

The Hickory Rock Messenger

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



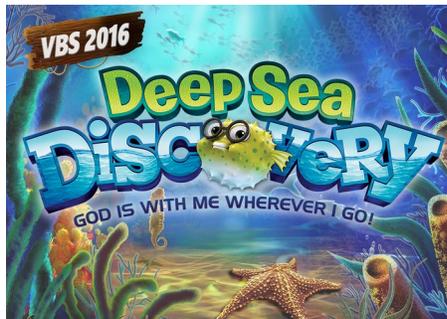
Food Ministry Days

The two monthly Food Days we have hosted so far have been a wonderful success! We served almost 50 families on those days or who made appointments later. The households had 3 people on average, so that's about 150 people every month we were able to show God's love to! Anyone you know who would appreciate getting some food is welcome to come by.



We will continue the Food Days through the summer on the 3rd Saturday of the month. When school starts, we'll see if we need to adjust the schedule. So the next Food Days will be **Saturday May 21, June 18, and July 16, 11 am – 1 pm**. If you can volunteer to bag food, carry bags, fill out paperwork, or help people feel welcome by serving coffee and snacks, then come about 9:30-10 to help get ready.

Vacation Bible School! June 28 – July 1 (Tue.–Fri.), 6:00-8:30 pm



Get ready to splash around Vacation Bible School this summer! It will be a "Deep Sea Discovery" as we dive into fun Bible stories to see how God has been with people even in stormy seas. Projects and sea science will help us experience a super fun Bible School adventure! We'll hear about how God was with people like Jonah who fell in the water, Peter who fell in the water, and disciples who couldn't find any fish in the water. There'll be classes for all kids ages 3 and up, so tell your friends and neighbors!

Graduate Recognition – Sunday, June 5

Don't miss worship on Sunday, June 5, as we recognize this year's graduates. We have a number of great people who have accomplished a lot and worked hard, so we will celebrate their graduation by laying hands on them and praying for God's blessing on their future.



This year's graduates are: Kyle Callahan (Louisburg High School), Emmanuel Colorado (Louisburg High School), H'Kera Ktul (Vance-Granville), and Jacob Stephens (Bunn High School). We're proud of you all!

Youth Camp! July 4-9 (Mon.–Sat.)

We cannot wait for Youth Camp this year, and it's getting closer every week! We'll go back to the same location as last year: Averett University in Danville, VA. It will be a week full of worship, games, Bible study, laughing, and most of all mission work. The Camp theme is "This Wild Life," based on John 10:10, "I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest." All week, we'll ask the question, "What is it you

plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" And everyday, we'll go to a mission site to do good work. Be listening for more details to come.

The cost will be determined by fundraisers and generous donations, but it will be very affordable and very worth it. We've got a few more slots left for fun people and friends. Anyone who has just finished 6th grade and higher is invited. So if you're able to go, **let Pastor Stuart know before the end of the month!**

Kids on Worship

For the monthly Kids on Worship time this year, the kids are learning how to tell time by the Christian calendar. They've talked about how to get their hearts ready for Easter during Lent and how to celebrate the church's birthday at Pentecost. Next they'll talk about how to live during Ordinary Time, when it doesn't feel like there's much to celebrate. The next Kids on Worship time will be Sunday, June 12, in the Fellowship Hall during the second half of worship.



We had a fun and delicious fiesta to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Thank you to the families who made the food, and to everyone who came to enjoy it and donate money to help kids go to Youth Camp. ¡Muchas gracias!

Devotional Thought

(We're excited to introduce a new item in this newsletter: a devotional thought written by Aaron & Stephanie Rider.)

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. -- Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

It is not always easy being a parent. As parents we all want the same things for our children: to do good in school, to say please and thank you, to help others, and the list goes on and on. We teach these things to our children early in life. But as we all know, teaching and telling are not usually enough. We must also show by example.



Even though it's easy these days to let life's distractions get in the way, our mission as parents should be to lead our children by improving our own life and relationship with Christ. What has helped us are things like incorporating faith building into our family with nightly family devotionals, and attending Wednesday night Bible study for adults and children. With the help of our Hickory Rock Baptist Church family, we know we have the support to help us grow and to start our children off the way they should go too.

As children get older and start making their own decisions, we can only pray that we have helped them build a good foundation in Christ. If we call upon the Lord to help us as parents, He will give us the wisdom, love, and patience to do it.

