



November 2017

The Grove Echoes

HICKORY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SAM

November 5, 2017 is a busy day in the life of Hickory Grove United Methodist Church. We will have completed the worship part of our Stewardship month and Revival. We will have completed the sermon series on our membership vows: Being Loyal to Hickory Grove United Methodist Church and supporting the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. If we have not done so before, during the worship hours on November 5, we will place our pledge sheets in the offering plates for 2018. I am praying that remembering our vows to the Lord concerning Hickory Grove United Methodist Church will help us to be generous.

We will observe All Saints Sunday during these worship hours. I will attempt to preach sermons which will celebrate the resurrection hope of the church as it relates to the members who died since November 1, 2016. As I write this, I am thinking that we have had many who have joined the church triumphant this year. We will also call their names, ring a bell, and light a candle in their memory during these worship services.

At 6:00 p.m. Myer will preside over his first Charge Conference as an elder in the United Methodist Church. He will guide us as we discuss the covenants of our district and Conference apportionments, elect officers for the 2018 years, and set pastoral compensation for the pastors of the Latino, Liberian, 9:15 and 11:11 venues.

November 5, 2017 looks to be a busy Sunday. I do not know about you, but for a while it seems that I have been doing more at the church than I have in the past. If you agree with me that you are doing more at this church than in the past, allow me to say thank you and I am doing all in my power that the work we are doing here exceeds busy work. I pray that it is necessary, meaningful, and has the ability to transform us into faithful disciples of Jesus.

Blessings,
Sam



NEWS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charge Conference

Will be held Sunday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlors.

Preschool Fundraising Night

Preschool will be having their first Bojangles fundraising night on Thursday, November 2 and will receive 10% of total sales between 5:00-8:00 pm that evening. You do not have to turn in a receipt nor tell them that you are there for the fundraising night on this one! All sales count toward our fundraiser. This will be at the new location on Albemarle Road near I485 between Rocky River Church Road and Blair Road. The actual address is 11420 Beaver Farm Road, Charlotte (though this doesn't appear on most navigation systems). We'd love to have your support this night!

Musical Gala

Join us on Saturday, November 4 at 6pm for a formal night of music, dinner, and fellowship sponsored by the African Venue as we raise funds to go towards gym and ballfield upgrades. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased from the church office. **Contact Myer Dahn for more information at mdahn@hgumc.com**

Family Feast!

Sunday, November 5 at 5 PM in the Trinity Toom we will have the Family Feast! This is for all children ages 3 years old through 5th grade and their families. We will share a wonderful meal together and learn about thankfulness. Each family member is to bring a can of pasta to give to Snack Pack as our mission activity! **Contact Abbi at awilliams@hgumc.com to RSVP!**

Snack Pack Chick-fil-A Night

Monday November 6 is our next SNACK pack Chick-Fil-A Night on Albemarle Road. It is going to be a little different than our usual CFA night. If you bring in 2 cans of chicken soup, you will receive a FREE chicken sandwich. So come in between the hours of 5pm and 8pm and fellowship with your church family and support SNACK pack!

Safe Sanctuaries Training

Sunday, November 12 we will have a Safe Sanctuaries Training at 12:30 PM in the Trinity Room for those of you who were not able to make the first training. This is for ANYONE who works with minors (anyone under the age of 18). This training is required every 3 years. Contact Abbi for more information at awilliams@hgumc.com

Home Made Pies

Just in time for Thanksgiving. The Pathfinders Class is taking orders for homemade pies 10/29 – 11/12 in the court yard. Pick up Sunday November 19 in FLC lobby. Pie types are Pecan, Pumpkin, Apple, Sweet Potato, and Coconut.

UMM

The November United Methodist Men's meeting will be held on Monday, November 27 at 7 PM in the FLC Trinity Room. Note that this date/time is different than communicated in the October UMM meeting. The program will be Elections and planning for 2018.

Hello Church Family!

First of all, a HUGE THANK YOU to all who participated in **Pumpkin Palooza!** We had a blast and a great time blessing our community and children!

