

# The Hickory Rock Messenger

News of how God's Spirit is moving through the ministries and activities of Hickory Rock Baptist Church



## Easter Egg Hunt



It's time to hunt some eggs! And by "some" we mean "a lot." So invite all your friends and cousins to help us make sure we find them all. (Youth, we need your help hiding them!) The Easter Egg Hunt will be **Saturday, April 4, at 2:00**. We will have snacks, crafts, and egg-hunting areas for all ages. Rain or shine!

## Good Friday service

The Friday before the first Easter was when Jesus was killed on the cross. Because his act of sacrifice was so amazingly good, we call that day Good Friday. To help us have a properly grateful Good Friday mindset, we will attend the worship service at Duke Chapel that night. It will be a Tenebrae Service of music, prayer, darkness, and silence. Meet at Hickory Rock at 5:00, and we'll ride there together. The service starts at 7:30. Depending on traffic, we might have time to grab a bite to eat beforehand.



## Giving to Help Others

In March we collected enough supplies to make *31 Easter baskets* for orphans and children of inmates!

Thank you to everyone who donated items and put the baskets together. You helped give extra smiles to 31 kids this Easter!



Through the end of April we are collecting food items and paper products to send to both the Baptist Children's Home and also Care & Share. Place them in the box in the foyer.

Our Food Pantry is fully stocked, so if you know of someone who needs some food assistance, have them call the church and make an appointment, or let the pastor know that you would like to deliver some to them.

## Wednesday Adult Bible Study

The current Bible study series is "Picturing God: Images of the Old Testament." We spent months reading through the Old Testament, now we're looking at artwork inspired by it to help us engage with its stories, truths, and wisdom. We're using art from a giant, medieval-style Bible called the *St. John's Bible*. Come share what you see when you look in the images.



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## Kids News

### Bible Drill Begins

This year during the monthly Kids Church, to learn more about the Bible, the kids are doing a Bible Drill. They're learning the books of the Bible, how it's organized, and how to find verses to remember. It usually meets the first Sunday of the month, during the second half of worship, and Mrs. Sara is the drill sergeant. The next Bible Drill time is Sunday, April 12.



The Bible Drill will help the kids with their 100 Verses Challenge that's part of our 100th Anniversary plans. For each verse they memorize, they get a dollar from the Bible verse jar. And to help them remember it, they can repeat the verse later for a quarter. They need to check the bulletin board in the library to make sure all the verses they've memorized so far are up there.

### Wednesday Class

The Wednesday kids group is having a great time. Each week they add to their Faith Folders: what they talked about, what they want to pray about, and a memory verse for the week. It meets Wednesdays at 7:00. You can drop kids off or, better yet, join the discussion with the adults in Bible Study.

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## Youth Trips

Be praying for the group of students and chaperones going on the Youth Weekend Mission Trip, April 24-26, to Suffolk, VA. Pray for safe travels, great attitudes, and servant hearts to work hard at whatever our mission project will be.

Youth Camp is July 6-11. We are kicking our Camp experience up a notch by going to Passport: Missions this year, so the daily activity will be a mission project that helps others. Turn in a \$30 deposit by May 1 to go.



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## Anniversary Plans



This August, Hickory Rock will turn 100 years old! Help us celebrate by finding old photos: pictures of the church building, activities, and people who were members years ago. We can borrow them, scan them in the computer, then return them. Everyone is invited to help plan festivities, contribute stories, pictures, memories, food, and more. The next planning meeting will be Sunday, April 19, at 5:30 pm.

We're in the process of ordering new and improved t-shirts (\$10 each). If you have a specific size or color request, let Sharon know. (We'll order extras too.) Soon we'll have invitations available for you to mail to friends and family. August 2 will be Anniversary Sunday, with special presentations, memories, stories, and a lunch after.

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## Mudcats Ballgame

All ages and families are invited to go to the Mudcats baseball game on Friday, May 15. It's Church Group Night, and half of the ticket proceeds will go to local mission work. Tickets are \$10 a person for box seats. Meet at the church at 5:45 to carpool there. The game is at 7:00 with fireworks afterward. Give your money to the pastor by Sunday May 3 in order to go.



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There is a **Sunday School sign-up sheet** on the bulletin board in the new building. Look for weeks with a spot that needs to be filled, and volunteer to teach that day. There are open spots throughout the year for teaching kids, youth, and adults. Find a day to help out and for God to use you in a new way.

## Nursery Schedule



Hickory Rock loves kids, especially little cute ones! We are pleased to offer childcare for ages 5 and younger during worship. So whenever you see someone with kids, you can tell them that Hickory Rock has a great nursery with loving nursery workers! Below is the nursery worker schedule the next few weeks. If you can't make it on your day, simply find someone to switch with. (If you want to be removed or added to the nursery worker list, let Sara L. know.)

