

# HAZEL LEAF

## Hazelwood Baptist Church

265 Hazelwood Avenue

www.hazbap.org

Waynesville, NC 28786

*"To express the love of God through worship, caring, sharing, and reaching out to others with the good news of Jesus Christ."*

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**April 2024**

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### **HOW TO GROW A FORGIVING HEART** **Want to be more loving toward others – and yourself?**

- 1. Decide to forgive.**  
Forgiveness changes the present, not the past. It's a choice you make to heal yourself.
- 2. Be patient.**  
Sometimes a hurt you thought was healed might resurface. If that happens, look at the situation from where you are now. Recognize you have grown and will continue to grow.
- 3. Surrender the idea that you are right.**  
Instead of rehashing an offense, try to be kind, compassionate and understanding.
- 4. Breathe out past hurts.**  
When you feel stuck in anger, take a deep breath, let yourself relax and as you exhale say, "I'm ready to move forward. I forgive."
- 5. Write your own apology.**  
If the person who hurt you is no longer in your life or isn't able to apologize, you can still have closure by writing down the words you long to hear. Consider it a gift to help you forgive.
- 6. Go outside with the intention of working through whatever is weighing on your heart.** Sometimes physically moving forward can help you move on emotionally.
- 7. Cultivate a forgiveness plant.**  
Use a plant that you have, or buy a peace lily or a purple hyacinth, which traditionally means, *I'm sorry*. Every time you water it, picture yourself releasing bitterness or regret and finding peace.
- 8. Forgive yourself.**  
Dwelling on something you wish you hadn't done? Give yourself a hug and say, "I'm ready to let go of this guilt and begin anew."
- 9. Look to animals for inspiration.**  
Often they are harmed by humans, yet they open their hearts again and again to love.
- 10. Turn to Scripture for healing.**  
If you keep a mental list of who harmed you and how, replace it with a list of Bible verses about forgiveness, such as Corinthians 13:4-5 "Love is patient and kind...and it keeps no record of wrongs."
- 11. Don't sweat the small stuff.**  
Did someone cut you off in traffic? Make a snarky comment on social media? Let it go.
- 12. Envision a bright future.**  
Focus on feeling better by releasing the pain or guilt of wrongdoings. Every moment is a new opportunity to grow a more forgiving heart.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3. Clifford Ruff
7. Gerri Underwood
9. Rhonda Wyatt
10. Al Bowers, Reva Shuler
12. Arlene Reynolds
17. Barbara Buchanan
18. Dick Young
20. Nashawna Aldridge, Logan Byrd, Susan Norsworthy
22. Lily Geeting
26. Gabby Hightower
27. Angel Cabe
29. Paige Shell

## SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO . . .

. . . Dan & Elizabeth Womack and family, Lisa Womack and Patrick & Kathy Womack and family in the passing of Norma Jean Womack.

Dear Friend of Children:

Thank you for being our faithful partner in ministry. You have stood steadfast with Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) and the result of your dedication is children's lives being forever changed. NC Baptists have shown our boys and girls the love of Christ at critical times in their lives – times when they were uncertain if they could trust any adults ever again.

When boys and girls come into the care of our cottages or in our family foster homes, it is because often times they have been removed from their families for their well-being. They have experienced abuse and neglect at the hands of the adults who were supposed to love them and take care of their daily needs including making sure they were fed. Our cottage parents and foster parents see very quickly when a child's family has not provided them the food they needed. When a child has not been able to depend on his or her own loved ones to care for them, it makes it almost impossible for that child to trust any adult.

You provide children food while pointing them to Jesus. Through the Food Roundup in April, your church, along with NC Baptists throughout the state, has the opportunity to help rebuild children's hope and trust. Boys and girls see us, as believers, collecting food, supplies and gift cards to ensure they have three meals a day. When the children ask their BCH cottage parents why churches are

collecting food for them, they are able to say, "It's because they love you, but most importantly, it's because they want you to know that God loves you." The Food Roundup is a gospel opportunity as 80% of those we serve at BCH are unchurched and unreached for Christ.

