

Hickory Bend United Methodist Church, Gary Brock, Pastor
605 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214 Phone: 615-889-1360 / www.hickorybendumc.com

THIS YEAR WILL BE DIFFERENT

BY: Emalie Egan

I have to admit that my New Year's resolutions are not all that new. This will sound familiar to my friends and my family:

I am going to get organized.

I am going to be on time.

I am going to eat healthfully.

I am going to exercise regularly.

I am going to be more responsible about money.

I am going to stop wearing goofy clothes.

Now, why do I think this year will be different?

Because something is different this year.

Hickory Bend UMC is different. We have always had a reputation of being a welcoming congregation with a giving spirit. This year, we have been called into new territory. We have come through a difficult year, and we have come through it richly blessed. We usually form committees and study our ministry. We usually sign up for projects and plan our events. We usually put things on the calendar. We continue to do this, but, this year is different. We can continue to plan, schedule, volunteer, and study. But for about a year, we haven't been able to do some of those regular things. God has taken over our calendar.

On one hand, our congregation has been struck with many illnesses, surgeries, and hospitalizations that no one could have seen coming. We are watching dear friends and long time members lose their health and even their memories. Some of our members have been hit with unemployment and underemployment. We couldn't have anticipated that. Many of the pillars of the church, the people who have led the church through its toughest times are now, themselves, in need of the love and care of the church. The people who have cared for us for so long, now need our care. That is different.

On the other hand, God has brought us many new friends. We are constantly receiving new visitors with amazing gifts, and others with heavy burdens. Some of those are the same people. God is bringing us wonderful people to enrich and enlarge our congregation. That is ongoing, but the needs and the gifts are new and different.

Brother Gary's illness and the side effects of his therapy have hit him hard. His whole family has been turned upside down, first by the flood, and then right on the heels of that, a difficult diagnosis. After years of not

taking any time off, our SPPR strongly insisted he take some time to heal. He reluctantly agreed. That was different.

And the conference has certainly stepped up to help. We are a connectional ministry, and thanks to that, the district has sent us guest speakers, and now, Bob Lewis, who has already been a great blessing to us. And he brought a whole pew full of people!

We are different. We have grown. We are learning how to take even better care of each other. We are learning how to step up to leadership in new and unexpected ways. We could never have planned this. We could never have formed a committee to learn and prepare for these things in case we ever needed these skills. We had to be thrown into the middle of the deep water to find out we could swim. But we have found that we can swim. We are cleaning the church, and sending cards, and taking food, and calling friends, and praying for one another, and reaching out to new people. Hickory Bend is going to be fine. We have been well trained by Brother Gary and others before him.

This year is going to be different. We can learn from Mary to take the Good News for what it is. We can learn from her cheerful obedience. We can learn from Joseph to open our hearts to surprising and unexpected responsibilities. We can learn from the angels to proclaim the good news that Christ is here! We can learn from the shepherds to respond with open hearts and go to visit the Christ child. We can learn from the Magi to bring our gifts.

So this year is going to be different. We can't imagine today what challenges or opportunities may come. I want to say as clearly as possible, I believe in us as a church family. We will make a way through this year's challenges, no matter what may happen, so that we can open our hearts to the opportunities this year may bring. We have no way of knowing now what we may need to do, but with God's help, we can do anything we need to do together. Thanks be to God. That is not different. God's love is constant and His strength endures. What I see is a new willingness in us to follow the shepherds to the stable and see what the Christ child wants us to do. So as we all must leave Advent and Christmas, and return to our work, and school, and responsibilities, let us all greet this New Year with the joy of the shepherds as they returned to the fields.

Luke 2:20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard.

For me, that would be different.

Music Notes

It is really hard to believe that this year is coming to an end! It just seemed like yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and the New Year – 2011.

2011 was an exciting year for the Hickory Bend Music Department. Throughout the year our Adult Choir continued to provide us with inspirational music. The Choir welcomed Aaron Staubs to our group of talented instrumentalists, as he shared his playing talents as well as singing during one of our communions.

