

HHBC Happenings



Hickory Hill Baptist Church Newsletter

Summer / Fall 2009

Greetings in the name of the Lord! We pray that this newsletter finds you and your family well and prospering in the knowledge of the Lord. You are receiving this mailing because you have had contact with Hickory Hill Baptist Church in some fashion. It is our joy to send this to you in order to keep you informed about what is “*happening*” in our local church. Friends, we are not shy about our goal. It is our deep desire to see many folks from our community joining in the worship, the service to God, and the fellowship of the believers at Hickory Hill Baptist. If you are already a member, then please use this media to stay informed about what is happening and how you can be a part of serving Christ through your church. If you are *not* already attending, do consider making HHBC your church home! We look forward to seeing you.

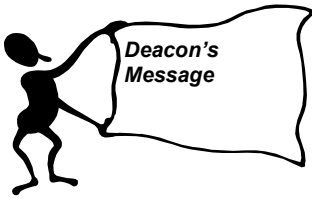
From the Pastor's Pen



In this past quarter, a lot of things have been happening at HHBC. I'm going to use my article space this time to make sure you're up to speed on those different “happenings”.

In case you were not there, during a recent time of welcome in our Sunday morning service, we turned to the announcements and saw that there were very few planned, programmed events for that week. At first glance, that might give the impression that HHBC is dead and that nothing meaningful is going on. That would be wrong. On the contrary, so many great relationships and ministry opportunities are taking place every single day. It's hard (and probably even wrong) to always try to “program” everything. Not all good ministry happens in programs. That being said, here are five good things that you probably haven't seen in the bulletin but that are nevertheless wonderful and great blessings to our church community:

1. The trustees of HHBC officially closed on the fifteen acres just west of our current location. The building committee is continuing to meet to bring further recommendations to the church as to where and how to move forward now, but by all accounts, this is a very exciting and memorable development for us.
2. The church adopted a new version of our by-laws (our governing and operating documents) as well as an updated church covenant. This is an attempt to be biblical and yet appropriately relevant today. We will be discussing this more on a few Sunday mornings in the near future.
3. An entirely new sound system has been installed in our sanctuary. The old system was beginning to be a distraction during worship and all of the controls/adjustments were awkwardly placed up front. This new system brings both stronger clarity and greater flexibility. Best of all, the controls are now operated in the balcony throughout the service. What a difference!
4. Ever since we labeled January “Cultivating Gospel Relationships” month, our church has seen a very strong push to build stronger relationships with people and businesses in our local community. I personally am getting much more familiar with the community and I'm trying to encourage the members to support the local businesses as we attempt to move into their lives with the Gospel.
5. Finally (and most exciting), although we have so very far still to go, each month seems to bring tighter and stronger familial bonds between the brothers and sisters at HHBC. For those who are interested and passionate about living as the body of Christ, we are growing closer to one another as we seek the Lord together and share in each others' lives.



SITTING ON THE FRONT PORCH

Some time ago, Rita and I took a long weekend over Columbus Day and motorcycled around the back roads of northern Tennessee in the crisp October air. I can still remember being amazed at the number of rocking chairs we counted on people's front porch and thinking- I wonder where they got the time to use them? But as I thought about it, I decided we all had choices and perhaps they had made the better one- to stop at the end of the day, to reflect on the day.

This morning in Sunday School, we discussed that one of the best ways we were able to identify the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, was when we stopped and looked back to when we felt moved to go a different direction, when we felt a nudge to do the right thing (or a pang when we did not) or when we knew absolutely, without a doubt, what we needed to do.

Especially in today's world, it seems we identify our progress by how many things we can do at the same time and how many more we have lined up in front of us. It occurs to me that we seldom, if ever, know the direction we are going until we pause for a moment and look back where we've been. Much like the farmer at the plow that looks back occasionally to see if the furrow is straight, we need to take time out of the day, at the end, to reflect on the day's glories and problems. We think we know what God can do for us, but it is not until we identify WHAT God has ACTUALLY done for us in the past 24 hours that we can become fully confident in His power to care for us in the future.

But we cannot afford to look back all the time, or else like the farmer ending up with crooked furrows, we end up with a life of uncompleted plans and lost direction. Living a Christian life means going forward with planning and direction. But for our life to grow and have meaning, it also includes sitting in the rocking chair on the front porch at day's end, reflecting on the day's activities, and identifying and thanking God for His involvement in the day.

It might be in your easy chair with the TV off, or lying in bed prior to sleep that is your rocking chair. But it's awfully hard to beat being outside in His world, rocking on the porch, at the end of the day as the sun goes down. Is your rocking chair getting used?

VBS Recap

Vacation Bible School is a wonderful time of year to reflect and glory in God's blessings. We are able to open our church, and welcome kids to a time to fellowship and learn with those in the community. We kicked off VBS this year on Saturday with a puppet show, put on by the youth from Cornerstone Baptist Church, served lunch and had homemade ice cream.

VBS then kicked off on Sunday, June 1st and the kids studied about Peter's walk with Jesus all week in their bible study classes. There was some great discussion in all of the classes this week. We enrolled 40 kids and averaged 38 for the week. The theme this year was Boomerang Express and all

week the kids learned that “It all comes back to Jesus,” as they followed Peter’s walk with Jesus, as they took a train ride across Australia.

Tom Hoskins led the missions this year and really taught the kids the good work and the details of what a missionary is, and even how they can be missionaries right here at home. One way they showed what they learned is through the offering that was collected and given to missionaries. We were blessed to have Sara, from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, with us this year as a missionary and she worked with Katie and Haley Smith in the music sessions with the kids.

Some other highlights for the week in keeping with the theme were the kangaroo t-shirts that Michelle Hale and Laura Hoskins helped the kids and adults to make. Tom Pierce and Bertha Busch taught the kids how to throw a boomerang. Pastor Ryan, Becky Hale, Stephanie Kirchner, Kari Hale and Sue Hoskins, along with their assistants, Elaine Smith, Patrick Hilburn, Sandy Call, Jean Gann and Sonja Forck, really worked hard to prepare classes each evening, and it shows that we had kids excited to come back and worship with us each evening. Let’s not forget the wonderful meals that Vera Smith, Tom & Mickey Hoskins prepared to start each evening.

I want to thank all those that helped and prayed for our VBS this year and want to express the blessings that I experience serving as director of VBS. Beth Hale

Trivia Answers: 1. Jesus wept; John 11:35 2. Kinnor (lyre) 3. 3 times, Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 8:8 and Matthew 1:23

Remember to visit <http://www.hickoryhillbaptistchurch.org> for our latest news, events, and blog posts!

Important Dates to Remember

Aug 30	Family night. No evening service
Sept. 6	8:30am Quarterly Breakfast
Sept. 13	After church, bring a packed lunch
Sept. 17	9am Senior Breakfast
Sept. 19	Land clean-up day on new property
Sept. 27	Fish Fry at Busch Pond
Oct. 15	9am Senior Breakfast
Oct. 24	Chili and Fall Carnival
Oct. 25	Kick-off for Operation Christmas Child
Nov. 14	Progressive Dinner
Nov. 19	9am Senior Breakfast
Nov 29	Family night. No evening service
Dec. 5	Going to a holiday show (either Branson or the Lake, TBD)
Dec. 17	9am Senior Breakfast

Trivia Questions

1. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
2. Name the musical instrument played by David.
3. How many times does the word Immanuel occur in the Bible?

Answers on Page 3.