Thank you for not only providing food to children and everyone we serve together but also pointing them to Jesus by putting His love into action. We appreciate you!

Brenda Gray  
BCH Executive VP, Development & Communications

***(A Food/Supplies Needs List is on the last page of the newsletter.)***

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Jackson & Sarah Heinz who will be celebrating their 4th Wedding Anniversary on April 2.

Congratulations to Monte & E. J. Plott who will be celebrating their 4th Wedding Anniversary on April 3.

Congratulations to Doug & Patty McClure who will be celebrating their 45th Wedding Anniversary on April 5.

Congratulations to Ed & Polly Leatherwood who will be celebrating their 64th Wedding Anniversary on April 9.

Congratulations to Chris & Paige Shell who will be celebrating their 13th Wedding Anniversary on April 9.

Congratulations to Nathan & Krista Beck who will be celebrating their 14th Wedding Anniversary on April 10.

Congratulations to Rusty & Tamara Moore who will be celebrating their 20th Wedding Anniversary on April 17.

Congratulations to Cody & Amanda Parton who will be celebrating their 7th Wedding Anniversary on April 22.

Congratulations to Ron & Joyce Ingle who will be celebrating their 41st Wedding Anniversary on April 23.

Dear Pastor & Congregation,

Thank you so much for the donation to the benevolent fund in my husband's name, Roger Lewis. Your thoughtfulness and generosity greatly touched my heart.

Bless you all,  
Sandy Lewis

## A Hymn Is Born

### ***He Leadeth Me***

By Clint Bonner

Submitted by Carolyn Gratton

In the spring of 1865 a young minister took his place in the pulpit of the Second Baptist Church of Rochester, N.Y. About to preach his trial sermon before a new congregation, he thumbed through a hymnal to select an impressive song. At one page in the book his hand stopped. His eyes widened. Then he smiled. His wife must have played a prank on him. His thoughts went back to a night three years earlier.

It was March 26, 1862. The nation was in turmoil. The War Between the States had swung into its tragic stride. Everywhere people were praying for Divine guidance. In Philadelphia the son of the governor of New Hampshire made a talk before a group that had gathered at the First Baptist Church for prayer.

The speaker and his wife went home with Deacon Thomas Wattson for the night. The deacon complimented the young speaker on his selection of a text. Retiring to his room, Joseph Gilmore sat up into the wee hours writing some verse.

The next morning Mrs. Gilmore was up ahead of her husband. She took the paper with its verses but said nothing. Gilmore forgot it completely. Mrs. Gilmore sent the poem to a Baptist periodical. Composer William Bradbury read it, set it to music, and published it in his hymnal, "The Golden Censer."

At Rochester when Joseph Gilmore, D.D., stopped his hand on a page in the hymnal his thoughts went back to that night in Philadelphia when he talked from the text, "He leadeth me beside the still waters." At any rate, he wanted to hear how a hymn he had written sounded, so he asked the congregation to sing:

He leadeth me! O blessed tho't!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
What e'er I do, where e'er I be,  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
By waters still, o'er troubled sea.  
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,  
Nor ever murmur nor repine,  
Content, whatever lot I see,  
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,  
When, by Thy grace, the victory's won,  
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
Since God thro' Jordan leadeth me.

At 10 yrs "Dad, whatever."  
At 16 "My dad is so annoying."  
At 18 "I wanna leave this house."  
At 25 "Dad, you were right."  
At 30 "I wanna go to dad's house."  
At 50 "I don't wanna lose my dad."  
At 70 "I would give up everything  
for my dad to be here right now."

- Submitted by Alan Mathis

### **HANGING COFFEES**

Submitted by Alan Mathis

There is a little coffee shop, where two people arrive and approached the counter. "Five coffees please. Two for us and three hanging." They paid, they took their two coffees and left. I asked the waiter. "What's this about hanging coffees?" Wait and you'll see."

Some more people came in. Two girls asked for a coffee each, they paid and left.

The following order was for seven coffees and it was made by three women – 'three for them and four hanging coffees.' I was left wondering...what is the meaning of the hanging coffees, they leave.

