



BULLETIN

JUNE 22, 2008

- ☎ 430-1711 Bob Belville ☎ 221-0356
- Keith Fox ☎ 322-2121
- Ron Henry ☎ 256-8437
- Steve Killian ☎ 256-9142
- Jim Valentine ☎ 328-6446

- Welcome Bob Belville
- Song Leader Jack Kline
- Speaker Frank Sullivan
- First Prayer Frank Stephenson
- Scripture Dick Covalinski
- Lord's Supper Kerry Sumner
- Pass Communion Jude Mayeux
Josh Stroup
Randy Adcox
Jerry Yoder
- ...to the Nursery Ty Stephenson
- Dismissal Prayer David Jernigan

The Hickory Church of Christ loves to have Visitors!

- Jessica Cain
- Rodney Cain
- TJ & Jody Hall
- Joe's parents
- Tony & Sharon Varner
- Katie Yoder
- Conover
- Hickory
- Roanoke VA
- Granite Falls
- Greensboro

(There are **visitor cards** in the back of the pews. Please encourage visitors to fill one out!
And anyone, guest or member, may use the cards for prayer requests, address changes, email addresses, etc.)

Jonah, God, & the Castor Bean Tree

In the last few verses of the Book of Jonah (which modern day Jews read on Yom Kippur, Oct. 9th, this year), Jonah's well-being depends on this small tree, a "lower form of life" that he had not planted or cared for. It shaded him from the broiling sun.

Yet he showed no concern or compassion for it until God took it away, just as he had shown no concern or compassion for the people of Nineveh until God had him swallowed up by the sea and a fish.

Jonah is our selves. Not only do we often turn our backs to those of other communities and cultures, but we ignore the forests and the other life forms that sustain us.

The forests care for us, look out for us, feed us (oxygen), shade us (from global warming). Can we learn from the story of Jonah, or are we so uncaring, uncompassionate, that not till God takes the forests away from us (that is, through the process and consequences of our own acts we take them away from ourselves) will we begin to care for them?

God tries to teach Jonah by making an analogy: As the tree is to Jonah, says God, so Nineveh is to Me.

This is puzzling. Jonah needs the tree. Though we usually think of trees as a "lower" form of life than human beings, Jonah needs the tree.

Does God NEED Nineveh? Does Nineveh nurture God in something like the way in which the tree nurtures Jonah?

Is God saying, "This lower form of life, Nineveh, is NECESSARY to Me. To ME, Divine though I am!!" Perhaps, precisely because what it means to be Divine is to care about all forms of life. Amazing!!

And the book ends with God's affirming that even the cattle of Nineveh are part of the great weave of compassion.

The Book of Jonah teaches us that trees and human beings, fish and cattle, along with Nineveh and Israel, are all bound together in God's caring. Perhaps they are not merely objects of compassion in the eyes of the Compassionate One, but all are expressions, aspects, of the God who cares.

www.shalomctr.org/



Interim speakers coming to Hickory Church of Christ:

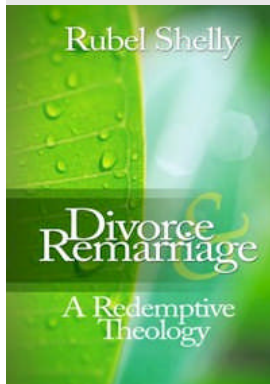
Invite your family and friends to hear some really special messages:

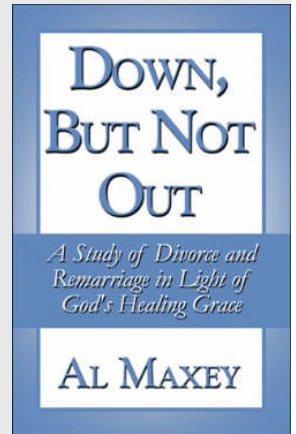
June 22 **Frank Sullivan** Missoula MT
 June 29 **Kevin Bibbee** Woodbury MN
 July 6 TBA
 July 13 **Johnny Melton** Nashville TN
 July 20 **Johnny Melton**
 July 27 **Johnny Melton**

Looking ahead...
 August/September Mark Hudson/Dan Hammitt/Kent Massey/Mike Hipes/Brooks Ave. folks.. Plus pulpit candidates...

Would you like to speak or suggest a speaker? **Bob** is scheduling our interim speakers.

Important New Library Books!
See Bob.





