



Hebron Community Church

September 2024 Newsletter



September, 2024

This month, I thought I would do something a little different. I thought I would give you a chance to lighten your mood a little bit. It has often been said that laughter is good for the soul. Mark Twain said that "Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritations and resentments slip away and a sunny spirit takes their place." As Christians, we should be able to laugh at ourselves most of all, because we should have hearts full of joy. I thought that this month, I would give you a good chance to laugh at some of the crazy things that go on in churches, and anybody that's been around the church a while knows that some crazy things definitely happen. I pray this will be a blessing for you. You may have heard some of these, but let yourself relax a little and have fun as you read these jokes.

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Dustin James

Golf during church

The Pastor woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So... he told the associate pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to preach for him that day. As soon as the associate pastor left the room, the Pastor headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his church.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church! At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from heaven and exclaimed,

"You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not." Just then he hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. IT WAS A 435 YARD HOLE IN ONE! Saint Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked,

"Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied,

"Who's he going to tell?"

Wired for sound

Back in the days before many churches had wireless microphones, a preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mic, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mic cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

The peace and love of God!

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" The pastor was thrilled. "No-one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why." "Well - it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!"

Great Sermon

A woman approached the minister after the sermon, and thanked him for his discourse. "I found it so helpful," she said.

The minister replied: "I hope it will not prove as helpful as the last sermon you heard me preach."

"Why, what do you mean?" asked the astonished woman.

"Well," said the minister, "that sermon lasted you three months."

Mistaken Identity

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard, when suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After several hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk.

Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car.

Why I never wash

A pastor, apparently disgusted with the excuses parishioners offered as to why they didn't attend worship services, included "Reasons Why I Never Wash" in the Sunday bulletin:

I was forced to as a child.

People who wash are hypocrites - they think they are cleaner than everybody else.

There are so many different kinds of soap; I can't decide which one is best.

I used to wash, but I got bored and stopped.

I wash only on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.

None of my friends wash.

I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.

I can't spare the time.

The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer.

People who make soap are only after your money.

I don't like the songs people sing in the bathroom.

I can clean myself perfectly well whenever I pass a sink, so I don't need a bathtub.

I know how to stay clean without washing.

The last time I washed, someone was rude to me.

What I do doesn't affect anybody but me.

I know someone who washes every day and still smells bad.

I don't believe in soap. I sat beside a whole case of it for an hour once, and nothing happened.

Washing was invented by people who knew nothing about science.

If people saw me without my makeup, they would laugh at me.

I'm so dirty now that if I washed, the drain would clog.

Cats, dogs, and chickens never wash, and they are happy all the time.

Prehistoric humans were happy all the time until the first soap salesman made them feel guilty.

If I start washing again, my friends will think I am trying to conform to middle-class standards.

Washing is for women and children.

Washing is for people much dirtier than I am.

I will wash when I find the bathroom that is exactly right for me.

I only believe in things I can see, and I can't see bacteria.

Children need to see that it is OK to be different.

Children need to see a few bad examples.

Washing may have been OK in my grandfather's day, but it's not practical in today's world. I need to look dirty, talk dirty, and fight dirty to survive.

I watch other people washing on TV.

There are lots of clean people who never wash.

We've just moved here six years ago and haven't had a chance.

I bought a bad bar of soap once, so I swore I would never wash again!
I feel as close to washing on the golf course as I do in the bathroom.
I never wash when I have company.
Washday is the only day I have to sleep in.
My wife washes enough for the whole family
I know people who wash but don't act very clean.
Washing is the opiate of the masses.

Nervous Minister

A nervous young minister, new to the church, told the flock: "For my text today, I will take the words, 'And they fed five men with five thousand loaves of bread and two thousand fishes.'"

A member of the flock raised his hand and said, "That's not much of a trick. I could do that."

The minister didn't respond. However, the next Sunday he decided to repeat the text. This time he did it properly: "And they fed five thousand men with five loaves of bread and two fishes."

Smiling, the minister said to the noisy man, "Could you do that, Mr. Perkins?"

The member of the flock said, "I sure could."

"How would you do it?"

"With all the food I had left over from last Sunday!"

Church Bulletins

Here are some Actual Announcements Taken From Church Bulletins.

- Don't let worry kill you -- Let the church help.
- Thursday night -- potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.
- Wednesday, the Ladies Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing "Put Me In My Little Bed" accompanied by the pastor.
- Thursday at 5:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the minister in his study.

- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- The service will close with "Little Drops Of Water," One of the ladies will start quietly, and the rest of the congregation will join in.
- Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" -- come early and listen to our choir practice.

New Preacher

A young preacher was preparing for his first Sunday service in his first church. As expected, he was quite nervous, so he sought advice from a trusted mentor. His mentor told him that if he lost his train of thought during his sermon, all he had to do was pause and proclaim, "Behold, I come" and to take a step forward as he collected his thoughts.

