



October 2017 The Grove Echoes

HICKORY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SAM

I was in a meeting with Bishop Leeland in which he reminded us that Bishop L. Bevel Jones used to remind us to keep the main thing the main thing. I recall Bishop Goodpaster stressing that there needed to be alignment. What we attempted to do needed to align with our mission. So I write this article alignment or keeping the main thing the main thing are those things which I am thinking.

The main thing for any church should be helping its members to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. In the United Methodist Church, we say it this way: "We are making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world." We are doing our jobs when our members are loving God with all of their being and loving their neighbors as they love themselves. This is the main thing. We are emphasizing the main thing to the degree that we believe that God is calling us to be multiethnic in that the ministries that we offer and practice moving beyond our comfort zones. We are diverse persons who are of different ethnicities and cultures.



We also have different preferences related to worship styles. We worship God in Traditional, Liberian, Contemporary, and Latino venues. These preferences should not affect our walking, working, and serving together in other areas of ministries. So as we look for church leaders in 2018 we are needing leaders from our venues: Traditional, Liberian, Contemporary, and Latino.

We need representatives from all venues present as we plan, pray, participate, practice, and evaluate ministries. We need to be inclusive. This is difficult work. Yet, I believe that it is kingdom of God work. I believe that God gives us what we need so that we may accomplish this work. When members of the Nominating Committee invite you to serve in leadership, I hope that you will say, "yes". Your saying yes and your joining us in this work are ways that you may assist us in keeping the main thing the main thing.

Blessings,
Sam

NEWS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS

October Sermon Series:
Stewardship: Our Membership Vows

**Stewardship Revival: Friday, October 27 and Saturday, October 28 at 7:15PM
concluding with our 5th Sunday Celebration service on October 29 at 10:00AM.**

SNACK Pack

SNACK pack is up and running for another school year. We are in need of donations. A donation of \$25 a month can sponsor one child. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Stribling at 704-617-2520 or email at giraffe@carolina.rr.com. If you are in need of service hours, volunteering weekly to help SNACK Pack is a great way to earn service hours!

Golden Years

The Golden Years will meet Thursday, October 5 at 10:30am in the Epworth building. There will be entertainment and a catered lunch for \$7.50. Please RSVP by October 1 to Frances Dobbins.

Care 4 College

If you are the parent of a college student, please send Lari Procnier your student's updated mailing address as soon as possible. We are planning our first college care package for the year and want to include everyone! Also, consider joining our team to help make this happen! Email Lari at Lari.Procnier@gmail.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive

We will be hosting a blood drive for the Red Cross at the end of October. A sign-up sheet for interested donors will be in the courtyard on Sunday mornings after the 9:15 service, during Sunday School, and after the 11:11 service.

Safe Sanctuary Training

Sunday, October 1 at 5 PM in the Trinity Room. If you work with babies, children, or youth you must attend this meeting. People from all worship venues are encouraged to attend this special training. Even if you have already taken this training, you should attend for a refresher course. Contact Abbi at AWilliams@hgumc.com with any questions.

Trustee Work Day

The Trustees will have a work day in the gym on October 14. We will paint, do some plumbing, light repair and replacement and ceiling tile replacement. Please spread the word so that we can get a large group of people to help on that date.

UMM

The October United Methodist Men's meeting will be held on Sunday, October 22 at 08:00 AM in the FLC Trinity Room. Our program will be planning for Pumpkin Palooza on October 29 and a We Care work day on November 04. Breakfast will be served.

Pumpkin Palooza

Sunday, October 29 from 6-8 PM. There will be games, prizes, candy, Trunk or Treat, hay rides, hotdogs, popcorn and more! If you would like to sign up to have a Trunk or facilitate a game, please let Abbi know. The following donations are being accepted and bins are located in the FLC: bags of individually wrapped candy, small prizes, pencils and erasers.