Our Bell Choir continues to grow and amaze me. They continuously take on more and more challenging music, and produce us the most beautiful music.

The Hickory Bend Band had its struggles getting everyone together this year, but when they got together they sounded great.

As I think back over the year, 2011 will be remembered as the year of the youth!

Hickory Bend has an amazing group of young people, and they provided all of us with beautiful music this year. From the Joyful Noise, to the Youth Group and topping it off in December with Trinity Buttrey. We are truly blessed to have such talented youth, and it really shows that the future of the Music Department is in good hands.

2012 will be an exciting year, and I would like to invite anyone to join us, you will be happy you did.

Mark Perkins

THANK YOU, HBUMC!

Once again you prepared and served a wonderful Christmas Eve meal for the families in the MICU and SICU waiting rooms at Summit Hospital and the staff on duty.

The families and staff were most appreciative of the food and the prayer that was offered up for their family members. Many thanks to all of you who participated in this ministry and a special thanks to Mt. Juliet Masonic Lodge #642 for their monetary donation to help us with this outreach program.

!!WARMTH IN WINTER!!

Join our UMYF group at Warmth in Winter! WnW is the THE Tennessee Conference retreat for United Methodist Youth. Great music, inspiring workshops, crazy dancing, and powerful worship. Call Emalie for details 615-403-8455.

Check it out on the official WnW website.

<http://tnumcyouth.org/>

DECEMBER 2011 STEWARDSHIP

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
11/27	72	\$694.91 General Fund \$ 40 Christmas Memorials
12/04	79	\$3,337 General Fund \$ 25 Hardship Fund (Birthday / Anniversary Pig) \$ 95 Christmas Memorials \$ 8 Youth Missions \$ 50 East Nashville Cooperative Min.
12/11	92	\$3,844.65 General Fund \$ 12 Hardship Fund (Birthday / Anniversary Pig) \$ 10 Cloverbottom Gifts \$ 25 Youth Missions
12/18	101	\$1,689.16 General Fund \$ 13 Hardship Fund (Birthday / Anniversary Pig) \$ 25 Seekers Class Child \$ 85 Christmas Memorials
12/24	45	\$295 General Fund \$ 8 Hardship Fund
12/25	48	\$1,421 General Fund \$ 5 Hardship Fund

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Date	Scripture Reader	Children's Sermon	Communion Stewards	*Nursery Volunteers
1/01	Charlie Scott	Shari Adair	Set Up: Adairs Serve: Porters / Sharpes	Margaret Williamson
1/08	Elizabeth Egan	Emalie Egan		Samantha Perkins
1/15	Jim Adair	Cathy Caldwell		Ethel Burnett
1/22	Miranda Bilbrey	Mitzi Anderson		Margaret Williamson
1/29	Brian Caldwell	Shari Adair		Samantha Perkins

**If you would like to volunteer to work in the Nursery, please see Bethany Caldwell to sign up.*

ROOM IN THE INN

January 13, - 5:30 pm
to
January 14, - 7:30 am

We need cooks, servers, dish washers, inn keepers, lunch makers, coffee makers (people who can make coffee, there is a coffee maker machine there, but it is not fool proof), and gentle listeners. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Call Emalie or Judy if you would like more information... 615-403-8455.



WHITE BEANS AND CORNBREAD SUPPER

Join us on Wednesday, January 4th, at 5:30 p.m., for a Good Grub Meal of white beans and cornbread. Shari Adair has volunteered Jim to make a pan of cornbread and Debbie Keith will cook a big pot of white beans. If you'd like, you can bring a dish to share!

Come join us for an evening of food and fellowship!

AWAKEN TO AN



Come to Hickory Bend UMC
605 Stewarts Ferry Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

Walk through a Sacred Space and into your own Epiphany.
Youth, children, babies, and adults are most welcome.

January 8-15, 2012
6:00-8:00 each evening

Spend a few minutes, an hour, a lifetime,
or an eternity.

