION: 10:45am - NOON

**Please choose a different class for each session. Identical Courses will be offered at each session.**

- Staff-Parish Relations Committee (Rev. Mark Andrews, *District Superintendent*)
- Local Church Lay Leader (Jatana Royster, *District Lay Leader*)
- What is a Disciple Making Church? (Rev. Stephanie Hand, *District Vitality Strategist*)
- Finance (Rev. Dr. Mark King, *WNCC Conference Treasurer / Director of Administrative Services*)
- How to be an effective church leader (Rev. Dr. Terry Moore, *Senior Pastor -Weddington UMC*)
- Church Historian / Archives (Rev. Jim Pyatt, *WNCC Archivist / Historian*)

**Course Descriptions Coming Soon!**

Hope to see you there!

Star Howell, *Lay Leader*

Email: starhowell@gmail.com | phone: 704-455-3089

**KEEPING OUR CAMPUS CLEAN**

The first Tuesday that I was here, I attended the prayer breakfast. I noticed many things about it. One that stuck with me was what happened as it was ending. Someone said that crafts were meeting afterward and told the number of tables and chairs that were needed. Immediately, people began to do different tasks. Tables and chairs were put up; and other items that had been used were put back into their places. Everyone worked to get the space ready so that it could be used by those who were participating in crafts. Goodbyes were shared and people left.

As I met with others, mainly the Trustees, I discovered that we have an aging campus that needs a great deal of maintenance. I also discovered the amount of money that we, the Trustees, were paying to have the buildings cleaned. Not immediately, but after I had gained some trust from the Trustees and some of the members, I began to raise discussions about the amount of money we were paying for the cleaning of the buildings. Discussions were also held with those who were supervising the ones providing the cleaning services. Trustees also began having conversations with other janitorial services and receiving bids. We changed services in September 2017 at a reduced cost to the church. We are in the process of “tweaking” what our new cleaning service is providing.

As we improve, we need your assistance. Like the prayer breakfast did that first time I attended, we need you and your organizations to clean-up behind yourselves, and to put the spaces back into shape. If we strive to **leave spaces better than we found them**, we would all be doing our share to be better stewards of this property. If you come to a room that you have reserved and it is not clean, tell me!!! Do not put it on social media, or tell others, please tell me. I will stop what I am doing and I will roll up my sleeves and help you clean it. I will talk with our secretary and we will determine the last person(s) to use the room. If they paid to use it, they will have to pay a deposit to use it again and if it is not cleaned properly when they finish, we will not return their deposit. If it were a group from the church, I will speak with the leader of that group, and we will work with them on how they are to leave space. If it is an issue in which the Trustees need to negotiate with our Janitorial service about additional cleaning, they will do so. Remember that we are attempting to leave this space, all of these spaces, better than we found them. That is our goal and your assistance is needed so that we may be successful in reaching this endeavor.

Thanks,

Sam and the Board of Trustees of Hickory Grove UMC

# MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

## Memorials

Fay Barfield	<b>WeCare:</b> Patty Marks, Evelyn Davis
Gene Nunn	<b>WeCare:</b> Betty Nunn
Colleen Ligon	<b>General:</b> Betty Cox, Dick & Ann McCain, Becky Barnes, Floyd & Kathy Sistrunk
Gene Russell	<b>General:</b> Cokesbury Sunday School Class

## Honorariums

Kathleen Robinson, Evelyn Davis, Coy & Doris Shue, Dorthea Tewes	<b>WeCare:</b> Marva Moore
Robbie Bost	<b>WeCare:</b> Janice Martin
Evelyn Davis, Kathleen Robinson, Dorthea Tewes, Coy & Doris Shue	<b>WeCare:</b> Robbie Bost
Jeff & Channing Kirkpatrick	<b>Snack Pack:</b> Robbie Bost
Abbi Williams	<b>Snack Pack:</b> Sue Sasser
Jeff & Channing Kirkpatrick	<b>General:</b> Clyde Kiker
Ruth Perry, Gina & Mickey Patrick	<b>WeCare:</b> Betty Nunn
Sam Moore	<b>WeCare:</b> Fred & Bette Miller
Marva Moore & Robbie Bost	<b>Visitation Group:</b> Kathleen Robinson
Tony Russell	<b>Snack Pack:</b> Group Lydia
Tony Russell & Lance Burnette	<b>Sanctuary Sound System:</b> Beverly Miles
Sam & Marva Moore	<b>Room in the Inn:</b> Betty Nunn

## GIVING & ATTENDANCE

<b>Nov. 26—Dec. 17</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>Apportionments</b>
Goal	\$45,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$1,000.00
Received	\$46,060.55	\$9,067.50	\$805.00
Difference	\$1,060.55	(\$2,932.50)	(\$195.00)

### Giving

	<u>Nov. 26</u>	<u>Dec. 3</u>	<u>Dec. 10</u>	<u>Dec. 17</u>
Total Received	\$9,263.35	\$24,826.67	\$12,137.03	\$15,719.00
Received for General	\$7,163.85	\$17,686.67	\$9,432.53	\$11,777.50
Needed for General (Budget per week)	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00
Received for Building	\$1,202.50	\$3,728.00	\$1,789.50	\$2,347.50
Needed for Building (Budget per Week)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Specials	\$897.00	\$3,412.00	\$915.00	\$1,594.00

### Attendance

9:15 Traditional	97	88	103	108
11:11 Contemporary	52	54	56	71
African	59	73	95	97
Hispanic	56	72	50	81
Total	264	287	304	357
Sunday School	95	107	117	99

# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 Quilting Ministry	3 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	4 8:00 Golden Years 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice	5 6:30 Three Kings Celebration 7:30 Latino Venue Prayer Night	6 10:00 HGUMW
7 5:00 Youth Group 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	8	9 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts	10 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	11 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice	12 7:30 Latino Venue Prayer Night	13 8:30 Kairos Team Meeting 9:00 Program Council Retreat 10:00 WeCare Food Pantry 5:00 African Venue New Year Celebration
14 5:00 Youth Group 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed	16 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 Quilting Ministry 6:30 Preschool Board Meeting	17 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	18 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice	19 7:30 Latino Venue Prayer Night	20 8:00 Quilting Ministry
21 5:00 Youth Group 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	22	23 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts	24 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	25 7:00 Praise Band Practice	26 7:30 Latino Venue Prayer Night	27 10:00 WeCare Food Pantry
28 5:00 Youth Group 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	29	30 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 Quilting Ministry	31 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study			