

The Hickory Leaf

October 2010

Hickory Bend United Methodist Church, 605 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214
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Gary Brock, Pastor

A Pastoral Reflection

Searching through post-flood stuff, I re-discovered the following. I no longer remember its original source or what prompted me to save it. I am glad that I did. Our recent encounters with flood waters have made me deeply sensitive to what happens when long accepted boundaries are crossed and even disappear.

This crow lives near my house, and though I have never harmed him, he stays up in the very highest trees and, in general, avoids all humanity. His world begins at just about the limit of my eyesight. One particular morning, the whole countryside was buried in one of the thickest fogs in years – so thick I could hardly see my outstretched hand before me.

I was groping across a field ... following a dimly outlined path. Suddenly out of the fog, at about eye level, flashed an immense pair of black wings and a huge beak. The whole bird rushed over my head with a frantic cawing outcry of hideous terror. He was lost and startled, I thought, as I regained my composure. He ought not to have flown out in this fog. He'd knock his silly brains out.

All afternoon that great cry of terror rang in my head. Merely being lost in a fog seemed scarcely to account for it -- especially in a tough, intelligent old bandit such as I knew that crow to be. What had he seen in me that had caused him to cry out in protest?

Finally, as I worked my way home along the path, it came to me. In the dense fog, the borders of our worlds had shifted. That crow would never under normal circumstances fly low near men. He had been lost, but it was more than that. He had thought he was high up, and when he encountered me looming gigantically through the fog, he had

seen a ghastly and unnatural sight of a man walking on air, violating the very heart of the crow world -- an omen of the most profound evil a crow could think of, air-walking men. The encounter, he must have thought, had taken place hundreds of feet over the roofs.

He caws now when he sees me leaving each morning. I think that I hear the uncertainty of one that has come to know things are not always what they seem. He has experienced the human world from an unlikely perspective and can no longer be as other crows. He and I now share a common viewpoint: our worlds have interpenetrated, and we both will never see all things the same way again.

He has seen a marvel in his heights of air and is no longer as other crows. He has experienced the human world from an unlikely perspective. He and I share a viewpoint in common: our worlds have interpenetrated, and we both have faith in the miraculous. [Loren Easley].

A final thought as I read: “as, when a bird flies through the air, no evidence of its passage is found; the light air, lashed by the beat of its pinions and pierced by the force of its rushing flight, is traversed by the movement of its wings, and afterwards no sign of its coming is found there” [Wisdom of Solomon 5:11]. But the crow WAS there. Both WERE changed. Both had survived the encounter. Neither would forget. Both have faith in the miraculous.

Back in my world I hear the dreaded weather forecast of “locally heavy rains ... with the potential of flooding.” Another breaking of the borders between two worlds? If so, there still remains faith in the miraculous.

Bro Gary

OCTOBER 2010 BIBLE STUDY

WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WE BELIEVE?

We all enjoy discussions about what we do or do not believe. On occasion, we may even have opportunity to point to examples of our actions based on our beliefs. However, always lurking in the shadows of our souls are some unanswered questions that cause us to fret. If we take time to listen, to try and respond to them, our faith can become clearer, stronger. If we do not, well, they will just refuse to go away. They might be successfully pushed back in the corner, just far enough to keep us from stumbling over them. However, they will always be there in the corner of our soul's eye.

The Apostle Paul knew all about this. Few would question the depth of his belief and commitment to Christ. Yet, he knew that: *"I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out ... When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war ... Who will rescue me from this"* [Romans 7]. God in Jesus Christ would! Sound familiar?


This five-week study will look at the overall questions of: *Now that we believe, what are we supposed to do about it? If our actions speak louder than our "words", why worry about the "words"? Isn't it true that all God expects of us is to "do the best" that we can? As long as our "heart is the right place" that should be enough, right?*

In order to live an effective Christian life, we have to come to some everlasting conclusions about who we are as believers ... who we need to be as sisters and brothers in Christ ... who we can be as those who said "yes" to God's call in our lives. Being a Christian and living a Christian life really does matter.


