

From Pastor David

When our daughter was just a week old, we took her to the doctor's office for a routine newborn screening. The 30-minute visit was filled with the kinds of standard tests that can't help but make a new parent anxious. The nurse diligently checked her weight, length, and head circumference before mercifully proclaiming our child to be 'normal.'

On the way home, I called my mother to let her know the good news. "Mom," I said, "according to the doctor, everything looks OK. In fact, Addy even passed her hearing test."

"That's great," my mother replied. "Of course, now you have to hope she will also pass her *listening test*."

I laughed. Although, if I'm honest with you, I don't know that I fully understood my mother's point at the time. I needed the last 11 years of parenting in order to fully appreciate just how much of a difference there is between *hearing* and *listening*.

After all:

- Hearing is passive, listening is active.
- Hearing seeks to respond, listening seeks to understand.
- Hearing is a physical act that engages the ears, listening is a spiritual act that engages the soul.

The great Hungarian Psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi once said, "It is not the hearing that improves life, but the listening." As people of faith, we are called not simply to be good hearers. We are called to be good listeners.

The Hayes Barton UMC Outreach Committee and Biblical Justice Action team (BJAT) is working hard to help our church become better listeners to the voices in our community. During this time, members of these two committees have hosted and continue to host several listening sessions to better understand where our church family currently sees God at work in and around the community of Hayes Barton. During these listening sessions, participants are asked to reflect on the question, "If you could change something about your local community, what would it be?"

Our trained facilitators believe this listening is a deeply spiritual practice that requires us to first understand the needs of our community, so that we can respond well to them. If you haven't been part of one of our listening sessions, we hope that you participate in one of the three upcoming opportunities:

- Wednesday, May 10 (10am),
- Monday, May 15 (7pm via Zoom), and
- Tuesday, May 16 (7pm).

To register, please visit our signup page:

hbumc.org/signup

If you come ready to speak, we will come ready to listen.

Grace and Peace,
David

Community Listening Sessions

May 10 10-11am Fellowship Hall

May 15 7-8pm Virtual via Zoom

May 16 7-8 Fellowship Hall

Register at hbumc.org/signups

If you could change something about your local community, what would it be?

It is my pleasure to report to you again on the financial condition of our church. And it is all good news!

THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF OUR CONGREGATION

One indication of the bright future of Hayes Barton is our continued growth. In March we received 34 adults into our congregation from the New Member Class. And the current New Member Class numbers 23 adults who will be joining us soon. We also recently confirmed 24 young Christians from our congregation.

Our Vacation Bible School enrollment this year is 197 - an increase of nearly 25% over last year's class. And, Amy Piland tells me that our Sunday attendance is almost all the way back to pre-Pandemic levels. Pastor David adds that when on-line attendance is included - we are ALREADY BACK! Friends, this is great news!! Hayes Barton is thriving!

THE 2023 CHURCH BUDGET

To support this growth, your Finance Committee has proposed and the Church Council has approved a balanced budget of \$2,757,000. Thanks to the leadership of Mark Rostick and the Stewardship Committee - and your continued generosity - we had a very successful Stewardship campaign last fall. We received the same number of pledges as last year. But, the size of the average pledge increased by \$350. The result was an increase of \$158,000 in pledges over 2022. Pledges make up the bulk of our total estimated revenues. This year that total is \$2.4 million. Some members choose not to pledge but still make meaningful contributions. We estimate this year that these contributions will yield \$323,000. This estimate is based on an average of contributions over the past 5 years.

As with any organization, personnel is the largest area of expense for our church, a little over 60%. Our personnel budget increased this year by \$51,000 over the 2022 budget. This increase was necessary to accommodate salary increases for pastors and staff. Medical insurance continues to increase. We have also experienced an increase in nursery care expenses. Finally, late last year, the Trustees approved the outsourcing of technology support for our pastors and staff. This move will increase efficiency for our staff and pastors and provides greater security for our data. Look for an article in the May Commissioner for more detail on our budget.

As I have mentioned before, Hayes Barton is blessed with substantial financial reserves. They total over \$660,000. \$350K of this total is earmarked for planned major capital expenses over the next several years as we replace aging components of our physical plant. The balance of \$310K is designated as our Rainy Day Fund and reserved to cover any unanticipated expenses that may arise. It continues in place as an important bulwark against financial impacts we cannot predict.

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

I will turn now to our financial results through March. With respect to pledges collected, we are ahead of budget – and \$64,000 ahead of where we were at the same point last year. Non-pledged contributions are \$40,000 ahead of where we were last year at this point. Overall revenues through the 1st quarter are nearly 10% ahead of where we projected to be at this point in the year. Finally, our expenses through the 1st quarter are in line with the budget.

YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUTREACH

Finally, I want to turn your attention to the impressive scale and scope of the Outreach undertaken by this congregation. This support includes:

- Local and International Outreach line items in our OPERATING budget, administered by our Outreach Committee, chaired by John Thomas.
- The Pastors' Discretionary Fund administered by our pastoral team to help members of the community in need.
- Mission support funding for:
 - Methodist Home for Children
 - Thanksgiving Food Fund
 - In As Much Fund
 - Scattered to Serve
 - Holiday Share
 - Wee Care
 - Growing in Love Fund
- Included in our total financial commitment to Outreach is 20% of the salary of our associate Pastor for Outreach, Matt Ashburn, who oversees our Outreach efforts - and a much smaller percentage of the salary of our Executive Director, Tim Price.

- Adult Sunday School Collections are dedicated to support our Outreach efforts.
- Last year there were enormously successful outreach fund-raising efforts by UMW with its Bazaar, the Seekers Chicken Dinner, the ACC Class and the UMM through its hamburger dinner for Wee Care.
- We are blessed to have 7 Endowments established by members of the congregation dedicated to missions, the earnings of which go directly to support Outreach. Among these are The Eury, Hines and Mann endowments and the Seekers Benevolent Fund.
- And finally, there are all of the food drives you support throughout the year. For example, the “Feed the Pack” drive going on now. My guess is that the amount of food collected throughout the year from these drives would measure in many hundreds of pounds.

The extraordinary generosity of this congregation last year yielded \$370,000 in local and international outreach support.

Hayes Barton UMC

THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!

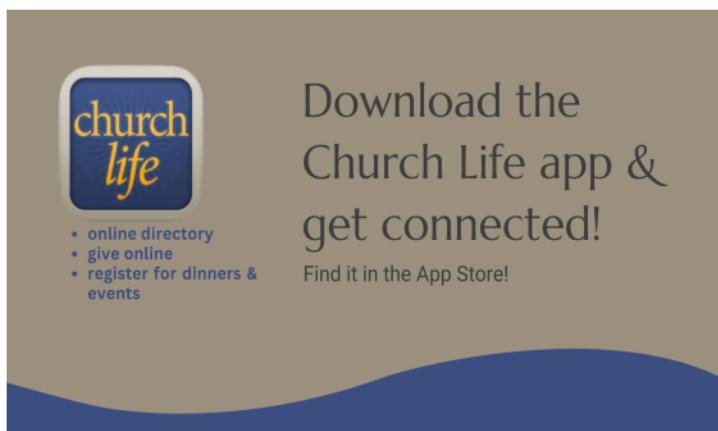
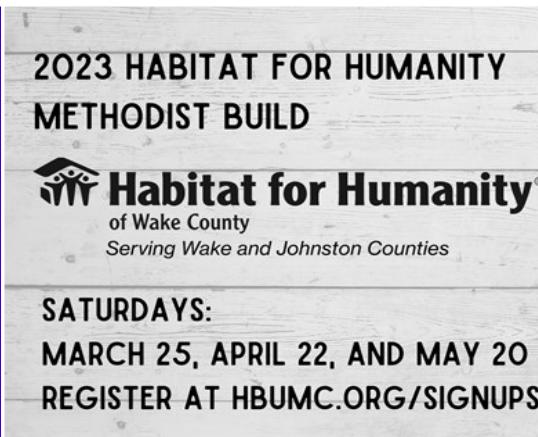
And mind you, this is exclusive of our Apportionment Payment of almost \$240K to the Methodist Conference. Much of that total goes toward outreach within our state and around the world. But again, our congregation alone provided nearly \$400K directly to outreach efforts last year! And most of that funding was to those in our community.

The lyrics of a favorite hymn sum up the Christian character of this generous congregation.

“We will work with each other; we work side by side . . . and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.

AND THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE, BY OUR LOVE, YES THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE.”

THANK YOU HAYES BARTON!!



2023 Worship in the Park



Over 500 church members and visitors worshipped in Dorothea Dix Park on Sunday, May 7, with music by the LightHouse Band, message from Pastor David, and Communion. We filled the Taylor-Burroughs Market P.L.A.C.E. van with supplies for their pantry, and enjoyed picnic lunches and boxed lunches from Cafe Carolina, dessert from the Not Just Icing dessert truck, and fellowship with perfect weather!

Sympathy and Love to

- † Phillip Kennedy and family on the death of his father, Michael Kennedy, on April 24. His service was held on April 29 at Rich and Thompson Funeral Home in Burlington.
- † Brendan McLaughlin and family on the death of his brother, Sean McLaughlin.
- † Joey Propst and family on the death of his father, Joseph E. Propst, Sr.

Birth

Scottie Louise Butts, daughter of Morgan & Alex, grandchild of Dave & Elecia Butts, was born on April 17.

Weddings

- † Evelyn Jones & Connor Woodall were married on April 29 in the Chapel at Bald Head Island.
- † Betsy Pierce & Michael Kale were married on April 29 in Chapel Hill.
- † Laura Stidham & Colin McHale were married on April 28 at the Carolina Yacht Club, Wrightsville Beach.

