



Highland Herald

January 2012

Vol. XCI No. 01



God Bless America

Rev. Scott Mackey, Pastor

E-Mail highprestyl@att.net

Website: highlandprestyl.com

Sermons for the Month of January

(Rev. Scott Mackey)

A new year begins on the first Lord's Day of 2012! Having just had communion on Christmas Eve, we will not have communion that Sunday the First. The session will be determining the communion schedule at its January meeting. But we'll start the new year by listening to Galatians 4:4-7 and Psalm 148 to reflect on the meaning of time from a theological perspective as we hear about **Time in His Hands**. Sunday, January 8th, is Baptism of the Lord Sunday and we'll hear Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11 and speak of **Baptismal Beginnings**. The hump Sunday of January, the 15th, will find us looking at 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 to examine **The Call That Matters**. As the month winds down, on the 22nd, we'll look at 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 and Mark 1:14-20 and ask, **Whose Work is More Urgent?** Having started on the first, January is naturally a fifth Sunday month. Our bonus Sunday on the 29th will include an examination of 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 and Mark 1:21-28 to see the pairing of **Authority and Love**. There is no better way to start a new year than in God's Word! Plan on joining us for the Sundays of January as we worship the Lord and His gift of time.

Thank You From Your Stewardship Committee

Your Stewardship Committee thanks you for your contributions all during 2011. Your support of Highland and its ministry is very necessary and much appreciated.

This year we were faced with a major problem as the heating and cooling system for the sanctuary needed replacement. We asked for your commitment to the need and your response was outstanding. We must be mindful that we did use a

major portion of our reserve funds to complete this project. Any future need will not have the benefit of reserves.

Many of you have already made your pledge to Highland's 2012 budget and we thank you. For those who have not yet submitted their pledge, please do so as soon as possible. The Stewardship Committee and then the Session needs to have the final numbers so that plans for 2012 can be completed. Send your pledge to the church to the attention of the Treasurer or place the card in the offering plate next week. Thank you.

Your Stewardship Committee, Martin Davis,
Jerry Ragan, Red Gilley and John Davis



New Office for Ken

Ken Muckelroy asked if he might use an old unused desk and set up an office in one of the unused upstairs rooms. The Session said "yes" to his request and with

a little help from Martin Davis and a lot of help from Jerry Ragan he is set up with more than he expected. An old unused computer was tested out and software was found that would work on a "Window's 98" machine. Sara Cannon contributed an unused printer which would also work with the outdated computer. Jerry shopped for and bought an office chair, using Memorial Funds, manhandled all of the furniture into place, hooked up the computer and then rested with a job well done!

Ken has visited his office and deemed the set up outstanding! See his picture. Is it too comfortable?

Sara's Stuff

(Submitted by Sara Cannon)



Recap of December 2011 Activities

Christmas activities were abundant, each with a distinct flavor and style. Dave and Bev Bugay hosted the congregation on December 4th with festive décor and lots of yummy food. As always, the gathering was like a big family get-together and was a perfect kickoff to the month of December.

On the 10th, ladies enjoyed a Christmas luncheon at Betty Robinson's beautifully decorated home. The aroma of yeast rolls assured us we were at the right place, and everyone enjoyed visiting and dining on the best food found anywhere. Betty never disappoints us; she had the hot chocolate syrup in the double boiler on the cooktop. Ymmmm.

The Advent Concert on December 11th was greatly enjoyed by a large crowd. Frank Kimlicko presented five classical guitar students who performed beautifully. At a reception following the concert we were able to visit with the students and their families.

Chili and all sorts of side dishes and desserts drew a large crowd on Friday, the 16th. After everyone had eaten, the Highland Handbells, under the direction of Dr. Ken Muckelroy, set the mood with tunes of the season. Then the *experiment*: Bells and chimes were assigned to those present along with caroling books. To their complete surprise, the audience was able to ring Christmas carols. They also sang. It was great fun. Priceless.

And by the time this Herald is published we will have had our Christmas Eve service with Communion and candle lighting.



Bingo on the 13th

Mark your calendars for another big Bingo Night on January 13th. We always have fun badgering those who dare to win the luxurious prizes. Bring a snack to share and join the fun. 6:00 p.m.!!!