As usual, the Bible will serve as our guide.

Bro Gary

THE CACTUS AND THE CATERPILLAR

 Once there was a man who asked God for a flower and a butterfly. But instead God gave him a cactus and a caterpillar. The man was sad. He didn't understand why his prayer was not answered. Then he thought, "Oh well, God has too many people to care for," and he decided not to question.

After some time, the man went to check up on the cactus and the caterpillar. To his surprise, from the thorny and ugly cactus, a beautiful flower had grown. And the unsightly caterpillar had been transformed into the most beautiful butterfly.

God always does things right. His way is always the best way, even if it seems all wrong to us.  If you asked God for one thing and received another, trust Him. He will give you what you need at the appropriate time.

--Author Unknown

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Brianna Caldwell has been accepted into Youth Leadership Wilson, a program for high school juniors in the Wilson County schools. . . Friendship Academy, Mt. Juliet Christian Academy and McClain Christian Academy. Thirty-one students were selected to participate in a program that teaches them about their community, who's "in Charge" and also valuable leadership skills. This year Mt. Juliet Christian Academy is sending 5 students to participate in the program. . . one of which is Brianna. These students were selected by the guidance counselor & high school faculty.

Lane Watson, who is attending Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., has 'made' the university's baseball team!

CONGRATULATIONS Brianna and Lane! We are so proud of you!!

September 2010 Stewardship

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
8/15/10		\$2,290.52 General Fund \$ 2 Hardship Fund \$ 27 Youth Missions \$ 1 Floods of Love Relief Fund \$ 190 Bob Mitchell Memorial \$ 100 Janet Hart Memorial
8/22/10	90	\$1,212 General Fund \$ 200 UMCOR \$ 315 Janet Hart Memorial
8/29/10	92	\$1,552.76 General Fund \$ 2.25 Hardship Fund \$ 25 Bob Mitchell Memorial \$ 520 Janet Hart Memorial
9/05/10	81	\$3,312.25 General Fund \$ 49.68 Hardship Fund (Piggy Bank & Communion Rail Offering) \$ 20 Seekers Adopted Child Fund \$ 29 Youth Missions \$ 425 Hart Memorial Fund \$ 50 Mitchell Memorial
9/12/10	92	\$1,698 General Fund \$ 29 Wed Night Meals \$ 12 Hardship Fund (Piggy Bank) \$ 1 Youth Missions
9/19/10	83	\$1,243.54 General Fund \$ 12 Wed Night Meals \$ 12 Hardship Fund (Piggy Bank) \$ 120 Bearden Memorial
9/26/10	87	\$1,132.84 General Fund \$ 3 Hardship Fund \$ 2 Youth Missions

A CALL TO MOVE FORWARD

Wow! We have just had a great administrative council retreat in which Emalie led us through an exciting activity that made us look at who we are as a church and made us think about where we go from here.

We each were given three bills of play money to write on. On the \$1 bill we were to write improvements Hickory Bend could make right now with little or no money—things that require only our will to get them done. Ideas ranged from fixing the cold water faucet in the men's room to inviting more children to Sunday school, to stationing newcomers in the parking lot to invite newcomers in.

On a \$5 bill we were to write things we could *almost* accomplish if we raised a little more money, spent a little more time and effort, did a little more planning. Topping that list was building the new entrance, but other ideas folks got excited about were new flooring in the kitchen, fellowship hall, and Sunday school rooms; meeting our full apportionments; improving the layout for parking and recoating the parking lot.

On a \$100 bill we wrote our dreams for the future: a new sanctuary, a new education wing, showers and laundry facilities so that we can host our own Room in the Inn; a bus; and so forth

Three lists (\$1 ideas, \$5 ideas, \$100 ideas) were posted on the walls, incorporating everyone's suggestions. We then were each given six colored stickers to place by the items that were priorities for us personally.