April 5 - Janet  
April 12 - Miranda  
April 19 - Robin  
April 26 - Sara L.

May 3 - Charlene  
May 10 - Jeanette  
May 17 - Kim D.  
May 24 - Linda  
May 31 - Sharon

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## Upcoming Events

*April 3, Friday, 5:00 pm* - Good Friday worship service at Duke Chapel

*April 4, Saturday, 2:00 pm* - Easter Egg Hunt

*April 12, Sunday, 11:30 am* - Kids Bible Drill

*April 19, Sunday,*

5:30 pm - Anniversary Planning

6:45 pm - Baptist Women

*April 24-26, Friday-Sunday* - Youth Weekend Mission Trip

*April 26, Sunday, 12:00 pm* - Coffee & Snack Fellowship

*Every Wednesday* -

7:00, Prayer & Bible Study (adults). Share prayer concerns, then explore the Bible and other spiritual issues.

7:00, Building Faith. All school-aged kids are invited to learn about God and have fun.

7:45, Choir Singing. Anyone who enjoys music is invited to come, sing along, and enjoy the fellowship.



*Want to know when things happen?  
Check the church calendar at  
[hickoryrock.org/activities/calendar](http://hickoryrock.org/activities/calendar).  
It's updated regularly, as our  
ministries form and move. Bookmark  
the link and check back often!*

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## A Word from the Pastor

I've been thinking a lot about floors lately. The one in the sanctuary has needed attention ever since the carpet started to wear out last year.

But now, after good planning and discussion, it's being made new. It will be ready and look lovely for Easter morning. As I type this right now, the new carpet is being rolled out next to me in the sanctuary, thanks to generous donations that helped us afford it.

A group of people worked very hard Sunday afternoon to pull up the old carpet. And even though I knew they had done it, it was still a shock when I walked into work Monday morning. Standing in the completely empty sanctuary was a weird feeling. It felt lifeless. It was too empty.

Not only was it empty of people, but it was empty of furniture. There were no pews for people to sit and pray. No altar table to place our offerings on. No pulpit to hear the word of the Lord proclaimed. And no choir loft to hear the songs of angels.

So I can't wait for the sanctuary to be full of life again. I want to see the warm smile of a friendly greeter welcoming people at the front door. I want to see an avalanche of hugs and handshakes during our worship greeting time. I want to see the kids huddled at the front, excited to recite Bible verses they've learned. I'm ready to enjoy the jubilant new life of resurrection on Easter Sunday.



A church isn't a building; it's a group of believers, a family of faith. And our church isn't our building; our church is us.

Maybe that's why I didn't like it when the sanctuary was so empty: Hickory Rock's people were not in it, and because it was so unwelcoming, we couldn't even come and worship. At least, not yet.



As I peek in again, I can see it's almost finished now. I'm glad everything will be put back soon and made ready for worship so we can fill this place up as a gathered church again. When we do, the good news is that our foundation is secure, physically and spiritually.

I'm told that our floor is really solid. There's not a lot of give in it. The oak hardwood underneath the carpet is strong. I don't know exactly how old it is-- 65 years? 95 years? And yet it still looks classy. Maybe it's strong because of its age, because it has been used by generations of good people and seen such good activity. And because its spiritual foundation is Jesus Christ--his life, example, and mission. We're on solid ground for sure.

But you know something silly? I like that the carpet got worn out, because it shows we've been busy. We don't just sit passively. We are moving, we are active, and we are worshipping. The more feet we can get stepping on the floors, the sooner this new carpet will wear out too. Call me crazy, but I hope there is so much walking and worshipping in here that we'll need some more new carpet before you know it.

Grace and peace,

*Stuart*

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**Start getting excited about these things:**

Family Fun Day Summer Kick-Off - June 6  
Vacation Bible School - June 16-19

Youth Camp - July 6-11  
Anniversary Sunday - August 2

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**"Wondrous Spring"**

by Faye Johnson

I stroll among the daffodils  
To catch a glimpse of blue.  
Remember the bird house,  
The hatchlings are due.

The house was cool in shadows,  
But sunshine splashed the door.  
Mother bird was in and out  
To feed her hungry hoard.

Spring again, it seemed to say,  
Smell the fragrant air.  
Time is never natural;  
We shouldn't have a care.

When shadows fall and fireflies dance,  
I love to sit outdoors,  
Feel the soft night falling,  
Remembering once more.

All the times of childhood,  
Around my mother's knees.  
Singing with my family,  
All God's blessing we've received.

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*The Hickory Rock Messenger* is published roughly once a month. To receive a color copy by e-mail, send a message to [info@hickoryrock.org](mailto:info@hickoryrock.org). If you would like to change your address or add someone to the newsletter list but do not have e-mail, simply call the office and leave a message.