Then, a man dressed in worn clothes, who looks like he might be homeless, arrives at the counter and asks sincerely... "Do you have a coffee hanging?" "Yes we do, sir." They serve him a coffee...I got my answer.

People pay in advance for a coffee that will be served to whoever can't afford a hot drink. This tradition started in Naples. Amazingly, it has spread throughout the world's cities and towns. It's also possible to order not only "hanging coffees" but also a sandwich or a full low cost meal. Wouldn't it be great if we could all start doing this in the cities and towns where we live? Small kindnesses like this can impact so many lives, in ways we could never imagine. Maybe we should all try it. ♥♥

### **HIGH ATTENDANCE SUNDAY**

"COME ONE COME ALL" to our High Attendance Sunday on April 7, 2024! Our Goal is to have 100 PEOPLE worshipping God here at Hazelwood, and we can do it; but, there is one important thing that is vital to us reaching our goal – YOU! Plan now to be here and invite at least 3 or 4 people to come to church with you! Nothing is impossible with God! "For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them." Matthew 18;20

A Hymn Is Born

***I Gave My Life For Thee***

By Clint Bonner

Submitted by Carolyn Gratton

More than a hundred years ago . . . 1858 . . . a frail young woman of 22 sat in an art gallery in Germany. Too delicate to attend school regularly in her native England, Frances Ridley Havergal's father had sent her to visit friends in Dusseldorf.

Exhausted from sightseeing, Miss Havergal sat, by chance, to rest in front of a painting of Christ on the cross. Over the wreath of thorns she noticed the wording: "This have I done for thee; What hast thou done for me?"

Inspired by the painting, she wrote a few lines of poetry. That night at the home of her friends she threw the scrap of paper into the fire. Then there took place one of the strange incidents that shape the destinies of men. A gust of air blew the paper out onto the hearth.

In England she showed the lines to her father, the Rev. W. H. Havergal, a hymn writer and composer in his own right. He encouraged her to add more verses. Thus began one of the most brilliant careers in the writing of Christian songs since the days of Isaac Watts.

Always frail in health, Frances Havergal died at the age of 43. When the physician told her the end was near she said, "Spendid! To be so near the gates of Heaven!"

Her hymns are still in use around the world . . . and foremost among them is the one that would have been destroyed in the fireplace but for a chance gust of air.

I gave my life for thee,  
My precious blood I shed,  
That thou might'st ransomed be,  
And quickened from the dead.  
I gave my life for thee,  
What hast thou given for Me?  
My Father's house of light,  
My glory circled throne  
I left, for earthly night,  
For wanderings sad and lone;  
I left it all for thee,  
Hast thou left aught for Me?  
I suffered much for thee,  
More than the tongue can tell,  
Of bitterest agony,  
To rescue thee from hell;  
I've borne it all for thee,  
What has thou borne for Me?  
And I have brought to thee,  
Down from My home above,

Salvation full and free,  
My pardon and My love;  
I bring rich gifts to thee,  
What hast thou brought to Me?

**OUR CHURCH'S GIVING RECORD  
BUDGET RECEIPTS FOR FEBRUARY –  
\$24,319.07**

**Life Lessons from Gracie the Dog**

Edward Grinnan

*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. —1 John 4:7 (NLT)*

Sometimes on my morning walk with my two-year-old golden retriever, Gracie, we encounter the unmistakable Billy. Billy has a disability. I've never asked him about it, but having grown up with a brother who had Down syndrome, I'm pretty sure that's what Billy has. But Gracie is especially eager and happy to greet Billy when she sees him coming down the street in his slightly awkward gait with arms outstretched and a smile almost as wide.

"Googoo!" At first Billy had trouble remembering Gracie's name, but once I told him we nicknamed her Googoo, he never forgot. Gracie pulls me off my feet if she sees Billy first. She dives on the ground and rolls on her back, shamelessly exposing her belly, which Billy obligingly scratches. "Are you having a good walk? Today is going to be a good day because you are a good dog!"