Baptism

Saylor Gray Owen, daughter of Brooke & Brandon, sister of Hunter, was baptized on April 30 at the 11 am service.

Memorial Gifts Processed by May 4

In Memory of **John Bradsher, Jr.** by the Hayes Barton Baptist Church Bereavement Ministry.

In Memory of **Austin M. Fine, Jr.**, Laura Ledford's father, by Joe & Pat Donaldson.

HBUMP IS HIRING
FOR THE 2023-2024
SCHOOL YEAR

- Degree in Education or Child Development- related field required
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30-1:15 availability
- Play-based philosophy
- Bonus: Conscious discipline trained

SEND AN EMAIL IF INTERESTED
mkConnor@hbumc.org



Prayer Bookmarks: 04-30-23 & 05-07-23

Deaths

Michael Kennedy, father of Phillip Kennedy
Sean McLaughlin, brother of Brendan McLaughlin
Joseph E. Propst, Sr., father of Joey Propst

Birth

Scottie Louise Butts, daughter of Morgan & Alex, grandchild of Dave & Elecia Butts

Weddings

Evelyn Jones & Connor Woodall
Betsy Pierce & Michael Kale
Laura Stidham & Colin McHale

Baptism

Saylor Gray Owen, daughter of Brooke & Brandon, sister of Hunter

Health Concerns

Ann & Dan Bowers	Magen Colgan	Barbara Dickey
Michelle Eudy	Ginger Ivey	Tom Lindley
Candace Moody	Michele Parker	Nancy Stamey

Ongoing Concerns

Betty Angell	Jim Riggins
Dorothy Caldwell	Gladys Rose
Mary Lou Goodrich	Rhumell Ross
Pat Gore	Barbara Smith
Dottie Honeycutt	Mark Stamper
Diane Jarman	Elvey Thomas
Sheila Lee-Carr	Bill Ulmer
Martha Lowrance	Eleanor Underwood
John Phillips	Molly, Zeke & Phoebe White
Hunter Potter	

Deployed

William Stephenson, Jr., grandson of Susanne Stephenson

Our Church Leaders

Pastors David, Molly, Matt, and Laura
D.S. Brady; Bishop Shelton

Our In-Crowd Members

Our Leaders at All Levels of the Government

**Pray for peace
and a Russian withdrawal from Ukraine**

Those Affected by Natural Disasters

The Commissioner

This newsletter is also available by email as a pdf, and can be found on the web at www.hbumc.org/newsletter

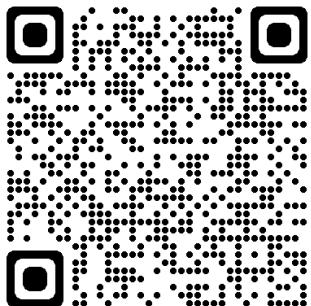
Vacation Bible School Needs Volunteers & Supplies

The countdown for VBS 2023: Hero Hotline is on! We need supply donations and volunteers! Please consider donating and/or signing up to volunteer!

Sign up at:

hbumc.org/signups

or use the QR code below to volunteer or donate.



Recovering Our Soul Connections: A Retreat for Women Who Have Been Sexually Abused

July 27-30, 2023

Recovering Our Soul Connections is a retreat experience designed and led by three spiritual directors — Cindy Neely, Khris Ford, and Liz Deal — who recognize the interconnection of body, mind, and spirit.

Over a period of two months prior to the retreat, you will meet with a spiritual director to build a supportive relationship. The retreat itself will include an exploration of Sacred Scripture, music, movement, expressive arts, mutual support, and liturgy. The retreat begins at 6 PM on Thursday and concludes at noon on Sunday, and will be held at the Well of Mercy in Hamptonville, NC (wellofmercy.org). For more information, or to request an application, please email us at soulconnection366@gmail.com. *Space is limited to 12 retreatants.*

Wedding Coordinator

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is looking for a Volunteer Wedding Coordinator. This volunteer position will coordinate all wedding events at HBUMC and work with a team of assistants to facilitate each ceremony. Interested members should send a letter of interest to Gena Jones, SPRC Chair (genashreve@gmail.com) and Sherry Thomas, SPRC member (sherry.h.thomas@gmail.com) by May 19, 2023.

Meals on Wheels of Wake County

needs volunteers for delivery of meals to elderly citizens who are food insecure. They are looking for regular and substitute volunteers to help once a month or more often. The time involved is only 1-1/2 hours, Monday-Friday, between 10:00 & 12:30. For details, please contact Jane Holding at janeholding1@gmail.com.

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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
AT
RALEIGH, NC

In Person Worship

8:30/11 am Traditional

9 am LightHouse

(9 & 11 am services live-streamed)

Nursery care for children from birth to age 4 available.

Sunday School at 10 am (not May 7)

MAY 14

6th Sunday of Easter

Pastor David

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

MAY 21

Ascension of the Lord

Pastor Laura

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

MAY 28

Day of Pentecost (10 am only)

Pastor Molly