Secondly, we have the **Family Feast** coming up on Sunday, November 5th in the Trinity Room at 5 PM! This event is for families with children ages 3-years-old through 5th grade. Please bring one canned pasta per family member to benefit our Snack Pack program. We are going to have yummy food and a great time of fellowship! A meal and beverages will be provided! RSVP if you and your family plan to attend to my email address at awilliams@hgumc.com by Wednesday, November 1st.

There will be a make-up **Safe Sanctuaries** training on Sunday, November 12th at 12:30 PM in the Trinity Room. This training is required for any adult who works with children under the age of 18 in our church. If you have not taken this training within the last 3 years, you **MUST** take this training on the 12th. Please let me know if you will not be able to attend.

Also on November 12th we will have a **Youth Parent Meeting** at 5 PM to sign any necessary paperwork for our Youth Fall Retreat coming up from November 17-19! Parents- please mark your calendars. Your students are required to attend this meeting with you. You should also bring a copy of your insurance card and the \$50 for the trip cost.

The Holidays are approaching so quickly! I pray you all are blessed as you prepare to celebrate with your family and friends.

- Abbi

P R E S C H O O L

Preschoolers have had a busy October and are gearing up for Fall! This month we will have our annual “We are Thankful” service project and new and gently used children’s books which will be given to our We Care ministry for distribution. The children continue to enjoy having Music classes, Bible Stories, and our Storyteller each month. We have also started a new monthly program that we’re calling “FitKids” which will focus on gymnastics, stretching, Zumba moves, and yoga poses. It won’t be long until we begin practicing songs for our annual Christmas Program – details will be in next month’s newsletter as we would love for you to join us!

Our first Bojangles fundraising night will be Thursday, November 2 and will receive 10% of total sales between 5:00-8:00 pm on that evening. This will be at the new location on Albemarle Road near I485 between Rocky River Church Road and Blair Road. The actual address is 11420 Beaver Farm Road, Charlotte (though this doesn’t appear on most navigation systems). We would love to have your support this night.

Family Pictures make great holiday gifts!

Christmas pictures will be taken on Tuesday evening, November 7 between 5:00-7:30 p.m. Proofs will be back before Thanksgiving so that orders can be made and final products received early in December. You will also be able to order digital prints. Contact Sharon Freeze to schedule a time for your family to come in. There is NO sitting fee for these photos and the preschool benefits from all orders.

Our preschoolers are starting to learn and memorize scripture. Our October verse was “Trust in the Lord.” (Psalm 37:3) and in November we will learn “Pray at all times.” (Romans 12:12). Please feel free to contact me for more information on any event!

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



MUSIC & FINE ARTS

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.”

As we approach November I am reminded of God’s steadfast love and provision he has for all of His children. We have just concluded our Stewardship renewal and I pray that each of us gives thanks for the blessings God has given to each of us!

I give thanks to all the people who make music possible in all of our worship venues. HGUMC is so blessed to have such talent. AND there are folks who serve behind the scenes running sound boards and slideshows on laptops (some simultaneously). We give thanks to these folks for supporting our worship experience each Sunday.

The Handbell group has had their first rehearsal...and what a “joyful noise” we made! We had several new ringers to join and look forward to seeing them blossom into seasoned musicians!

The Christmas choir continues to prepare for our Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 17th. It’s not too late to join. I have a book and CD ready.

Consider ways that you can plug into worship through Music or “behind the scenes” at HGUMC.

Giving thanks,
- Lance

A MESSAGE FROM MYER DAHN

Peace!

On October 14, 2017 the African Ministry observed the Massaqui Kotay Basketball Tournament. Massaqui Kotay was the Liberian businessman who was gunned down January of this year. The tournament also serves as an official kick off registration of the community outreach youth basketball fall activities. The event brought together teams from Atlanta, Georgia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Durham, North Carolina and Charlotte. Overall, the program goal was achieved.

On a different note, I would like to encourage everyone to support the African Ministry Musical Gala & Dinner scheduled for November 4, 2017 in the Family Life Center beginning at 6:00PM. Tickets are \$50.00 and can be picked up in the church office. Funds raised will go towards upgrading our gym and the recreation facility on Robinson Church Road. It is my hope that we will raise the needed funds to have repair work done on our recreation facility before our soccer outreach activities start in the spring of 2018.