While we're in the midst of the moment and the middle of the sidewalk, a jet stream of pedestrians rushes past us. Most are very understanding. Some scowl, but many more smile. It is quite a sight, the two of them. Sometimes I wonder, *Did I fail to notice Billy all that time before we got Googoo? How often did I pass him walking to the subway in the morning? How many times did I fail just to give him a smile?* As I said, he is unmistakable. It seems like I couldn't have missed him. But my sensitive, loving dog didn't pass him by. She took to Billy right off, the first time she saw that smile and those open arms. Gracie looks up at me from Billy's feet, with that wonderful, sloppy smile she has and seems to say, "This is how you love."

*Dear Lord, my eyes are often closed even when they are wide open. Help me see like Googoo does, with love and acceptance, especially for those most in need of it.*

## Highlights from Beyond “The Three Steps”

**“This is the day the Lord has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it!” Psalm 118:24**

I would like to share a few excerpts from the book, *“I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference,”* written by Thom S. Rainer. May these words of wisdom and truth, and the Holy Spirit’s voice pierce our hearts to be the Church that God wants us to be for His honor and for His glory, alone!!

*“I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference,”*  
by Thom S. Rainer

*“I Am a Church Member! I am a church member! I like the metaphor of membership. It’s not membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It’s the kind of membership given to us in 1 Corinthians 12:*

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27). Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an “eye,” an “ear,” or a “hand.” As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that “if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Cor. 12:26). I am a church member. I will seek to be a source of unity in the church. I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church members. But neither am I. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God’s power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel. I am a church member. I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires.*

*That is self-serving. I am in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that are just not my preference or style.*

*I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church, because He gave His life for her. I am a church member. This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ. I soon thereafter identified with a local body and was baptized. And now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part*

*of something so much greater than any one person or member. I am a church member. And I thank God that I am.”*

*“Jesus said we must be last of all and servant of all. That doesn’t sound like all the church members we may know. Many church members demand their preferences, their desires, and the way they’ve always done it. But Jesus said we are to serve. Paul said it as well. After he became a Christian, the apostle declared, “I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of His power” (Eph. 3:7). We will never find joy in church membership when we are constantly seeking things our way. But paradoxically, we will find the greatest joy when we choose to be last. That’s what Jesus meant when He said the last will be first. True joy means giving up our rights and preferences and serving everyone else.”*

*“You are there to meet the needs of others. You are there to serve others. You are there to give. You are there to sacrifice.”*

*“So if we approach church membership from the perspective of entitlement, we have it upside down. You always ask first what you can do for your church.”*

### HBC’S CHALLENGE:

Dear Hazelwood family, are we truly serious about being the Church that God wants us to be?

Are we serious about living a holy life?

Do we only come to church, if ... it’s not too cold, it’s not too hot, if I feel like it, if I don’t have anything else to do, if the church is just the right temperature, the music is what I want to sing, the preacher preaches sermons that I like and agree with, the service does not last too long.

Do we really care about the lost, as well as those who need to be encouraged in the faith?

Are we committed to God and HIS Church?

Are we faithful in our attendance in Bible Study, Worship and the preaching of God’s Word, Wednesday Bible Study, and the church’s business in how we steward the ministries and business of His church?

Are we truly ready to grow in His Spirit and grow in our faith?

Are we ready for God to do miracles IN US and then THROUGH US?

If not, what is holding us back? If God is important to us, we, ALL OF US, will make His Body, - the church – important to us! God will not use us until we are truly serious, humbled, and willing and

ready to say "YES" to whatever He has for us individually and as HIS church to do!

"COME, ALL CHRISTIANS BE COMMITTED"

