



# THE GROVE

*Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Hickory Grove United Methodist Church*

July 16, 2010 – Volume 28 Issue 15

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: July 27 @ 12:30 pm

## *Echoes*

## JULY 4 – A DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

*The Faith United Christian Fellowship* began with a few Liberian immigrants, refugees and students in east Charlotte who formed a prayer group to pray for their country, Liberia, family and each other, and to assist and support other needy Liberians in the area. In 2006, the Fellowship began meeting for worship, studies, and programs in the chapel of Hickory Grove UMC.

By the grace of God and with the leadership of Pastor Myer Dahn, membership soon included men & women from other African countries (Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and Benin) and local African-Americans. Through outreach, training and evangelism programs, this congregation has grown to 125, with an average attendance of 75 in Sunday school and 80 in worship.

On June 13, 2010, members of the Fellowship voted unanimously to join with Hickory UMC to become one church with a shared vision of ministry: the proclamation of the Gospel to bring others to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

On July 4, Hickory Grove UMC officially received Pastor Dahn as Assistant Pastor for African Ministry, received members from the Fellowship by transfer from other United Methodist churches, and embraced the Fellowship as a ministry of the church. Membership classes will be offered in July and August to members that are not United Methodists and new members will be received in September.

*This African Ministry of Hickory Grove UMC* seeks to meet the spiritual needs of the rapidly growing African Community and other minority groups in east Charlotte, with whom the members share a similar cultural background. About 70% of the African community in this area, especially the young adults and some elderly, are not Christian; and those who are Christian do not attend church regularly.

Our African Ministry will conduct revival services, training programs for youth (gangs, drugs alcohol, teenage pregnancy, violence and violations), assistance services for the needy, and United Methodist training for the adults. Visiting with non-members and identifying with them culturally will encourage them to become members of the church.

This ministry of our church will continue to witness for God's love in Jesus Christ and will show that the congregations of Hickory Grove UMC embrace the diversity proclaimed by the United Methodist motto, "Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors."

## TITHES & GIFTS

### SUNDAY, JUNE 27

General Fund	\$ 10,849.34
Building Fund	\$ 1,464.00
CCC	\$ 50.00
Memorials	\$ 25.00
Missions	\$ 10.00
Music	\$ 225.00

### SUNDAY, JULY 4

General Fund	\$ 18,989.59
Building Fund	\$ 4,001.10
Bethlehem Center	\$ 30.00
Helping Hands	\$ 35.00
Maintenance Repairs	\$ 82.00
WeCare	\$ 110.00

### SUNDAY, JULY 11

General Fund	\$ 12,123.15
Building Fund	\$ 3,960.00
Book	\$ 12.50

## HONORARIUMS

**Virginia Quinn** – Church Repairs  
**From:** Fellowship Class

**Toby Pressley** – Church Repairs  
**From:** Fellowship Class

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

*Please take a moment to see how you can support your church family!*

### VBS Set-Up

We are in need of your help setting up the FLC, Epworth Building, and classrooms for VBS 2010. Adults and youth are invited to come help on Sunday, July 18 at 3:30 pm in the Family Life Center. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Contact Daniel Nelson for more information.

### Campus Kitchens

Please do not leave items after an event. Take all food, condiments and/or leftovers with you when you leave. If you do not, all unmarked items will be thrown away. If you want to leave items designated for yourself or someone else, please label all food with date and name. These items may remain in the refrigerator for one week max.

### Youth Soccer Coaches Needed!

We are need of Coaches and Assistant Coaches for Youth Soccer. If you would like to help, please contact Robert Crider at 704-455-8104.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Youth Soccer

For children ages 4 - 6 years, we will hold a **Soccer Clinic** where they will enjoy skill development combined with game time, Saturdays, September 25— October 30 from 10 to 11 am. The registration fee is \$35 per child. For children ages 7 - 8 years of age, we will have a Soccer League with practices beginning on August 14. The registration for the **Soccer League** is \$65 per child. Registration forms can be found at the church website, <http://www.hickorygroveumc.com> (just click ministries then recreation/signup.)

### Church-Wide Back to School Event

*Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm*

This program is for all ages and includes dinner and a fun show by Christian variety entertainer, Mark Lippard. Mark's show includes comedy, juggling, trick unicycling, fire eating, and more. Mark has ministered and performed at churches, colleges, sporting events, and festivals around the world. Look for more information about meal reservations soon!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Music Makers Schedule

- **THURSDAY, JULY 22**—Cokesbury at 10:30 am. We will leave the church at 10 am.
- **WEDNESDAY, JULY 28**—Practice at 10 am.

### Church Council

The Church Council meeting for Sunday, July 18 has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 8 at 12:15 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.



*In Loving Memory*

**Patricia Orji**  
(Wife of Nat Orji)

**Charles N. Wright**  
(Father of Mary Wyant)

## MEETINGS

### SUNDAY, JULY 25

Family Life, 12:15 pm

### TUESDAY, JULY 27

Senior Ministries, 10 am

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

Design Team, 6 pm

## ATTENDANCE

### SUNDAY, JUNE 27

8:30 am Traditional	99
11:00 am Traditional	<u>175</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>274</b>
Sunday School	189

### SUNDAY, JULY 4

8:30 am Traditional	71
11:00 am Combined	<u>267</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>338</b>
Sunday School	115

### SUNDAY, JULY 11

8:30 am Traditional	82
11:00 am Traditional	123
11:00 am Celebration	<u>112</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>317</b>



## WORSHIP

**JULY 18...***Blinded and Lost – But Not Abandoned* - Acts 9:3-9  
Saul's blinding Damascus road vision left him sightless, disoriented and helpless—all of which helped prepare him for the huge change that was about to take place in his life.

**JULY 25...** *"Son of Encouragement"* - Acts 9:26-27, 11:22-26  
Joseph was called "Barnabas" ("son of encouragement") by the apostles because he had a way of helping folks work together. Without him, Saul may never have become Paul!

**AUGUST 1...** Communion

*"Sing to the Lord a New Song"* - Psalms 1-3

During August and September, we'll read Psalms, the hymnal of the Old Testament. These 3 psalms (advice about happiness, a coronation song and a prayer for God's help against personal enemies) show how varied—and how personal—these songs can be.

## SPONSOR AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

United Studies Student Exchange is an organization that places exchange students with families. This opportunity is being extended to the Christian community who desire to serve others. There are almost 83 exchange students who will be attending high school in the fall. Would you possibly be interested in hosting a student?

**For more information, contact:**

Holly Blackmon  
803-269-4428

[hollyday08@hotmail.com](mailto:hollyday08@hotmail.com)