In closing, I ask for your support. Please keep the Outreach Ministry in your prayers.

- Myer

A N O T E F R O M S A M

I am writing this at the beginning of the week. Like the past few months, this week begins following another week of busy, necessary ministry opportunities I preference these statements with this sentence so that if there is an edge to the statement you will forgive me.

At Hickory Grove we have some challenges. This is always the case when we are in communion with others. The challenges related to communication, cooperation, and living in community have the potential to cause us much harm. Therefore, we need to take some steps to transform these challenges into opportunities that lead to more effective and faithful ministries. On last evening, Sunday, I shared with the Program Council that we will set June 1, as a deadline to have these challenges resolved. I hope to have some if not all of them resolved before then. I always use the end of the conference year as a goal for completing major endeavors.

So as we move forward, I need your assistance. There are documents from your past that articulate the policy of this church. We do not all have the latest version of this document. If you have the latest version, will you allow Elizabeth to borrow it so that she may copy it? Secondly, if you are a leader of a committee or an organization of this church, I need some information from you. Will you please provide Elizabeth with your purpose, policies, meeting dates, and meeting times? I also ask that you will include Elizabeth in your communication with your members that state if you are having meetings and where you plan on having your meeting. Elizabeth will be better able to communicate with others the space that is being used. Finally, I will be asking the Administrative Council to provide a means so that we may revise the policy of the church and ways that you may assist us in this undertaking.

I need your prayers, your cooperation, and your assistance as we move forward in this time in our ministry. It is growing pains and they are expected. Our navigating them and doing so in the Spirit of Christ is what we are called to do.

Thanks,
Sam

L A I T Y S E R V A N T A W A R D

Sam honored to announce the two recipients from HGUMC that have been chosen to receive the 2017 Laity Servant Award.

Congratulations to Juah Roberts! She is the recipient of the 2017 Laity Servant Award for the African Venue. Juah wears many hats in the African Venue. She is president of the UMW, head usher, member of the outreach and evangelism team, head of the bereavement and hospitality team, member of the online prayer team and a member of the multi-ethnic cohort team. She carries the same commitment for excellence out into the Liberian Community. Juah is a member of the Liberian Association of Greater Charlotte where she helps with the Program Committee and the Bereavement Committee.

Congratulations to Steve Hagler! He is the recipient of the 2017 Laity Servant Award for the 9:15 and 11:11 venue. Steve was raised in our church. He has been active in UMM for over 30 years and has held several leadership roles. Steve and his family were instrumental in bringing the ministry, Room In The Inn, to our church in 2001. Steve remains an active supporter of this ministry by being a van driver, host or inn keeper. He has been an active member of the Emmanuel and Spirit Seeker's Sunday school class. Steve has ministered to prisoners through the Kairos Ministry: He has been a part of small group discussions with prisoners, worked in the cookie room, been the overall weekend leader, has served as the inside coordinator, has been part of the advisory council and faithfully attends monthly reunions.

Thank you, Juah and Steve for your dedication to church and community.

Star Howell, *Lay Leader*

Giving & Attendance

| Oct. 1—Oct. 22 | General Fund | Building Fund | Apportionments |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Goal | \$45,000.00 | \$12,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Received | \$39,120.79 | \$8,094.50 | \$3,464.00 |
| Difference | (\$5,879.21) | (\$3,905.50) | \$2,464.00 |

| Giving | Oct. 1 | Oct. 8 | Oct. 15 | Oct. 22 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Received | \$22,615.00 | \$12,949.69 | \$6,958.69 | \$8,652.89 |
| Received for General | \$18,331.50 | \$9,560.19 | \$7,831.32 | \$7,323.39 |
| Needed for General (Budget per Week) | \$11,250.00 | \$11,250.00 | \$11,250.00 | \$11,250.00 |
| Received for Building | \$3,238.50 | \$2,548.50 | \$1,407.50 | \$1,172.50 |
| Needed for Building (Budget per Week) | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Specials | \$1,045.00 | \$841.00 | \$1,567.00 | \$157.00 |

Attendance

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 9:15 Traditional | 96 | 98 | 95 | 90 |
| 11:11 Contemporary | 60 | 63 | 42 | 40 |
| African | 65 | 79 | 73 | 70 |
| Hispanic | 49 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Total | 270 | 290 | 260 | 250 |
| Sunday School | 97 | N/A | 175 | 100 |

The Christmas Season is quickly approaching. WeCare needs your help packing the food and clothing boxes for the families we will be helping.

