

# 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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## September 2024

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### **LABOR DAY**

#### **When Is Labor Day?**

Labor Day is always observed on the first Monday in September. Labor Day 2024 takes place on Monday, September 2.

#### **Why Do We Celebrate Labor Day?**

Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters.

In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages.

People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks.

As manufacturing increasingly supplanted agriculture as the wellspring of American employment, labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay.

Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed. Others gave rise to longstanding traditions: On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers' rights squarely into the public's view. On May 11, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives.

On June 26, the American Railroad Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. To break the Pullman strike, the federal government dispatched troops to Chicago, unleashing a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen workers.

#### **Who Created Labor Day?**

In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 5. Beth McMahan
- 7. Vikki Kinsland, Gail C. Moody
- 8. McKenzie McMahan
- 11. Evelyn Franklin
- 13. Jerry Farmer, Saylah Hightower, Waynette Owens
- 15. Sarah Golden
- 16. Bobbie Hall
- 17. Joanna West
- 27. Daniel Byrd, Cale Moody

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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations to Dave & Carolyn Kirkham who will be celebrating their 2nd Wedding Anniversary on September 10.

Congratulations to John & Mary Allen who will be celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary on September 25.

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**OUR CHURCH'S GIVING RECORD  
BUDGET RECEIPTS FOR JULY -  
\$22,574.31**

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**BIRTHS**

**Announcing the arrival of:**

Jeremiah David Heinz to Jackson & Sarah Heinz on August 4th. He weighed 6 lbs. 10 ozs. and was 20½ inches long.

Grandparent - Christy Lawrence  
Great-grandparents - Jim & Beth Cook

Peggy Newberry has a new great-grandson, Rider Sims. He arrived on August 15th.

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**THANK YOU!**

Ray and Gail Moody would like to thank everyone for all the cards, texts, calls, and, most of all, the prayers over the last month. Scott's short-notice liver transplant went very well and he is at his home in Dallas, GA doing a bit better each day. Continued prayers are appreciated during this period of adjustment.

Thank you!!  
Ray, Gail, and Scott

To the Saints of God at Hazelwood –

From the bottom of my heart, thank you so very much for the love offering that you sent to me. Your generosity and love once again reminded me of how blessed I was to be your pastor. You have always shown the love of God to so many people. You reflect truly the love that God gives to all. Thank you for allowing me the honor and blessing of sharing a wonderful journey together. You have once again been a huge blessing.

You are loved,  
Pastor Tim

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**SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO . . .**

- . . . the family of Don Calhoun.
- . . . the family of Randy Scuggs.  
Randy, Randy's parents (Joe & Helen) and his sister (Sara Jo) were members of HBC.
- . . . the family of Ronald Scuggs.  
Ronnie, Ronnie's parents (Earle & Clara), brothers (Stuart & Marty), sister (Pam Anderson of Evergreen, Colorado) were members of HBC.
- . . . Carol & Jim Shell in the passing of Carol's sister, Susan Mistretta in Dunkirk, NY.
- . . . Polly & Ed Leatherwood in the passing of Polly's cousin, Betty Arrington.

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**MEMORIALS**

Hazelwood Baptist Church has given gifts to the Benevolent Fund in memory of Don Calhoun, Susan Mistretta and Ronald Scuggs.

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**10 Years of Pathways!**

Saturday, September 28  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Folkmoot  
Free Family Fun Activities  
Special Presentations / Live Music  
Holy Cow Food Truck / Birthday Cake

**Celebration Schedule**

- 10-11am . . . . . Worship
- 11 am-2 pm . . . . . Displays/Activities
- 11-11:30 am . . . . . Live Presentations
- 11:30 am-1:30 pm . . . . . Food Truck Open
- 11:30 am-1 pm . . . . . Arnold Hill Band
- 1-1:30 pm . . . . . Live Presentations
- 1:30 pm . . . . . Birthday Cake

Entry to the event is free. However, we kindly request an RSVP so we can be prepared. Call 828-246-0332 or Email [mandy@haywoodpathways.org](mailto:mandy@haywoodpathways.org).

A Hymn Is Born

***Shall We Gather At The River***

By Clint Bonner

Submitted by Carolyn Gratton

People were dying all over New York. An epidemic was sweeping the City and when the Rev. Robert Lowry wasn't visiting sick members of his Hanson Place Baptist Church he was burying others who had crossed over Jordan. That's why the 38-year-old clergyman was near exhaustion when he lay down on the couch of his Brooklyn home one hot day in July, 1864. But he didn't stay there long. He began thinking about all the people who were dying. Then he fell to thinking about the great reunion at the river of life and soon he was up and writing.

Robert Lowry was a preacher. He said that was all he was – a preacher. After his hymns made him famous and he became referred to as a composer, he said he “felt a sort of meanness.” Preaching was his business. Hymn writing was a side line. He would rather preach a gospel sermon to an attentive audience, he once said, than to write a hymn any day. When asked what method he used in writing both words and music for many of his songs said he had no method. Music just ran through his head all the time and when he was in the mood, the words came by inspiration. Unlike Fanny Crosby, who “made” her moods, Lowry waited for his and wrote wherever he was, often on the edges of newspapers or the backs of envelopes.