WeCare Christmas Assistance

WeCare is now accepting applications for Christmas assistance. If you are experiencing a time of financial hardship and feel you need assistance with Christmas, representatives of the WeCare Ministry will be available to explain the program to you and help you apply on the following dates:

Sunday, October 15 from 12:30-1:00 in Parlor B for African Ministry and in the Trinity Room for Latino Ministry.

Sunday, October 29 following the combined service in Parlor B (This is the last date to apply for assistance.)

Hi Church Family!

Our new Wednesday Night Bible Study has started and there is still time for you to come on out and join us! We begin at 6:15 PM on Wednesdays and would love to have you be a part. Pastor Sam is teaching on *"leaving a legacy for those around us and those to follow"*, so you don't want to miss out!

Tuesday morning Bible Study will start back up on October 3. Contact Jatana Royster or Patty Smith for more information at jatanaroyster@gmail.com or sandgmom@carolina.rr.com. They will be studying the new Adam Hamilton Moses.

The youth will be traveling to Aldersgate on Sunday, October 8 from 3:30-6:30 PM. We will spend time with the residents, play board games and eat pizza! We will leave from the church parking lot promptly at 3:30. Our Youth Council has planned our Fall Retreat for November 17-19 at Cabins in the Laurel in the mountains! The cost is \$50/person. We will be learning about gratitude as well as having a Thanksgiving meal. If your student is in the 6th grade through the 12th grade and you would like for them to attend this trip, please contact me as soon as possible.

Pumpkin Palooza is coming up on Sunday, October 29th from 6-8 PM in the FLC, courtyard and parking lot. We will have games, hayrides, hot dogs, popcorn, Trunk-or-Treat, an outside movie, and much more! If you would like to sign up to decorate your car for Trunk-or-Treat or to facilitate a game, please contact me. Pumpkin Palooza will be happening on a 5th Sunday so we are hoping for a great turn out from our church and surrounding community! You are encouraged to dress up and get in the "spirit," but not if it will scare small children. Remember, this event is free for families with children and we want to bless our community by having this event!

Lastly, in case you have not heard yet, Andrew and I are expecting our second baby GIRL! We have already passed the halfway mark and Baby Williams #2 is set to arrive in late January. Ellie will be very excited for a little sister! We covet your prayers throughout this pregnancy and love how you all love on our little family.

Happy Fall, Y'all!
Abbi

P R E S C H O O L

We've completed our first month of Preschool and all is well! We really appreciate all of the prayers and support we receive from you. Here are a few things that are coming up during the month of October:

The Preschool will be responsible for the monthly **Chick-Fil-A night on Monday, October 9**. We'd love to see you there between 3:00-8:00. Please let the cashier (inside or at the drive thru) know that you're supporting the fundraiser and we will receive 20% of your purchase. It will also be a chance for you to meet some of our precious preschool families, introduce yourself to them, and invite them to church! We will have someone there face painting too! Hope to see you!

We would like to invite you to shop at our **Scholastic Book Fair** during the week of **October 16-20**. Book Fair hours are 9:00- 9:30a.m. and 12:45-1:15p.m. Monday–Thursday, 9:00-9:30 a.m. only on Friday. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to visit the Book Fair anytime during preschool hours. Books make wonderful Christmas gifts! The benefits of reading to young children are astounding! A child who is read to may learn to read better, think better, imagine more richly, and become a passionate and lifelong reader. Plus the benefit of spending time with a child, grandchild, family member or neighbor is priceless.

The preschool will be offering **Speech/Hearing Screenings** for 3 and 4 year olds on **October 11**. This is a FREE event. If you know of a child that would benefit from this screening, please let me know and I will be glad to get information to you for that family. Children do not have to be enrolled in our program to participate.

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



From R. Lance Burnette, Organist and Interim Director of Music

We are entering the exciting holiday season which includes several special services—one being the Christmas cantata.

Christmas Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, October 12 at 6:45PM in the Choir Room. This is the perfect opportunity for “seasonal” members to sing in a choral setting without making the year-round commitment. Mark your calendars now! We will present our Christmas cantata on Sunday evening December 17.

