

# The Hickory Rock Messenger

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



---

---

## Harvest Day – Sunday, October 18

It is once again time for our annual Harvest Day celebration. The guest speaker in worship that day will be former pastor Luke Smith. After worship, there will be a huge potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. All friends, neighbors, and former church members are invited to come celebrate in a homecoming day, as we give thanks to God for the harvest of blessings we have in life.



---

---

## Yard Sale – Saturday, October 24



The weather has been uncooperative this month, forcing us to postpone the church Yard Sale twice. Hopefully there will be no chance of rain on the 24th, so we can have a big, successful sale. It is at the corner of Hickory Rock and Ronald Tharrington Rd. If you can help set up tables and items at 6:00 am, please do so. The sale starts officially at 8:00 am and goes till about 2:00 pm. If you still have items to donate, just price them, bring them by that morning, and put them on the tables. There will be clothes, toys, decorations, clothes, furniture, homemade snacks, and clothes! All proceeds go to local missions.

---

---

## Children's Ministry News

### Zoo Field Trip - Friday, October 16

We're looking forward to the big zoo trip on Friday. A big group of kids and adults will ride together and spend the day at the North Carolina Zoo, since the schools are closed that day for Fall Break. Pray for safe travel and fun times.



### Pumpkin carving - Wednesday, October 28

All kids are invited to carve and decorate pumpkins on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:00. The question is, will you make a happy pumpkin, or a spooky one??

---

---

## Coffee & Snack Fellowship – November 8



Don't miss our next Coffee & Snack Fellowship time: Sunday, November 8, right after worship. Invite friends who like tasty treats! It's a great time to catch up with folks, enjoy a muffin or cup of coffee, and just enjoy being church together. This will be our last Coffee & Snack Fellowship of the year, since in December, we will have a Christmas lunch after worship on December 20th.

## Wednesday Adult Bible Study Topics

The current Wednesday night Bible study series "Looking for Jesus - Images of the New Testament" continues through the end of October. After that, future study series will be "What Does It Mean to Be Baptist," "Understanding Islam," and "We Support Missions."

---

---

## Community Thanksgiving Worship

This year, the Thanksgiving service with other churches in our community will be Sunday, November 22, 6:00 pm, at Centerville Baptist Church. There will be a food and fellowship time afterward. All Hickory Rockers are invited to attend, worship with our church neighbors, and give thanks as a community.

---

---

## A Word from the Pastor

I usually don't like surprises, but on a recent Sunday, I didn't mind the surprise I got. The kids were helping to lead worship that day, and before the opening prayer, Steve Johnson stepped up to the pulpit. I know Steve's a big kid at heart, but we had already assigned the prayer to someone else, so why was he pushing his way to the pulpit?



Turns out, it was Pastor Appreciation Day that day. Who knew?? Well, apparently everyone did except for me. Steve gave me a nice card on behalf of the church, and said that the church appreciated the work I do. It was such a touching surprise, I didn't know what to say. That Hickory Rockers would be generous and thankful didn't surprise me, for you are a generous and thankful bunch. But whenever I am on the receiving end of your generosity and thanks, I am then at a loss for words.

Despite being surprised on Sunday, I think I was still able to mention that whenever people ask me how my job is going at Hickory Rock, I tell them, "I'm thankful every day." And indeed I am. Whether it's looking someone in the eyes while they are in a hospital bed, straightening the hymnals in the sanctuary as the sun shines quietly through the stained glass, fielding great faith questions from our kids, encouraging people in their amazing spiritual growth, or just watching the wind blow the trees outside the office window, I am thankful. That's why, when someone finds out I'm a pastor and asks what church I'm at, I always say, "I get to be the pastor of Hickory Rock Baptist Church," because to me it's a privilege.

Ministry itself is a privilege, given that a group of people hires you to share life with them, guiding and blessing them along the way. And ministry at Hickory Rock is an added privilege, because you all are just so darn nice!

I'll let you in on a pastor secret. (Don't tell the other pastors I told you, or they'll kick me out of their club.) Although ministry is a unique job, it's still a job, and anyone who has a job regularly complains about their job; pastors are no different. When a bunch of pastors get together, it doesn't take long before the complaining starts. And much of it is very warranted. Some pastors have to put up with a lot in their congregations. (I think we've all heard stories of unpleasanties that have happened in churches.) So when they share their church troubles with me, my heart goes out to them because it sounds very difficult and stressful. But then my next thought is, "Boy, I'm thankful to be at Hickory Rock!" We are a place that loves one another, seeks God, follows Jesus, and serves others. And we have fun doing it.

A quick check of NationalDayCalendar.com tells me that Pastor Appreciation Day is an annual thing, on the second Sunday of October every year. This year, it occurred right after National Angel Food Cake Day, which I regret not celebrating, and it kicked off National Chestnut Week. The following Sunday, conveniently on our Harvest Day, is also National Chocolate Cupcake Day. (Note to self: don't forget to celebrate!!) So, if the second Sunday in October is Pastor Appreciation Day, then I think the Monday after it should be Congregation Appreciation Day. I know that I appreciate you, and I know that the people we bless appreciate you: families who receive food that you donate, kids who get Christmas toys, students who get school supplies, missionaries who receive funds, and many more.

So keep up the good work, and know that you are appreciated, by myself and many others.

Grace and peace,

*Stuart*

---

---

## 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.)

October 18 - Charlene  
October 25 - Jeanette  
November 1 - Kim D.

November 8 - Linda  
November 15- Sharon  
November 22 - Diane  
November 29 - Ella

---

---

## Upcoming Events

October 16, Friday, 8:00 am - Zoo field trip

October 18, Sunday, 11:00 am - Harvest Day worship & lunch

October 24, Saturday, 8:00 am (setup 6:00) - Yard Sale

October 28, Wednesday, 7:00 pm - Pumpkin carving

November 8, Sunday, 12:00 pm - Coffee & Snack Fellowship

November 15, Sunday, 6:45 pm - Baptist Women

November 22, Sunday, 6:00 pm - Community Thanksgiving worship (Centerville Baptist)

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.



---

---

## "Shadows of Thoughts"

by Faye Johnson

Hills of home may beckon,  
Of days and times known there.  
They lie softly and tempt you,  
Speak things as light as air.

Memories often linger,  
Lovely wisps that float away,  
Come again tomorrow,  
To wile away your day.

Yet somewhere there's a garden,  
Sweet with blossoms fair.  
Bright shadows kept forever,  
In the thoughts of yesteryear.

(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*.)

---

To receive a color copy of *The Hickory Rock Messenger* 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, call the office and leave a message.