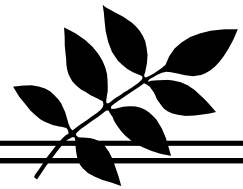


The Hickory Leaf

July 2009



Hickory Bend United Methodist Church

605 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214

Phone: 615)889-1360 / www.hickorybendumc.com

Gary Brock, Pastor

A Pastoral Reflection

On matters of uncertainty, matters of faith

God sent the angel Uriel to me, and Uriel said, "Ezra, you don't understand what happens on earth. Do you really think you could understand what God Most High does?" I said, "Yes sir, I do!" [2 Esdras 4:1,3 -- The Apocrypha].

God told me.

How do you know?

Because I feel it in my heart.

Well, I feel God in my heart as well. And he told me differently.

That can't be!

Why not?

Because I know that God spoke to me!

Why are you so sure that God didn't speak to me?

I just know!

Oh ... !

It is easy to forget that the expression of my faith is never God's final say on things. To think so compromises what God can do with my life, with our lives. I am always troubled by those claiming to speak absolutely for God. It is highly presumptuous at best, and possibly heretical at worst, to think that God would speak to me and me alone.

"How do you know? "Because I feel it in my heart." Can something as important as what God wants done be reduced to a mere feeling in just one heart?

How do we know that it really is God speaking? None are immune to influences around us. To claim otherwise is to have stepped from the world of the finite into the realm reserved for the Holy and Infinite. Not even Jesus took both feet out of the world during his time on earth. I cannot find many places in Scripture where God left His will in the hands of only one person. God always seemed to work with

groups -- i.e., the Church. Yet, it never seemed to go smoothly. Why? Egos were constantly confused with souls! The only person that God had real success with was with Jesus. Our most faith-full response is to say: on the basis of where I am right now, I believe that this is what God wants me to do.

"Are you sure?"

"As sure as I -- a mere mortal -- can be."

"What, then, is God's message in this for us?"

- To listen
- To hear what our faith has brought us.
- To be willing to compare 'spiritual notes'.
- To help us maintain perspective.
- To believe that the places where **our** faith does not mesh are opportunities to learn what God has in mind for **both of us**.

Faith is always **more** about living questions **than** it is about offering **our** answers.

"Thus says the Holy One of Israel ... 'Would you dare question me regarding my children, or instruct me in my handiwork?'" [Isaiah 45:11].

Bra. Gary

CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT

The annual church council retreat will be held Saturday, July 18, beginning at 9 a.m. The retreat will be in Waverly again this year at my home. A fish fry lunch will be provided for all. Everyone is welcome to attend whether you are a council member or not, just need all to please let me know you plan to attend so we can arrange to have the right amount of food.

This year's retreat is looking to be extra special with some different "out of the box" planning for the meeting time. I encourage all to attend. If you have any questions please let me know.

God bless and hope to see you there.

Mitzi Anderson

SERMON SCHEDULE FOR JULY

- July 5 "Seconds, Please"
Scripture: I Corinthians 11:17-34
- July 12 "Who's running the show?"
Scripture: Acts 17:16-27, 32
- July 19 "Rx may have side-effects"
Scripture: I Corinthians 12:12, 14,
22-26
- July 26 "WHERE does it say that?"
Scripture: I John 1-4; 5:1-4, 13;
Romans 15:20-21

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our 2009 Charge Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 p.m. at Hickory Bend UMC.

Worship Notes

Did you know????? There are only 21 more Sundays till Advent?

Amazing how time flies, is it not? The Worship committee has been looking ahead toward the busy, busy end of the year. The first thing we decided, was to take the month of July OFF for vacation and to rest up. However, we will be present at the church council retreat July 19th to report on our plans.

August will be a month of beginnings with choir back to full steam and singing every Sunday. Back to school will also be in August and the worship and education teams will talk about plans for that celebration. September will continue beginnings with Good Grub back in session and Wednesday night bible class starting up again.

Laity Sunday, All Saints Day, Veteran's Day, HBUMC anniversary and Thanksgiving will take us right up to Advent. So stay tuned for more plans after this hopefully restful summer vacation.

Submitted by
Cathy Caldwell
Worship Committee Chair

BRO. GARY RE-APPOINTED TO HBUMC

Staff / Pastor Parrish Relations Committee Chairperson, Donna Vaughn, received confirmation in a letter from John H. Collette, Jr., Nashville District Superintendent, that Bro. Gary will be re-appointed to HBUMC for the 2009-10 conference year. Mr. Collette went on to write "*thank you for your continuing faithfulness and support in this pastoral relationship, and please know that I pray God's blessings on your church's ministry.*"

We look forward to having Bro. Gary and Darla with us for another year!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

What is the very first rule of behavior that you can remember? What is the very first thing you can remember about what is right and what is wrong? And, how did you know that is was?

How do we "build" our moral behaviors? Do you remember the first time that some of the "rights" and the "wrongs" that you had been taught just no longer seemed to be either?

Come join with us in our Sunday Morning Bible study: THE FIRST CHRISTIANS.