Handbell Choir—I have received feedback from several individuals interested in reviving this group. If you are interested, PLEASE contact me as soon as possible so we can set a rehearsal schedule. A common rehearsal time will need to be decided. *Music reading skills are recommended, although no prior handbell experience is required.*

Get involved and be a part of music in worship!

I can be reached via email at LBurnette@HGUMC.com or phone (704-517-6687).

- Lance

A MESSAGE FROM MYER DAHN

The African Ministry members are gearing up for the Musical Gala and Honoring Dinner scheduled for November 4, 2017 starting 5:30 PM in the Family Life Center. It is one of our major fundraising events for the year. Tickets are \$50.00. Funds raised will go towards upgrading our gym facility and the recreation facility on Robinson Church Road. We hope to raise the needed funds in preparation for our upcoming community out-reach ministry activities in the spring. Therefore, I encourage you to purchase a ticket - available in the church office. Please make your check payable to *Hickory Grove UMC*.

As I mentioned in my last Grove Echoes communication, the African Ministry in collaboration with the Liberian Community Old Timer Basketball team will host a one day basketball tournament in honor of the late Massaquoi Kotay on October 21st at 10:00 AM in the gym. Also, registration for the Youth Basketball program starts the same day. In order to implement our basketball community out-reach ministry, we need your assistance in the following areas:

- Volunteer basketball coaches
- Volunteers to run concessions
- Volunteer for team manager

Lastly, we ask that if you cannot physically assist, please keep the outreach ministry team in your prayers.

What do you do when you find yourself attempting to work with persons whose culture and ethnicity are different than you? If you are members of the workforce and your reward for working with diverse people is compensation on pay day, then you behave so that all of you are compensated. You work together and you cooperate. You focus all of your energy on producing the best products you can so that customers will purchase it and all will have job security.

What if it is not a job, but a vocation? What if one has received a call from God to be a member of a diverse community? This means that the product is to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Being a faithful disciple of Jesus means that one lives their life in such a manner that others want to become disciples of Jesus. This is the opportunity and the challenge that we have. We are Hickory Grove United Methodist Church. We are diverse persons who are attempting to be faithful to the calling that God has on our lives. We are diverse economically, socially, educationally, generationally, and ethnically. For the most part, we can navigate all of them safely with the exception of ethnically.

When I arrived, we had four congregations: Two of them were primarily composed of Anglo persons, one composed of primarily Liberians, and one composed of primarily Latinos. There are very few problems as long as these congregations remain segregated and do their own things. I am going to quote a couple of persons whom I love and respect. "When you pray you said... Thy Kingdom comes... Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...." The second one said, "Let me show you a more excellent way...." Yes, I am quoting Jesus and Paul. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus calls us to pray that God's kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven. I have not been to heaven, but I do not believe that it is segregated. If Revelation 7:9-10 are an indication of what heaven will look like, then it is not segregated. So, we do not wait until we get to heaven so that we may share in ministry with diverse persons. If we are waiting until we get to heaven, our waiting may cause us to miss heaven. Therefore, we do so now! We are able to share because this is what the Apostle Paul called the Church at Corinth to do. This is what God

through Paul is calling us to do. Love is the motivation, the inspiration, and the power that enables diverse people to work together in ministry.

How can we love someone if we do not know them? Yes, we may understand love as valuing others and we may resolve that we are going to value all people. We need to do this with all who are members of Hickory Grove United Methodist Church. I want to push us to do more. I want us to get to know one another. I want us to move beyond a casual knowledge of one of another in which we exchange pleasantries. I and the leadership of Hickory Grove want us to develop relationships that cross ethnicities, class, and the other walls that are built to separate people. I remind us that this is what heaven looks like. This is what we pray for when we pray the Lord's Prayer.