Thank You's

Ray Sends His Thanks

My thanks to all of you who visited me, sent cards, brought gifts and did so many acts of kindness to both Eleanor and me during these last few months, both while in the hospital and here at home. Your prayers have been so very important to both of us. We appreciate all you have done more than you will ever know, and we will never forget you. It is so good to be able to come to church. Peace to you all. Ray Garvey

* SURPRISE *

What a wonderful surprise the gift card for James Avery was! You have allowed me to teach the Bible studies for over 40 years and I feel I should be honoring each of you ladies for your love and loyalty. What fun I'll have wandering thru James Avery and picking out my special remembrance. Thanks to each one of you!.....Claudia



Presbyterian Women will resume their study of *Confessing the Beatitudes* by Margaret Aymer, on Monday, Jan. 9, at 7 PM and Tues Jan 10 at 10 AM. All women (young, old, & in between), are invited to attend. It is an interesting study, with a book and video and has a little different take on the Beatitudes, which gives one pause to think. And leader, Claudia Anderson, often has interesting and informative extra information and / or reading, which add to the subject of study.

Looking to January



The Tuesday morning Study Group will begin a new series, "The Forgiveness of Jesus," on January 3rd. Anyone who is interested is invited and urged to attend at 11:00 a.m.

Note of Appreciation

To all the friends at Highland,

Thank you all for the nice (and comfy) chair. What a nice surprise! I love each and every one of you, and I thank God for *bringing us to Highland* and for the blessings Gary & I have received as members of this congregation. Thank-you,

Vonda Mecham, (Secretary, friend & fellow member.)

♪ Music Notes ♪♪

(by Dr. Ken Muckelroy)

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MEMORY

My daughter sent me this. I think it is beautiful. KM
PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN

In 1861 dark clouds were gathering over the life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and over America. In 1861, Henry's wife tragically died in a fire in their home and that same year, the Civil War broke out. Two years later Henry's 17 year old son ran away from home and joined Lincoln's army. Within a few months after joining the army, his son had contracted typhoid fever and malaria. After recovering, his son went back into battle, where he was shot and critically injured. Henry was able to transport his son home on Dec 8, 1863 and for weeks he sat by his son's bed, slowly nursing him back to health. On December 25, 1863 Henry wrote the words to the Christmas carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day:"

I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play,

And wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth,
goodwill to men.

And thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all
Christendom

Had rolled along th' unbroken song of peace on earth,
goodwill to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on
earth," I said,

"For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth,
goodwill to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead,
nor doth He sleep;

The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth,
goodwill to men."

Till ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night
to day,

A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, goodwill
to men!

When Henry looked around at what was happening in his family and in America, he bowed his head in despair. However, as the Christmas bells rang out more loudly, he remembered the truth that would bring great comfort—God is not dead, He does not sleep and one day God's right will prevail on earth. Perhaps this Christmas as you look around you see discord in our world. Instead, let us focus on the glorious event that happened 2000 years ago? On the night of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, angels appeared to shepherds in the field and proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." Peace was born that holy night. Will you remember the words of Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid... I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (Jn 14:27, 16:33) In Jesus we have been justified and we, therefore, have peace with God. (Rom 5:1) Through Him we have peace with one another. (Eph 2:14) May we worship the Prince of Peace this Christmas and allow the fruit of His peace to be evident in our lives. And may we anticipate that time when Jesus' reign will result in peace over all the earth.

I wish you a belated Merry Christmas and a Wonderful, Happy New Year!

A New Year, A Growing Faith

Janet Mackey

Driving home from Longview tonight I spotted a Dairy Queen where we used to take Reagan to play. They have a nice indoor area with a ball pit full of colorful, plastic balls. She used to love diving into that ball pit and digging her way around, popping up to surprise us just like a sparkly-eyed Jack in the Box. Watching the toddlers inside that play area tonight was a little poignant for me; Reagan isn't that stubby-legged toddler any longer. She's becoming a lovely young lady right before our eyes, and the things that used to delight her when five bore her now. She used to be scared to death of the slide at the park when she was little. Only Daddy's hand in hers could entice her to push off and take the ride. Nowadays she loves the swings at the park and wants to fly as high as the trees. She's looking forward to the roller coaster at Six Flags this summer. As she grows and matures she's willing to, even hopes to, take bigger risks. Our conversations have changed dramatically from the time she was five, as well. She's intellectually more mature than she was then, and as she grows and learns more that maturity will only deepen.

As we look forward with expectation to the new year stretching out before us, maybe we should resolve to deepen our spiritual maturity. We aren't the believers we once were as we took our first steps in faith. We know and understand more than we did then. Still, we need to seek after God's wisdom in our lives every day, to learn more of Him and therefore deepen our relationship with Him, to not be satisfied with where and who we are in Him now. We need to understand what we believe and why we believe it because He tells us we will be held accountable for the faith we proclaim. Certainly there are risks. Just as Reagan wasn't going to come to too much harm jumping into that ball pit, we, too, won't come to any harm sitting in the pews on Sunday mornings and continuing to do what we've always done. Reagan could be at a much greater risk on a roller coaster, but think about the ride, the rush of pausing that split second at the top of the track before plummeting downward into open air, feeling the wind in your face and your stomach leap into your throat. Christian maturity can be just such a rush. God is at work all around us, changing lives and working miracles, and I don't know about you, but I'm grateful that He gives me the opportunity to go along for the ride, even in my small way. We can continue to be slaves to our comfort, prisoners of our own fears, but God tells us that faith in Him sets our spirits free to be more, to be what He meant for us to be. Let's resolve in the New Year to let the Lord take us where we've never been before. Grab onto His hand and take the ride. Are you ready?