Most of the stickers landed on the \$5 list because those items seemed like things almost within our grasp that we could conceivably rise to in order to move the church forward. We experienced a great deal of excitement just thinking about the things that could be done.

Then we got the treasurer's report, and some of our excitement dimmed. We learned that, as is typical in summer months, income was down and the general fund was in the red. We are not currently covering all of our bills in the general fund, and the treasurer has to "borrow" from savings funds to cover expenses. We also heard some of our hard-working folks admit to service burnout.

But we didn't want things to end there. We didn't want to say, "No, we can't afford to move forward right now." What's the remedy? Of course, it has to be stewardship—personal stewardship and stewardship of Hickory Bend as a part of the body of Christ. We agreed to make a new appeal to the congregation to share our dreams.

All that any of us are and all that we have are gifts of God's grace. Stewardship is how we respond to God's grace (our giving back to God), and it is the central task of every Christian.

At Hickory Bend each of us at some particular time in our lives pledged (or will pledge) to support our church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. As a congregation we have honored those pledges recently in many good ways; and we legitimately celebrate those efforts. But it is not our nature to pat ourselves on the back and say, "Well, now we've done that." Moving forward is what we are about.

During the month of October, the Stewardship Committee will be emphasizing aspects of stewardship in the worship service, asking for your renewed commitment to pray about the future of our church, to attend regularly, and to contribute your money (which is urgently needed) and your hands-on service. At the end of October you will be invited to participate in a commitment service.

All of us are invited to examine our own stewardship of prayers, presence, gifts, and service and to help Hickory Bend be what God intends us to be.

Your Stewardship Committee



The Blanket Brigade

On September 2nd, Meagan and Gabby Troster delivered more than 50 lap blankets and 17 neck pillows to Alive Hospice Downtown Complex!

Known contributors to this shipment were Debbie Keith, Cathy Caldwell, Kelly Gibson, Regene Mitchell, Ethel Burnett, and Gabby Troster. There were also donations made by anonymous contributors. We thank everybody who participated!

Blanket Brigade will start back up on Saturday, October 16th, at 9 a.m. so that we can refill our 'Blanket Bucket'. We'll be looking at new projects to work on.... preemie hats, chemo caps, helmet liners, etc., so come join us on the 16th!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 6 at 5:00 p.m. Topics for discussion will include planning for the upcoming HBUMC Anniversary, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas!

Laity Sunday is October 17th. Our worship service will be at the shelter . . . weather permitting.



Halloween Party & Costume Contest

Get out those vampire teeth and witches wigs on October 27th and join us for our annual Halloween Party and Costume contest! It's sure to be a 'spooktacular' event!!



RECIPE CORNER

Butter Pecan Pumpkin Pie Recipe*



- 1 quart butter pecan ice cream, softened
- 1 pastry shell (9 inches), baked
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon each ground cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
- 1/2 cup caramel ice cream topping
- 1/2 cup chocolate ice cream topping, optional
- Additional whipped cream

Spread ice cream into the crust; freeze for 2 hours or until firm. In a small bowl, combine the pumpkin, sugar, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg; fold in whipped cream. Spread over ice cream. Cover and freeze for 2 hours or until firm. May be frozen for up to 2 months.

Remove from the freezer 15 minutes before slicing. Drizzle with caramel ice cream topping. Drizzle with chocolate ice cream topping if desired. Dollop with whipped cream. Yield: 6-8 servings.

*tasteofhome.com

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, Luvann Whited, Bobby Woods.

OCTOBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL SCHEDULE

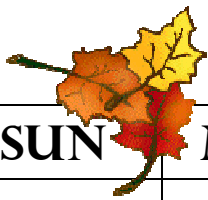
- October 6th - Pot Luck**
- October 13th - Oktoberfest**
- October 20th - Potato Bar
Fund Raiser for UMYF**
- October 27th - Halloween Costume
Party & Soup Kettle night**

OCTOBER 2010 SERMON SCHEDULE

- Oct 3rd** ***“Life After Life After Death”***
Text: Romans 8:9-11, 18-25
- Oct 10th** ***“But, IT’S Already Started”***
Text: I Corinthians 15:50-58
- Oct 17th** **LAITY SUNDAY**
- Oct 24th** ***“A Haunting Question”***
Text: Matthew 19:16-30
- Oct 31st** ***“All the way to the Core”***
Text: Romans 7:14-25

OCTOBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	SCRIPTURE	READER	CHILDREN'S SERMON	COMMUNION SERVE / SET UP
10/03/10	Romans 8:9-11, 18-25	Victoria Egan	Cathy Caldwell	Set Up: Lilli Parker Serve: Adairs & Porters
10/10/10	I Corinthians 15:50-58	Gene Parker	Bro. Gary	
10/17/10	LAITY SUNDAY	Debbie Withrow	Emalie Egan	
10/24/10	Matthew 19:16-30	Brianna Caldwell	Mitzi Anderson	
10/31/10	Romans 7:14-25	Candy Rucker	Shari Adair	
11/07/10		Samantha Perkins	Cathy Caldwell	Set up: Caldwell Serve: Trosters / Parkers



OCTOBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 (A) Bob & Gayle Bearden (B) Madison Rhea Allen Wes Buttrey Jeff Griggers	2 (B) Rick Neil
3 WORLD COMMUNION Bell Choir Practice After Worship UMYF 5:30p	4 (B) Ed Troster	5 (B) Darla Brock	6 Worship Mtg 5p Wed Meal 5:15p Bible Study 6p Band 6:15p Choir 6:45p (B) Chuck Williamson	7	8	9 (B) Janice Ladd
10 Bell Choir Practice After Worship UMYF 5:30p (A) James & Maggie Whitson (B) Jerry Walker Steve White	11 COLUMBUS DAY (A) Chuck & Jamie Williamson (B) Mike Johnson Eddie Watson	12	13 Wed Meal 5:15p Bible Study 6p Band 6:15p Choir 6:45p	14 (B) David Keith	15	16 BLANKET BRIGADE 9a
17 LAITY SUNDAY Worship Svc @ Shelter Bell Choir Practice After Worship UMYF 5:30p (B) Maurice Jackson	18	19 (A) Jim & Cindy Bilbrey (B) Ron Sharpe	20 Wed Meal 5:15p Bible Study 6p Band 6:15p Choir 6:45p	21	22 BEERSHEBA RETREAT NOV NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 BEERSHEBA RETREAT
24 BEERSHEBA RETREAT UMYF 5:30p	25	26	27 Wed Meal 5:15p Bible Study 6p Band 6:15p Choir 6:45p (A) Ned & Benita Egan (B) Jessica Judkins Jillian Murphy	28	29 (A) Bill & Shirley Lyon (B) Bob Bearden	30 (B) Shirley Jackson
31 HALLOWEEN Bell Choir Practice After Worship UMYF 5:30p						

FUNNIES

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Way down upon the Mississippi, two tugboat captains who had been friends for years, would always cry "Aye!" and blow their whistles whenever they passed each other. A new crewman asked his boat's mate, "What do they do that for?" The mate looked surprised and replied, "You mean that you've never heard of... an aye for an aye and a toot for a toot?"

While on vacation a man and woman visited a local church for the Sunday service. They always like to sit close to the front, so they entered a pew in the second row. Shortly after settling in, an usher came up to them, tapped lightly on the gate, and said, "This pew is saved." The husband replied, "That's okay, so are WE!"



**"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"**



HICKORY BEND UMC
605 Stewarts Ferry Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
Dr. Gary Brock, Pastor
"Return Service Requested"