As new "children of God", "new beings in Christ," they had to re-learn much of what they had been taught. They had to learn some radically new ways of believing and behaving. What does it mean to experience Christ? What difference does this make in our lives? How are we now to face the everyday world of our lives? Do we have new responsibilities? What about our old ones? Why is it even worth it?

Come join with us in our Sunday Morning Bible study as we explore together the lives and faith of the first Christians. For it is much more than a truism that if we do not know where we came from, we will never know where we are going.

Bro Gary

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY



Mike Baker, Elizabeth Clingan, Barry Cloyd, Caleb England, Kenny England, Brian Ginnetti, Russell Lewis Jones, Mitch McDannald, Jeff McInturff, Amanda & Brad McMahan, Matthew Miesner, Joshua Mitchner, Jason Nevitt, David Parker, Joshua Snowbarger, Jess Summar, Zachery Taube, Ben Watkins.

Long Range Planning Report

LRPC has been busy. The Spring Yard Sale was a great success, good job youth and all the adults (lots) who helped out! Even though it started out rainy and looked like storms might get us, we raised the canopies, filled the shelter and then watched the kids play in that jumpy thing. Then the sun came out, it got warm, folks came and actually bought stuff. Oh yeah, the food was great too! More sausage biscuits please! Now if I can just remember where I put all of the pieces to our canopies.

The Almost Talented Talent Show was a blast. We had a full docket of performers, a great MC, several very talented musicians, a light and sound man who made everything work and oh yes, and some very wonderful judges! We laughed, applauded, cheered, chuckled, hooted, hollered and even whistled a bit throughout the night. Even though it rained that day, we had a good crowd for the show that night. The youth served a great BBQ dinner before the show and the next hour was filled with songs, skits, two stepping' and comebacks. Thanks again to everyone who helped and joined in on the fun!

The men did a great job with Mother's Day meal. Next year we need to add a talent section to the Mother's Day celebration. Oh boy, men cooking and singing at the same time!

What's ahead?

July - Church Council retreat at the Anderson's Ranch and Fishing Emporium. Yep, another wonderful fellowship outing is just right around the corner. I hope everyone will bring their ideas and dreams for HBUMC to the camp...err...Emporium for this relaxing atmosphere. God will be there, we just have to listen for His word!

July/August - Start work on *Lighting the Word for the World* display. We need another camel, some more angels singing and a few palm trees blowing in the breeze (all lighted of course). Might think of some more items but this is a good start.

July/August - HBUMC Christmas float - Theme ideas abound, just need to sketch them out, pick one and get started. Maybe we could add a third wagon?

Silent Auction - LRPC is in discussion on this event. Quietly of course.

Church Planning - LRPC is again revisiting our long range planning ideas. Stay tuned as more is on the way in this area.

Remember! God's work is not done at HBUMC, it's just waiting for us to say go.

Submitted by
Brian Caldwell, Chair
LRPC

NEW BABY!



Dean and Jerry Walker have a new great grandson . . . the second one this year! Abram Dean Curtis made his appearance on June 9 at a weight of 5 pounds and 3 ounces and was 17 inches long. His parents are Noah Dean and Ashly Elizabeth Curtis. Grandparents are Dena (Walker) and Robert Curtis.

Congratulations to the Walker and Curtis families!!

Thank You

Thank You to everyone who helped us celebrate Felicia and Joe's anticipation of their first precious babies. We love and appreciate each and every one of you. Our lives have all been blessed because of you all. We appreciate all of the loving support through the last couple of years. We couldn't have made it without your love and encouragement. Everyone has been a blessing to us. Thank you so much.

God Bless You All,
Donna, Felicia & Joe

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know what the United States looked like so he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Shelby and said, 'Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today.' After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together.



The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. 'Oh,' she said, 'on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got Jesus back where He belonged, our country just came together.'

Blessed is the nation who's God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. Psalm 33:12



GOOD GRUB CAFE

CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER

JUNE 2009 STEWARDSHIP

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
5/31	80	\$1,685.31 General Fund \$ 223 Wed Night Meals \$ 27 Hardship Fund \$ 69 Vacation Bible School \$ 50 Youth Missions
6/07	71	\$2,454.75 General Fund \$ 10.25 Hardship Fund (Communion Rail Offering) \$ 260 Choir Fund \$ 50 Vacation Bible School \$ 50 Garden Fund
6/14	80	\$1,758.11 General Fund
6/21	88	\$777 General Fund
6/28*		

*Will be reported in August Issue of the *Hickory Leaf*.



RECIPE CORNER

Chicken Enchiladas

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup green pepper, chopped
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 1 cup shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies, opt.
- 1 can (8 ounces) sour cream
- 1 can (10-³/₄ ounces) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1/4 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cumin
- 6 flour tortillas (8 inches) warmed

In a large skillet, sauté onion and green pepper in oil until tender; remove from the heat. Stir in the chicken, 1/2 cup of cheese and chilies; set aside. In a saucepan, combine the sour cream, soup, coriander and cumin. Cook and stir over low heat until warm; stir 1/2 cup into the chicken mixture.

