

# The Hickory Rock Messenger

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



## Summer Assessment: Fantastic!

This summer has been so full of joy and activities, that we haven't had time to put out a newsletter. But now that summer is winding down, we are proud to report on all the great ministries that have happened and will happen.



We kicked off the summer in June with a cookout and then had a wonderful Vacation Bible School. The theme was "overcoming challenges with God's mighty power." With our VBS basecamp at the foot of Mt. Everest (technically the sanctuary), we hiked around to hear Bible stories, make fun crafts, sing silly songs, and eat yummy snacks as we learned about God's power to help us get through life and over obstacles. We even received each night's Bible verse map from a yak! We had 40 kids participate (not counting youth), over half of which do not come to church, so they got to hear and experience God's love in a new, special way that week.

July's big event was Youth Camp in Danville, VA. The teenagers and chaperones who went had an amazing time in worship, working hard on mission sites, and making a difference to further Jesus' revolution in the world.



Finally, on August 2, the church celebrated its 100th anniversary! Thank you so much to everyone who worked hard to make it a wonderful celebration (both that day and throughout the summer). And thank you to everyone who came and invited family. Only because we were all together was the time made so perfect. About 200 people came that Sunday, and the sanctuary was packed with friends old and new. We looked at pictures, remembered the great people of our past, told stories, and of course, had a great lunch. Here's to another 100 great years!

## Time Capsule

To cap off our month of history and heritage celebrations, during worship on Sunday, August 30, we will fill a time capsule to be opened in 50 years. To protect it from the elements and prevent deterioration, we will install it into the walls of the church, labeled for everyone to see and remember. But, with what shall we fill it? That's where *you* come in! Everyone is invited to write letters, jot down memories, make cards, or even draw pictures to place inside for our future members to read. You can use whatever paper, format, writing utensils, colors, and stickers you want, as long as it can lay basically flat and is not too big. (Or if it's oversized that it can be folded up flat.) Also, you're invited to bring pictures of your family from this year, so folks in the future can see what we/they were like in 2015.

## Old-fashioned Hymn Singing & Ice Cream Social

We want to have one last party before summer ends. So to continue our history & heritage theme for the month of August, on Saturday the 29th at 6:00 pm, we will have music and snacks. Brian Miller, a master pianist and expert in old hymns, will perform for us and lead us in some singing. (Bring your requests.) Brian is the band director at Louisburg High School and the organist at Louisburg Baptist Church. After the music, we will go to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy homemade ice cream. If you can make ice cream then please bring some. And tell all friends of any church that they are invited to hear the music and enjoy the snacks.



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## Children's Ministry News

### Blessing of the Backpacks

A new school year is almost here. So let us take time to encourage students, teachers, and administrators who are preparing for a new year by praying for them in worship. Every student of any age is encouraged to bring their backpack to church on Sunday, August 23, so we can say a prayer for them before school starts the next week. Teachers and staff are invited to bring their briefcases and workbags too.



### Bible Drill Begins



Throughout the year, the kids have reported to Bible Drill once a month during worship, working towards their objective of memorizing 100 Bible verses (representing our 100 years) by the time we fill the time capsule on the 30th. They have one more drill session left for Sunday, 16 August, 1130 hours, and they are nearing the drop zone. With a few weeks left, our latest reconnaissance puts the number of Bible verses in the high 90s, so they will certainly complete their mission. Well done, troops!

### Bible Jeopardy

The Wednesday Kids Class has been studying hard so they can do well in the Kids vs. Adults Bible Jeopardy showdown on Wednesday, August 26, at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to participate. The prize will be a field trip to something fun like putt-putt, bowling, etc. (No matter who wins, everybody can go on the field trip!)

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## Wednesday Adult Bible Study Topics

The current Wednesday night Bible study series "What's in the New Testament?" continues through August. The next series will begin in mid-September: "Looking for Jesus – Images of the New Testament." We've spent weeks reading through the New Testament; when we're done we will look at images to help us engage with its message, using pictures from a giant, medieval-style Bible. Come share what you see when you look at them.