For more information call 615-403-8455.

Pecans in the Cemetery

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts..

'One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me,' said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery He slowed down to investigate.. Sure enough, he heard, 'One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me...'

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. 'Come here quick,' said the boy, 'you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!'

The man said, 'Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk.' When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard, 'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.'

The old man whispered, 'Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord...?'

Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, 'One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done...?'

They say the old man had the lead for a good half-mile before the kid on the bike passed him.

The Knots Prayer

Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, and might nots that find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God,
I ask that you remove from my mind my heart and my life all of the am nots that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough.

Amen.

(Anonymous)



PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Mike Baker, Eddie Berry, Elizabeth Hoffman, Barry Cloyd, Murphy Edison, Caleb England, Kenny England, Brian Ginnetti, Russell Lewis Jones, Mitch McDannald, Jeff McInturff, Amanda & Brad McMahan, Matthew Miesner, Joshua Mitchner, Jason Nevitt, David Parker, Jeff Ross, Jess Summar, Luvann Whited, Bobby Woods.

*When the shopping is over
And gifts stashed away
When the food has been eaten
And children run off to play*



*May one thing remain
In your heart and your home
May the Christ in Christmas
Stay all the year long*

**We have seen his star in the east,
and are come to worship him.**

Matthew 2:2



January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EPIPHANY SUNDAY SS 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m.	2	3	4 GOOD GRUB MEAL 5:30 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:45	5	6	7 Donna Bratcher Memorial Service 6 p.m.
8 BAPTISM OF THE LORD SS 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. SACRED SPACE 6-8pm B: Susan Sullivan	9 SACRED SPACE 6-8pm B: Willem Bearden	10 SACRED SPACE 6-8pm	11 WORSHIP MTG. 5PM CHOIR PRACTICE 6:45 SACRED SPACE 6-8pm B: Justin Bilbrey	12 SACRED SPACE 6-8pm	13 ROOM IN THE INN SACRED SPACE 6-8pm	14 ROOM IN THE INN SACRED SPACE 6-8pm B: Britiany Armstrong Kavanaugh
15 HUMAN RELATIONS DAY SS 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. SACRED SPACE 6-8pm	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY B: Linton Whaley	17 B: Cheryl Bilbrey	18 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (18-25) CHOIR PRACTICE 6:45	19 B: June Walker	20	21 B: Maggie Whitson
22 ECUMENICAL SUNDAY SS 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m.	23	24 B: Emy Grace Egan Meagan Troster	25 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:45 B: Jim Adair Judy Sharpe	26 B: Andy Egan Teressa Watson	27 WARMTH IN WINTER B: James Bilbrey	28 WARMTH IN WINTER
29 SS 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. WARMTH IN WINTER	30	31				

GODS'S DECK OF CARDS

It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars, and land mines for some reason hadn't been heard. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week.

As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk. Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?" The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord." The sergeant said, "Looks to me like you're going to play cards." The soldier said, "No, sir. You see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards." The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see the Ace, Sergeant? It reminds me that there is only one God.

The Two represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New Testaments. The Three represents the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. The Four stands for the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Five is for the five virgins. . . there were ten but only five of them were glorified. The Six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and Earth. The Seven is for the day God rested after making His Creation.

The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives - the eight people God spared from the flood that destroyed the Earth.

The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten, but nine never thanked Him. The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone.

The Jack is a reminder of Satan, one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell.

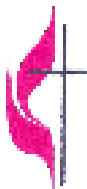
The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary. The King stands for Jesus, for He is the King of all kings.

When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year. There are a total of 52 cards in a deck; each is a week - 52 weeks in a year.

The four suits represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Each suit has thirteen cards - there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter.

So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for."

The sergeant just stood there. After a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, "Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?"



HICKORY BEND UMC

605 Stewarts Ferry Pike

Nashville, TN 37214

Dr. Gary Brock, Pastor

"Return Service Requested"