We will provide a new pair of pants, a shirt, and a toy/gift to each child in addition to a coat. Each family will receive a food box.

The following are days and times we will be packing boxes starting November 6.

| Day | Hours | Contact person |
|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| Monday | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Kim Long |
| Tuesday | 1:00 – 3:00 pm | Susan Fox & Mary Wyant |
| Wednesday | 3:00 – 5:00 pm | Diane |
| Saturday | 10am – 12 pm | Kim, Mary or Susan |

November 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | 10:00 Book Study Group 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 8:00 Golden Years 6:30 Staff Parish 6:45 Christmas Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice | 7:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 8:00 Chrysalis Team Meeting 5:30 Musical Gala |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 5:00 Family Feast 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous | 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 Quilting Ministry 6:30 Staff Parish | 10:00 Book Study Group 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 10:00 Book Study Group 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 6:45 Christmas Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice | 7:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 9:00 UMW Craft & Bake Sale 10:00-12:00 WeCare Food Pantry |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 12:30 Safe Sanctuaries 5:00 Finance Meeting 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 5:00 Youth Group 6:00 Admin Council 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous | 1:30 Group Lydia 6:30 Group Tabitha | 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:30 Program Council | 15 Chrysalis Flight 10:00 Book Study Group 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 16 Chrysalis Flight 6:45 Christmas Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice | 17 Chrysalis Flight 8:00 Latino Prayer Vigil | 18 Chrysalis Flight 9:00 Quilting Ministry |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 19 Chrysalis Flight 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 5:00 Youth Group 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous | 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts | 10:00 Book Study Group 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 22 10:00 Book Study Group 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 23 24 Thanksgiving- Church Office Closed | 7:15 Stewardship Revival- FLC | 10:00-12:00 WeCare Food Pantry |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 5:00 Youth Group 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous | 7:00 HGUMW Executive Board Meeting 7:00 UMM | 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts | 10:00 Book Study Group 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study | 6:45 Christmas Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice | | |

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Memorials

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Marie Martin & Bailey Hamrick | Snack Pack: Jeff & Channing Kirkpatrick |
| Ginny Davis | Building Fund: Ernie & Kathy White |
| Ginny Davis | General: Denny & Becky Baldwin, Colon & Janice Hinson, Tommy & Mary Morgan, David & Martha Bunn, Bill & Sue Sasser, Larry & Dora Klaus, Cathy McCauley, Epworth Class, Glenn & Susan Bailey |
| Ginny Davis | Snack Pack: Betty Nunn, JoAnne McMurray, Janice Martin, Pat & Jerry Smith, Mary & Bill Magee, Nancy Williams |
| Margaret Bullard | General: Steven & Judy Selvey |
| Lucy Osborne | General: Betty Nunn |
| Kenneth Sasser | Snack Pack: Nancy Williams |
| Don Williams | General: Epworth Class |
| Chika Ukwu | General: Cathy McCauley |
| Don Williams | Snack Pack: Ruth Perry |
| Chika Ukwu | Snack Pack: Betty Nunn |
| Mamie Gray | General: Bill & Sue Sasser, Cathy McCauley |
| Mamie Gray | Snack Pack: Mary & Bill Magee |

Honorariums

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|---|--|
| Rev. Sam & Marva Moore, The Inspiration Choir, The Funeral Stewards | Sanctuary Sound System: The Don Williams Family |
| Betty Cox | Snack Pack: Roy & Susan Prescott, Debbie Cox |
| Cokesbury Class | Snack Pack: The Don Williams Family |
| Margaret Norwood | General: Epworth Class |