Avg. 2007		w/o 6/15/2008
83	Sunday School	66
125	Assembly	109
46	Wednesday	
\$3,211	Contribution	\$3,292
73/week (68) 3773	Web visitors, total (unique) Total year to date	293/week (199) 6986

- Happy Birthday**
- 24th David Jernigan
 - 25th Kristen Killian
 - 25th Mary Ann Delsman
 - 28th Taylor Wright
- Happy Anniversary**
- 22nd Joey & Tonya Osborne (6th)
 - 23rd Chuck & Retta Hughes (40th)
 - 25th Steve & Gloria Burkhalter (14th)

Have news, comments, **pictures** for the bulletin?
Your contributions are most welcome:
To the editor: rbelville@hickorychurch.org

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.; Worship 10:30
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
www.hickorychurch.org
Stay in the know, check our calendar regularly



CALENDAR

Office: 464 4983 Fax: 464 3747
1218 Fairgrove Church, Road Hickory 28602
Pantry Hours: Wed. 6:30-7 P.M.
Sun. 9-9:30 A.M. 11:30 A.M.-12 P.M.

PRAYER REQUESTS



(Post your prayer requests or download our current prayer list @ www.hickorychurch.org)

Minister search: That God will make His choice obvious to us!

New this week:

Judy Price – was admitted to Missions Hospital in Asheville on Monday. Cancer has reappeared and is now in her lungs. Chemotherapy may begin very soon. Please pray for healing and strength to endure.

Linda Sumner – has begun 6 weeks of radiation therapy to be followed by chemo for metastatic melanoma. Janet will know how we can help with meals and more. Please remember Linda and her family in your daily prayers!

Boyce Roberts – Missy Stroud's dad, had carotid artery surgery 6/11 in Burlington. He's doing better after several tough days.

Family and friends in our prayers continually:

Georgia Adcox – Update: Georgia is gradually gaining some strength. Meds being adjusted. Prayers requested.

Wayne Burton – in Iraq.

Frances Cannon – Gloria Burkhalter's aunt, is under Hospice care, prayers for her family are requested.

Jane Cannon – Gloria Burkhalter's mother, has been diagnosed with Lupus.

Annie Cay – Johnnie Breland's grandmother.

Toni Cay – Johnnie Breland's aunt.

Marsha Cooper – Florida friend of Linda F. & Eadie.

Sally Crosslin – good friend of Nancy Posey, – cancer of the liver.

Hilton Green – Friend of Mary Nell, Stage 2 Lymphoma.

Rusty Hughes – Retta's brother-in-law, ALS.

Sue Ellen Hunter – Donna Davis' first cousin, in Indiana

Ken Jernigan – David's dad.

Brenda Senn – Hendersonville.

Isaac Walker – grandson of Robert/Leslie Higbee.

Geraldine Ward – lung cancer.

Mona Wilson – Brooke Heller's grandmother.

In the Family...

Let's eat!

Fellowship meals after service today and next week. Meet and greet our visiting speakers and their families.

Seniors

The monthly luncheon meeting will be Tuesday. Check with Retta for details.

Youth Concert, June 28th, Faith, Family and Freedom Concert

There will be a brief meeting of those signed up to attend up front, after services this morning.

VBS 2008: August 3-6

Bigger! Faster! Stronger!

This year's VBS will run from **Sunday to Wednesday** evenings. Your participation will send a message that you care to our own kids and our community. There will be a meeting after the 6/29 fellowship luncheon for all those interested in helping with VBS.



I am Jonah!

Then God said to Jonah, *“What right do you have to get angry about this shade tree?”*

Jonah said, *“Plenty of right. It's made me angry enough to die!”*

GOD said, *“What's this? How is it that you can change your feelings from pleasure to anger overnight about a mere shade tree that you did nothing to get? You neither planted nor watered it. It grew up one night and died the next night. So, why can't I likewise change what I feel about Nineveh from anger to pleasure, this big city of more than 120,000 childlike people who don't yet know right from wrong, to say nothing of all the innocent animals?”*



Jonah 4⁹⁻¹¹

God bless those serving in distant lands:



Robert & Regina Lewis – in Chemitz, Germany.

Craig & Theresa Phillips – in Mumbai, India – **(Theresa in in her 3rd trimester!)** see their **June report** uploaded this week @ www.hickorychurch.org

Yens Nima & Jesus La Torre – whom we now help support in Ilo, Peru. report @ www.hickorychurch.org

Scott & Emily Glisson – friends of the Stephensons, in Uganda.