Wednesday Night Topics

We began our current series "Our Faith & Others" by discussing what it means to be Baptist. We've talked about Judaism, Catholics, and many branches of Protestants. We conclude our series this month by discussing Islam. Come with questions and learn interesting facts: What's the difference between a fatwa and jihad? And who knew that Moses, Jesus, John the Baptist and others are mentioned in the Muslim Qur'an? Wednesday nights at 7:00.



June will begin a new series about what mission work looks like in the 21st century, by reading stories from missionaries we support with our offerings.

A Word from the Pastor

The weather has been lovely this May. Spring is in full swing as the flowers bloom and the grass grows ever faster. It would be nice if the weather stayed this perfect forever, but we know that it doesn't. The grueling heat of summer is right around the corner, with summer's official first day on June 20. I'm sweating just thinking about it.



But there are a lot of great things to be excited about this summer. After all, it's most kids' favorite season: no homework! And in the life our church, this newsletter has just some of the fun things going on: graduation, Vacation Bible School, Youth Camp, and more to come. Despite how hot it will be, I know it'll be a great summer. I can't wait to see what kind of puppet friend might visit us during Bible School. I can't wait to sing during the worship services at Youth Camp. Maybe we'll even go to some soccer and baseball games too. It'll be great.

So I look forward to sweating through all those fun activities. What's silly is that, in the height of summer, I always think, "This is unbearable! I'm sweating my face off. Will this heat ever go away?!" But then, of course, during the deepest cold of winter: "This is unbearable! I'm freezing my toes off. Will this cold ever go away?!" I tend to focus just on the day today, and how uncomfortable I feel. I often forget the bigger picture: the seasons are always changing. Even if we feel stuck in the season we're in now, the painful heat or the numbing cold won't last forever; the seasons are always changing. These days of graduations, End of Grade tests, and upcoming summer plans remind us of that.

There's a great Bible passage about the changing of life's seasons, in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

So what kind of season are you in these days? What kind of season is our church in? A time of fun with summer approaching, but also a time of sadness over loss. Since the last church newsletter was sent out in March, we have lost two big lives in our church family: Elsie Tharrington and Louis Smith. Those losses affected us. They left gaping holes in our daily routines, in the plans we had made, and in what we thought the next season would be like. We thought they would be in it. So this is "a time to weep" and "a time to mourn," even though not long ago with Elsie and Louis it was "a time to laugh" and "a time to dance."

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us the big truth about life: that seasons change. Even though we might be in a season of grief now, it does not last forever. We have hope that the next season will be joyful, just as last year's season was joyful: we had some super cute babies born in our church last year. Those were times "to be born" and "to embrace." We are so so thankful for them and their smiles and their moms and their families. We look forward to the next cute baby to be born this year.

We recognize those big events. We hug each other during the joyful times—of laughing, mending, healing, planting, and birth. And we hug each other during the sad times—of weeping, mourning, tearing, scattering, and death. I am thankful for all the hugs that our church family gives.

Yes, the seasons will change. But no matter what season you are in now or you'll be in next, what won't change is that you will be hugged and loved by your church family, and you will be held and loved by God.

Grace and peace,

Stuart



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.

Nursery Schedule



Hickory Rock has a great nursery with loving nursery workers! And we are pleased to offer childcare for ages 5 and younger during worship. 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.)

May 22 - Miranda

May 29 - Robin

June 5 - Sara L.

June 12 - Charlene

June 19 - Jeanette

June 26 - Kim D.

Upcoming Events

June 5, Sunday,

11:30 am - Graduate Recognition

12:00 pm - Coffee & Snack Fellowship

June 12, Sunday, 11:30 am - Kids on Worship

June 18, Saturday, 11am-1 pm - Food Ministry Day

June 19, Sunday, 6:45 pm - Baptist Women

June 26, Sunday - Communion in worship

June 28-July 1, Tue.-Fri., 6-8:30 pm - Vacation Bible School

July 4-9, Mon.-Sat. - Youth Camp

Every Wednesday -

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

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

7:50, Choir Singing. Anyone who enjoys music is invited to come, sing along, and enjoy the fellowship.



"Morning Prayer"

by Faye Johnson

I start my day with a prayer,
Lift my face, to know he is there.
What would my life be,
If Christ did not love me?
If my heart did not know that he cares?

I pray for my own family,
For my neighbors, those around me.
Lord help me to care,
Teach me to share.
Follow the path that you lead me.

In life the choices are there.
The path we will walk love, share.
Help me to know the way I should go.
Trust not in my own understanding.
Amen.

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