Participating in a small group experience with persons from all of our venues is a way that we intentionally move in this direction. We are completing our training of our first group of facilitators. They have selected members of their groups. Soon, they will be contacting you to invite you to be members of the small group. I am praying that you will accept the invitation and that you will participate with the understanding that you are doing God's will. I am praying that you will be praying for God to allow His grace to transform you and the members of your small group so that you will know that God has called you to embrace, to love, and to journey together with your brothers and your sisters who make up Hickory Grove United Methodist Church. If you are not invited for the first group, do not despair. There will be other groups forming and partnering with the grace of God so that this work of sanctification may occur. You will receive an invitation between September 2017 and April 2018. **We are a multiethnic United Methodist Church composed of traditional, contemporary, Liberian, and Latino venues. We are diverse people who walk together, work together, and share space together.** We are people who are allowing God to use us so that God's dreams for humanity may come to fruition. That the kingdom of God may come on earth as it is in heaven.

Giving & Attendance

Sept. 3—Sept. 24	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

<u>Giving</u>	<u>Sept. 3</u>	<u>Sept. 10</u>	<u>Sept. 17</u>	<u>Sept. 24</u>
Total Received	\$13,538.97	\$21,395.59	\$6,958.69	\$8,786.04
Received for General	\$9,984.47	\$16,703.59	\$5,103.69	\$7,329.04
Needed for General (Budget per Week)	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00
Received for Building	\$2,111.50	\$3,750.00	\$943.00	\$1,290.00
Needed for Building (Budget per Week)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Specials	\$1,443.00	\$942.00	\$912.00	\$167.00

Attendance

9:15 Traditional	94	102	90	97
11:11 Contemporary	59	58	64	61
African	78	64	97	93
Hispanic	51	62	50	43
Total	282	286	301	294
Sunday School	87	80	96	118

Memorials

Alton & Helen Butler	Cemetery Trust Fund: Marvin O. Wilson, Jr.
David, Martha, & Tim Dulin	Cemetery Fund: Leone & Anne Joyner
Jim Griffin & Alton Butler	General: Coy & Dorris Shue
Alton Butler	General: Epworth Sunday School Class
Margaret Bullard	Snack Pack: Bill & Mary Magee
Mamie Gray	Building Repair: JoAnne McMurray
Kathryn Culver Spivey	Snack Pack: Ron Spivey
Col. Charles G. Spivey, MD.	General: Ron Spivey

Honorariums

Kim Shafer	Snack Pack: Jeff & Channing Kirkpatrick
Sam & Rita Leggett & Maxine Wally	We Care: Mr. & Mrs. David Nance
Channing Kirkpatrick	Snack Pack: Susan Fox

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 5:00 Safe Sanctuaries Training 5:00 Youth Group 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	2 10:00 Moses Book Study	3 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:30 Preschool Board Meeting 7:00 Adult Choir	4 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	5 8:00 Golden Years 7:00 Praise Band Practice	6 7:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	7
8 3:30 Youth Group 6:00 Admin Council 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	9 10:00 Moses Book Study 6:30 Group Tabitha	10 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 Quilting Ministry 6:30 Program Council	11 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	12 6:45 Christmas Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice	13 7:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	14 9:00 Quilting Ministry 10:00-12:00 WeCare Food Pantry
15 4:00 Finance Meeting 5:00 Youth Group 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	16 10:00 Moses Book Study 6:00 UMW	17 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 Worship Committee	18 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	19 6:45 Christmas Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice	20 8:00 Latino Prayer Vigil	21
22 5:00 Youth Group 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	23 10:00 Moses Book Study 7:00 UMM	24 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 Quilting Ministry	25 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study	26 6:45 Christmas Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band Practice	27 7:15 Stewardship Revival-FLC	28 7:15 Stewardship Revival-FLC
29 10:00 Stewardship Revival-Sanctuary 5:00 Youth Group 6:00 Pumpkin Palooza 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	30 10:00 Moses Book Study	31 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts				

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

I am 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*

Make plans now to attend the **Reception to Honor our 2017 Lay Servant Award Recipients.** The reception will be held on October 15th, at 3:00 p.m., at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church in Mooresville, NC.

Reservations are necessary. Please call Star Howell, 704-455-3089, **before October 4th**, to reserve your spot.