Judging from his voluminous hymns, Preacher Lowry must have had lots of moods before he died at Plainfield, N.J. in 1899. Few there are who have not heard his “Where Is My Wandering Boy Tonight?” that he wrote for a temperance movement in 1877, or his music to “We're Marching to Zion” or “I Need Thee Every Hour” or his words and music to “What Can Wash Away My Sins.”

Exhausted as he was, Dr. Lowry's mood must have been working overtime that sultry afternoon in 1864. He reached for a scrap of paper and wrote four stanzas, went over to his organ and before he lay back down on his couch he had completed a hymn that has outlived every sermon he ever preached.

Shall we gather at the river,  
Where bright angel feet have trod;  
With its crystal tide forever  
Flowing by the throne of God?

On the margin of the river,  
Washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever,  
All the happy golden day.

Ere we reach the shining river,  
Lay we every burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver,  
And provide a robe and crown.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver  
With the melody of peace.

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**DEATH OF THE SON**

There is an old story about a man by the name of John Griffith, who lived in Oklahoma in 1929 and lost all he had in the stock market. He moved to Mississippi where he took a job as bridge tender for a railroad trestle. One day his 8 year-old son, Greg, spent the day with his Dad at work. He poked around the bridge-tender office and asked a myriad of questions. Then a ship came through and John opened up the draw bridge. After a moment or two he realized his son wasn't in the office and as he looked around, to his shock, he saw his son climbing around on the gears of the draw bridge. He hurried outside to rescue his son but just then he heard what he knew was a fast approaching passenger train, the Memphis Express, filled with over 400 people. He yelled to his son, but the noise of the now clearing ship and the oncoming train made it impossible for the boy to hear him. And all of a sudden John Griffith realized his horrible dilemma. If he took the time to rescue his son the train would crash killing all aboard, but if he closed the bridge, he would crush his son within the gears. He made the awful decision, pulled the lever and closed the bridge. It's said that as the train went by, John could see the faces of the passengers - some reading, some even waving, all oblivious to the sacrifice that had just been made on their behalf.

So many of us do the same thing to God. We wave as we pass Him by, never give a second thought to the sacrifice He made on our behalf. Like John Griffith, God allowed the jaws of death to close in on His Son. And thousands go by oblivious and indifferent. But there is one tremendous difference between the two. Unlike the Memphis Express that caught John Griffith by surprise, the sending of Jesus was not a panic move; it wasn't a spontaneous decision. It was planned. Jesus' death was not the result of jealous Jews or hard hearted Romans. It was the result of a loving God, who in His wisdom, said there was no other way. Jesus chose the nails, to demonstrate just how far he was willing to go to win your heart.

## **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***

### **Fully Devoted**

By: Pastor Jerry Dykstra

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching  
... fellowship ... breaking of bread and ... prayer.*

**Acts 2:42**

*The apostle Peter had just finished preaching the sermon of his life. He had laid out the gospel message without reservation. All who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3,000 people were added to the church that day. What a celebration that must have been! What a testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit!*

*Then we read that these people devoted themselves. Devoted--what an interesting word. All definitions of this word convey its sense of single focus. To devote is to give. Devotion is the giving of oneself to a particular person, cause, or activity. These first church members were not simply curious or interested--they were devoted. They were giving their lives, body and soul, to the gospel of grace found in Jesus Christ.*

*Such devotion moves beyond initial excitement and passion to a deeply rooted, long-term relationship with God. Devotion to a walk with Christ is a dynamic that can change the world--and that's exactly what happened. The Spirit birthed a devoted church, and the world was never again the same. Cultures were altered; philosophy was reshaped; God was revealed in deeper and more marvelous ways. The devotion of a few thousand ordinary folks transformed the world. We can't understand it. We can't explain it. God did it--through his church, through his people. Amazing!*

Dear Hazelwood Family, may we experience the devotion that characterized the first Christians. Let us not be complacent or indifferent in obeying God!

**Mark your calendar for  
Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 AM.**

**“HIS Will,”**

**a wonderful Southern Gospel Singing Group  
from the mountains of Western North Carolina**

**will be here at Hazelwood  
singing and uplifting the name of our Lord!  
Invite all your friends, family, neighbors, and  
community to come!**

**A nursery will be provided  
and you will have an opportunity to bless them by  
giving a Love Offering so they can continue  
sharing the love of God through music.**



We are searching for a new church pianist. I asked my dear friend, Dick Young, to start taking piano lessons, so he could play for us; but in the meantime, if you know of someone, or know someone who might know of someone .... please let me know! (Keep practicing, Dick!)

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***

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***Soli Deo Gloria***

"To The Glory of God Alone!"