Well, the Sunday came and he began his sermon. Shortly into his sermon, he lost his train of thought, and taking the advice of his mentor, paused and proclaimed, "Behold, I come" and took a step forward.

He was able to figure out where he was and kept going until a few minutes later he again forgot where he was. He paused, proclaimed, "Behold, I come" as he took another step forward.

He again was able to collect his thoughts and kept going. He was doing good, but then near the end of his sermon, he again lost his train of thought. Again, he proclaimed, "Behold, I come." But as he stepped forward this time, he stepped forward too far and fell, landing in the lap of a lady on the front pew.

He frantically tried to collect himself, apologizing profusely. The lady said, "It was my fault. You warned me three times that you were coming, and I didn't listen!"

Anyone who has children or youth books and would like to donate them to the church, we will be glad to accept them. Don't forget that we have an adult library for you to check out books to read also.

Ride Ministry

Hebron is now offering a "ride ministry" for those in need of a ride to doctor appointments. Currently Robin Sykes and Sammy Lankford have offered to help with this. Please notify the office if you are in need of help.

September Birthdays

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 2nd | Avery Marrs |
| 4th | Montgomery Boswell |
| 5th | Liam Holliday |
| 8th | Claire Whitescarver |
| 10th | Zachary Marrs |
| 11th | Cindy Sykes |
| 13th | Betty Albright |
| 15th | Tommy Dixon |
| | Madison Nelms |
| 18th | Penny Reich |
| 19th | Robin Sykes |
| | Jeff Sykes |
| 21st | Julie Williams |
| 23rd | Sylvia Price |
| 25th | Jamie Allred |
| 28th | Todd Dixon |
| 29th | Mary Caylor |
| | Jenny Allred |
| 30th | Christine Cates |

Up Coming Events in October

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 11 th -12 th | Fall Festival |
| 18 th -19 th | Crafting and Stencil Board Painting |
| 20 th | Council Meeting |
| 21 st | Friendship Circle |
| 22 nd | Newsletter Deadline |
| 24 th | Methodist Men |
| 26 th | Trunk or Treat |
| | Every Wednesday night at 6 pm Bible Study |

Friendship Circle September Newsletter

On Sunday, August 18, a wedding shower was given for Chris Presley. Chris and Bob Perera will be married on September 21. She and all the guests enjoyed a good time together. A gift in their honor will be given to Abundant Life Ministries.

Also on August 18, Friendship Circle awarded the Annie Mae Wilkinson scholarship to Tiffany Clark. Tiffany is the daughter of Robin and Junior Sykes. Tiffany is the mother of three, works full time and is a student! We were pleased to be able to help her in this way. Tiffany also received the scholarship awarded by the Methodist Men.

At our September meeting, we will be nominating and voting on officers for 2025.

For now, we have no projects in progress. However, the Fall Festival is just around the corner and we will all be working very hard to make this year's Festival another successful Festival!

Abundant Life Christian Ministries

Abundant Life Christian Ministries will be going to Living Free Thrift Store in Mebane on Wednesday and Thursday to serve by hanging clothes. Living Free is a non-profit organization that helps men and women who struggle with addiction. Our service helps fund their ministry.

With Joy and Thanksgiving

First Anniversary HCC

August 4, 2024

Today we are celebrating our first anniversary as Hebron Community Church, a member of the Global Methodist Church. We are also celebrating the first anniversary of Pastor Dustin James's call to Hebron. Both are important landmarks for us as a congregation.

As we come to the time for our morning prayer, you know that Pastor Dustin always asks us to tell what we are grateful for and how we have seen God at work in our lives in the past week.

Today, with his permission, I'd like to modify that a little bit and ask that we think back a little further to what we are grateful for over the past year and how we have seen God at work in the life of Hebron during the year.

I'll tell you some of the things I remember when I think how I'd answer those two questions.

First, I'm grateful for a group of people who actually began work almost two years ago so that we could disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church and become part of the Global Methodists.

As I call your name, I'd like the members of the Disaffiliation/Transition Team to come forward for just a minute to be recognized.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Jay Wilson | Sue Creekmuir |
| Brenda Moss | Linda Williams |
| Robin Sykes | Buster Albright |
| Bob Swanson | Ben Boney |
| Margaret Lankford | Betty Boney |
| Sandy Dixon | |

This team worked diligently to inform the congregation about the decision it faced, to comply with the many requirements of the UMC to actually disaffiliate, and to move us into the new denomination in a seamless manner.

Sounds simple, but this required many hours of work and expertise within and beyond the team to accomplish. Without the dedication and enthusiasm of this team, we wouldn't be celebrating today as we are. Our thanks to you all.

Secondly, I am grateful for the Global Methodist Church. God led people of vision and devotion to start this Bible-focused, Wesleyan-oriented group of churches. And God led us to see value in this denomination and to align ourselves with its mission and vision.