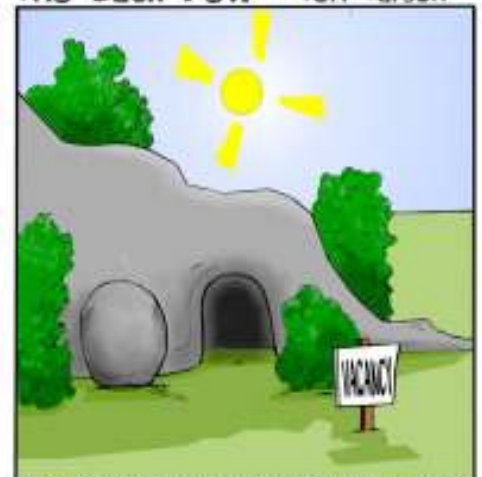
Spoon about 1/3 cup chicken filling down the center of each tortilla; roll up tightly. Place seam side down in a greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2 in. baking dish. Spoon remaining soup mixture down center of tortillas. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake uncovered 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until heated through.

Our thanks to Cathy Caldwell for sharing this recipe with us!

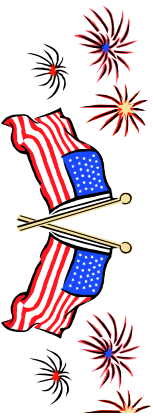
July 2009 Volunteers

DATE	SCRIPTURE	READER	CHILDREN'S SERMON	NURSERY VOLUNTEERS	COMMUNION STEWARDS
7/05	I Corinthians 11:17-34	Jeannie Gleaves	Cathy Caldwell	Cindy Bilbrey Mary Watson	Trosters & Parkers
7/12	Acts 17:16-27, 32	Victoria Egan	Bro. Gary	Ethel Burnett Victoria Egan	
7/19	I Corinthians 12:12, 14, 22-26	Brian Caldwell	Gabby Troster	Robbie William-son Meagan Troster	
7/26	I John 1-4; 5:1-4, 13; Romans 15:20-21	Gabby Troster	Emalie Egan	Kelly Gibson Elizabeth Egan	

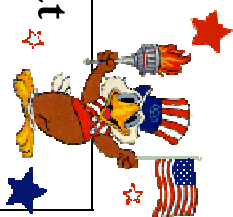
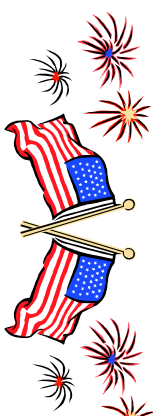
The Back Pew - Jeff Larson




INDEPENDANCE DAY for America was a little over 200 years ago, but for the World it was about 2000 years ago.



July 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Happy Birthday America!</i> INDEPENDENCE DAY (B) Benita Egan
5	6 (B) Gale Acuff Cathy Caldwell	7 BELL CHOIR 6 PM (B) Scott Graves Mary Kallon Colleen Nevitt	8 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:45	9 (B) Bailey Snell	10 (A) Ed & Gabby Troster	11
12 TRUSTEE MEETING (A) Mike & Susan Sullivan	13 (A) Mike & Cathy Evans (B) Curt Mitchner	14 BELL CHOIR 6 PM	15 (B) Susie Bullock	16	17 (B) Leah Bearden	18 COUNCIL RETREAT @ WAVERLY (B) Berlin Egan Steve England
19 (B) Isaac Williamson	20 (B) Mary Jane Sassaman	21 (B) Amanda Dumont	22 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:45	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (B) Stephanie Perkins Kit Young	24	25
26	27  National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (B) Mark Perkins	28 (B) Bob Mitchell	29 (B) Tom Condra	30 (B) Bobbie Jones	31 (B) Katie Neil	

FUNNIES



What quacks, has webbed feet, and betrays his country? Beneduck Arnold!
What did Paul Revere say at the end of his ride? "I gotta get a softer saddle!"
What protest by a group of dogs occurred in 1773? The Boston Flea Party!
Why did Paul Revere ride his horse from Boston to Lexington? Because the horse was too heavy to carry!
What would you get if you crossed a patriot with a small curly-haired dog? Yankee Poodle!
Did you hear the one about the Liberty Bell? Yeah, it cracked me up!
What would you get if you crossed George Washington with cattle feed? The Fodder of Our Country!
What did one flag say to the other flag? Nothing. It just waved!
What kind of tea did the American colonists thirst for? Liberty!
What was General Washington's favorite tree? The infantry!
Which colonists told the most jokes? Punsylvanians!
What would you get if you crossed Washington's home with nasty insects? Mt. Vermin!
What did a patriot put on his dry skin? Revo-lotion!

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. They discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother. The first said: "I built a big house for our mother." The second said: "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third said: "You remember how our mother enjoys reading the Bible. Now she can't see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot recites it." Soon thereafter, their mother sent out her letters of thanks. "Milton," she said, "the house you built is so huge. I live only in one room, but I have to clean the whole house." "Gerald," she said, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home so I rarely use the Mercedes. And that driver is so rude! He's a pain!" "But Donald," she said, "the little chicken you sent was delicious!"

Happy 4th



God Bless America!



HICKORY BEND UMC
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Dr. Gary Brock, Pastor
"Return Service Requested"