By: Eva B. Lloyd, 1966

*Come, all Christians, be committed  
To the service of the Lord.*

*Make your lives for Him more fitted;  
Tune your hearts with one accord.*

*Come into His courts with gladness;  
Each his sacred vows renew.*

*Turn away from sin and sadness;  
Be transformed with life anew.*

*Of your time and talents give Him-*

*They are gifts from God above  
To be used by Christians freely*

*To proclaim His wondrous love.*

*Come again to serve the Savior;  
Tithes and off'rings with you bring.*

*In your work, with Him find favor,  
And with joy His praises sing.*

*God's command to love each other  
Is required of ev'ry one.*

*Showing mercy to each other  
Mirrors His redeeming Son.*

*In compassion He has given  
Of His love that is divine.*

*On the cross sins were forgiven;  
Joy and peace are fully thine.*

*Come in praise and adoration,  
All who on Christ's name believe.*

*Worship Him with consecration;  
Grace and love will you receive.*

*For His grace give Him the glory,  
For the Spirit and the Word;*

*And repeat the Gospel story  
Till the world His Name has heard.*

Do you enjoy singing and praising the Lord? Please come and join us in the choir! Our adult choir practices from 4:00 – 5:00 pm every Wednesday! We hope to see YOU, soon!

We are always looking for extra help in our Audio/Visual Ministry - no experience required - our wonderful team will work with you and train you; we just need people who love the Lord and are willing to serve! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss joining the HBC Audio/Visual Ministry Team!

Thank you for the wonderful privilege of serving as the Minister of Music and Worship at Hazelwood Baptist Church! I pray for you daily and truly appreciate your prayers for my family and for me! I am always available, so please feel free to contact me any time! I love and appreciate each one of you so very, very much!

In HIS Service,

*Denise*

E-Mail: damathis123@gmail.com

Cell: 828-550-7408

Soli Deo Gloria

*"To The Glory of God Alone!"*

**One Thing My Cat Taught Me About Faith**

Dianne Neal Matthews

*All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are  
hidden in Him. Colossians 2:3 (HCS)*

Years ago, our family had a kitten who loved to sit in the bathroom window and look out at the backyard. Unfortunately, the window didn't have a sill. Jasmine quickly learned to hop up on the toilet, jump up and grab the lower part of the window frame, then pull herself the rest of the way up and lie against the screen. One day she made the mistake of not looking first to see if the window was raised.

After Jasmine grabbed the window frame, she saw that she had no place to go. The scrawny little kitten hung on with all her might, meowing pitifully. Hearing her cries, I rushed into the bathroom. After one glance at her little face, I quickly raised the window and gave her rear end a boost up.

I started laughing at how Jasmine had looked, but stopped abruptly. *How often do I look that way?* I wondered. So often I rush into my own little schemes, ignoring the privilege of going to the Source of all wisdom to ask for guidance first. Then I cry out to Him in the middle of the mess I've made, when I'm barely hanging on by my own strength. In spite of my foolishness, my Savior's loving hands are always there, ready to lift me up.

During Jesus's ministry on earth, He often amazed the people and the Jewish leaders with His teaching. They knew He hadn't been formally trained as a rabbi, yet His deep knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures were evident. As a believer, I can draw upon that wisdom through prayer and Bible study. Just as my cat learned to check and make sure the window was raised before jumping up, my goal is to always ask Jesus for wisdom before I act.

*FAITH STEP : Do you have a decision to make or a new project to begin? Before jumping right in, why not first go to the Source of all wisdom and knowledge to ask for guidance?*

# April 2024

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 11:30 Ladies Lunch at Dodge City	<b>3</b> 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Adult Bible Study	<b>4</b> 12:00 Men's Fellowship at Angelo's Pizza	<b>5</b> 3:00-5:00 ARC Cooking Class in the Kitchen - Tasha Byrd	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Worship Service High Attendance Sunday - Goal 100	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 Deacons Meeting	<b>10</b> 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Church Conference	<b>11</b> 12:00 Men's Fellowship at Angelo's Pizza	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Worship Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Adult Bible Study	<b>18</b> 12:00 Men's Fellowship at Angelo's Pizza	<b>19</b> 3:00-5:00 ARC Cooking Class in the Kitchen - Tasha Byrd  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Worship Service	<b>22</b> 12:00-4:30 PM Blood Drive at the Masonic Lodge Meeting Room	<b>23</b> 9:15 Senior Adults leave the church for a trip to Hamrick's and have lunch at the Moose Café. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the main hallway.	<b>24</b> 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Adult Bible Study	<b>25</b> 12:00 Men's Fellowship at Angelo's Pizza	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Worship Service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				