The mission of the Global Methodist Church, and Hebron Community Church as you likely know, is to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ who

worship passionately,

love extravagantly,

and witness boldly."

So – back to Pastor Dustin’s questions of what we’re grateful for and how we’ve seen God at work - think back over the last year.

How have you seen us worship passionately? Is it during Pastor Dustin’s sermons that help us apply God’s Word to our lives? Is it the music that touches you? The invitation to come to the altar rail in confession, petition or gratitude?

How have you seen us love extravagantly? Maybe through generous food bank collections? Maybe through the recent reading camp? Maybe as we visit other members in times of need? Maybe just when we fly kites or eat chili together?

How have you seen us witness boldly? I love that God has moved many of you to invite neighbors, friends, coworkers and family to church. I love that many have spoken with Hebron members who have been inactive for a time and are now returning to worship. Clearly God has been at work among us.

And finally, I am grateful for our Pastor, Dustin James, and for his wonderful family. His wife, Evelyn, is always by his side and has her own unique way of ministering to us. And we can always count on his children, Carlos and Allison, for a quick grin or hug as they scoot past.

Dustin, I know you always say you are just an old country boy, but God has given you so many gifts that you in turn have shared with us.

We value your understanding of God’s Word and your ability to communicate it to us, whether in a sermon or a Bible study lesson.

We appreciate that you are faithful to visit us when we need a little extra TLC and to pray with and for us.

You inspire and encourage us to look outside of ourselves and beyond our doors in witness and ministry. We want you to know we are deeply grateful for all those aspects of your ministry.

So we have much to celebrate today and I hope each of you will add your words of thanksgiving and praise for what God has done among us this year as we prepare now for prayer time.

Betty Boney

Lay Leader, Hebron Community Church

The above article is directly from the Anniversary service on August 4th.

Backpack Giveaway

Thank you to everyone that donated supplies for all of these beautiful children that received the gift of a backpack filled with goodies for school this year. The out pouring of love was amazing and the parents were all so appreciative of this outreach! We had children from our church, the summer reading camp and surrounding community. The remaining will be spilt between Audrey Garrett Elementary here in Mebane and Morris Grove Elementary in Chapel Hill, (Miss Joannie's school).

Isaiah 24:13.14 and 17 *All our children shall be taught by the Lord and great will be their peace, their health, safety, protection and prosperity.*

Robin Sykes



Outreach and Missions

Thanks to your generous donations of school supplies, 25 backpacks full of paper, notepads, folders, pencils, markers, scissors, etc. were given out to elementary school children who came out for our backpack giveaway last Saturday morning. We were so pleased to see the excitement in their eyes. Parents were very appreciative. Pastor Dustin, Robin, Joannie and I invited families to our Family Fun Day and extended an invitation to come worship with us. We had 10 full backpacks left and a table full of supplies for the teachers. Joannie will deliver the backpacks and supplies to Garrett Elementary.

S.A.F.E. has expressed a need for diapers for mothers in need. You have an opportunity to meet this need by bringing diapers to the Family Fun Day on Saturday, August 24th. Diapers of any size, brand and quantity will be greatly appreciated.

If you have suggestions for Outreach projects or local Missions, please reach out to me.

Blessings, Pat

September 2024 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Communion | 2 9-4 ALM | 3 9-4 ALM | 4 9-4 ALM 6:00 pm Bible Study | 5 9-4 ALM | 6 | 7 |
| 4 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 3:00 Council | 9 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts | 10 9-4 ALM | 11 9-4 ALM 6:00 pm Bible Study | 12 9-4 ALM | 13 12-10 Crafting | 14 9-4 Crafting |
| 15 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12-3:30 Wilson Reunion | 16 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts 7:00 Friendship Circle | 17 9-4 ALM Newsletter Deadline | 18 9-4 ALM 6:00 pm Bible Study | 19 9-4 ALM | 20 Wedding Rehearsal | 21 11 am Wedding |
| 22 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship | 23 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts | 24 9-4 ALM | 25 9-4 ALM 6:00 pm Bible Study | 26 9-4 ALM 6:00 Methodist Men | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship | 30 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts | 1 9-4 ALM | 2 9-4 ALM 6:00 pm Bible Study | 3 9-4 ALM | 4 | 5 |

Nursery Schedule

September 1st Marti Graham / Joannie Wilson
 September 8th Maddie Moss / Brenda Moss
 September 15th Becca Bartlett / Markie Roberts
 September 22nd Betty Albright / Pat Snipes
 September 29th Joannie Wilson / Robin Sykes

Greeters

Lyn & Buster Albright
 Jay Wilson
 Ben & Betty Boney
 Jr. & Robin Sykes
 Lois Dixon

Acolytes

Marleigh Lankford
 Carlos Montejo
 Peyton McBride
 Annabelle Allred
 Aaron or Maddie Moss