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## A Word from the Pastor

I looked back at the church newsletter from a year ago, August 2014. There's an announcement in it that says this: "'On August 1, 1915, a meeting was held at Hickory Rock Academy for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church.' Thus begins the great history of Hickory Rock Baptist Church. And you know what that means? Come next August, Hickory Rock will turn 100 years old! That is cause for much celebration." And celebrate we did. In fact, celebrate we are doing, as we continue throughout August.

A year ago, during one of our monthly Coffee & Snack Fellowship times, I scattered cards and pens around the tables and asked church members to write down what they thought we should do to celebrate the 100th anniversary the following year. I still have those cards, with handwriting from elementary-aged to senior adults. So let's check back to see if we covered everything. Listed below are your ideas that we got done:

- cookout
- pool party
- inflatables to play on
- invite former pastors, members, & their families
- bury a time capsule
- period attire [I saw a number of bonnets, top hats, canes, and pocket watches]
- display old items and photos, with a slideshow
- Brian Miller sing-a-long
- have a sign-in book
- make a history of the church's founding
- everyone bring a food
- have 100 things to eat [I think we had more than 100!]
- a cake with whipped cream in the middle, and it be shaped like 100, with 100 candles  
[we had 100 cupcakes in the shape of "100," so hopefully that's close enough]
- watermelon
- 100 Bible verses
- list people buried at the church
- have fun

Yep, we covered all of those, especially the last one: have fun! Some of them we'll take care of at the end of August. But sadly, there were two suggestions we didn't get to: have 100 balloons, and have a tug-of-war. Oh well. You can't please all the people all the time. But since those were the only suggestions we didn't fulfill, I'd say we did pretty good. And it's still not too late for a tug-of-war.

So thank you all a year ago for your great suggestions. The ideas came from you, the work came from you, the food came from you, and the people came from you. Without you, there would not be a church here today to celebrate. But because of your presence, support, contributions, and work every week and every year, there is much to celebrate: 100 years and counting of lives being changed, souls being inspired, and help being given, all through the love of God that you show to people.

As our 100th anniversary celebrations conclude, let us not rest on our laurels and live in the past. Instead, as we recognize the people who worked before us to build us up to where we are, let us live for the future, and continue building this family of faith so that it can keep inspiring people through God's love for another 100 years.

Grace and peace,

*Stuart*

The Justice Fire Department will hold its fall fundraiser in conjunction with the Duke Memorial Tractor Show again this year, on Friday-Saturday, September 11-12. Grab flyers in the Sunday School rooms and on the foyer table. If you would like to help or make food, contact Thomas Denton.

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.)

August 16 - Linda  
August 23 - Sharon  
August 30 - Diane

September 6 - Ella  
September 13 - Kathy  
September 20 - Janet  
September 27 - Miranda

## Upcoming Events

August 16, Sunday,  
11:30 am – Kids Bible Drill  
6:45 pm – Baptist Women

August 23, Sunday,  
11:30 am – Blessing of the Backpacks  
12:05 pm – Quarterly Business Meeting

August 29, Saturday, 6:00 pm – Hymn Concert & Ice Cream Party

August 30, Sunday, 11:30 am – Time Capsule ceremony

September 20, Sunday, 12:00 pm – Coffee & Snack 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!*

*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.

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### "God's Holy Ground"

by Faye Johnson

She stands in the wind.  
Softly it seems to caress her.  
It holds a secret above the mist to show her.

It seems as though it's calling  
To follow in its way,  
For a great adventure  
To brighten up your day.

She finds a field of daisies,  
A brook that rushes by.  
Feels the mist of raindrops,  
Sees clouds go floating by.

Hear the trill of robins,  
A lamb call to its mother.  
Commune a while with nature.  
See one scene change another.

This is what she needed,  
The fellowship I've found.  
My heart is being lifted  
As I walk God's holy ground.

(If you would like to read more of Mrs. Faye's poems, you can order a book of them from Amazon.com. It is called *Poems by a Texas Flower*.)



The mission of Hickory Rock is to show our love for God through prayer, service, and fellowship, as we proclaim God's love for all people, encouraging them to grow in the hope, peace, and joy of Jesus Christ.

*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.