As I sat in a corner of the Sanctuary, on Christmas Eve – just nibbling away on the few morsels left from Sunday's fellowship, I witnessed such a beautiful service. There was music, not only by the congregation, but Janet Mackey, the preacher's wife sang the most beautiful solo, with the talented Jeff Ragan accompanying her on the piano.

Then there were words from God, and a message by Rev. Scott. And Communion. And, and then they all lit candles, as the light of Christ became many lights and yet still one. I can't wait until next year. And all you nice Highland folks, keep dropping those crumbs at the fellowship time. I'll be around, watching you.

Highland Highlights:

Monday, January 2:

--- Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3:

--- 11:00 AM, Bible / Video Study Group

--- 6:30 PM, Prayer Shawl Meeting

Monday, January 9:

--- 7:00 PM, PW Evening Circle

Tuesday, January 10:

--- 8:00 AM, Men's Breakfast

--- 10:00 AM, PW Morning Circle

--- 11:30 AM, Ladies Out to Eat at Heartland Ham

--- 6:30 Pastor's Bible Study on Zechariah Begins.

Thursday, January 12:

--- 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study on Zechariah

Friday, January 13:

--- 6:00 PM BINGO & Snacks

Tuesday, January 17:

--- 11:00 AM Bible / Video Study Group

--- 6:00 PM Session Meets

Sunday, January 22:

--- Pot Luck after the Worship Service

Tuesday, January 24:

--- DEADLINE FOR HIGHLAND HERALD

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

— 9:30 am Sunday School

— 10:30 am Worship Service

— 11:30 am Fellowship Time

Wednesday:

— 5:45 pm Bell Choir

— 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Office Hours:

Mon. thru Thurs.; 8:30 am to noon;

Phone: 903-595-3547;

highlandprestyler@att.net

www.highlandtyler.org

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Vonda Mecham

9 Dave Bugay

Fellowship Snacks



Thank-you to all of the ladies and gents, who so graciously volunteered for refreshments for the fellowship time during the year 2011. There is still a need for volunteers to fill the Sunday's in 2012; a *much appreciated service and an opportunity for you to sign up and serve.*

One can pick a month of Sundays, one Sunday or a variety of Sundays throughout the year. You can prepare & serve alone, or along with a partner or partners. Blessed are those who share FELLOWSHIP in CHRIST, for GOD lives in their FRIENDSHIP.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012



As we start the New Year, our Bible studies will resume. On the first and third Tuesday mornings, the video Bible study on "The Forgiveness of Jesus", will be in the Library at 11:00 AM. On the second and fourth Tuesday evenings at 6:30 and Thursday mornings, at 10:30, the Pastor's Bible Study on Zechariah, one of the Minor Prophets, will be held. Of course, the Presbyterian Women's circles will also continue their monthly studies. If you have not participated in any of these studies before, this New Year would be a great time to start. The material will be fresh and everyone would be starting at the same place! Please consider joining us for one or more of these studies for 2012.

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16b NLT

Pat Ellis, Phillis Kane, Charlene Bigler, Sherry Berry, Kyle Webb (Byers), John & Evelyn Adee (Mecham), Bill Chapman, Brenda White (Cannon), Susan Wright (Muckelroy), Ray and Eleanor Garvey, Alan Heck.

Please continue to pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces:

Capt. Tanya Murnock (Rowland), CW2 Rob Wing, is in Oklahoma (Sallee), Major James C. Anderson, Jr., Army Intelligence in Bagdad (Langston) and GSM2 Thomas J. Bushee, Jr., USS Bainbridge (Beverly Scott), Patrick Hedges, Goose Creek, So. Carolina (Garvey), A2C Vince Croci, (Mecham) USAF, Turkey, PFC Craig Clark, Afghanistan (Cannon), Bryan Eubanks, Iraq (Anderson), LTC David D. Smith, Texas ARNG, Edinburg, TX.



Thanks from PATH!

For thinking of others all year long.

Becky Duncan

(PATH item for January is soup)

Published 12-30-11 by
Highland Presbyterian Church
3101 Paluxy Drive
Tyler, Texas 75701-8303
(903) 595-3547
E-Mail: Highlandprestyler@att.net

The View from the Back Page

It is no secret, as we look back on the year past and look ahead to the year now beginning, that we face some severe challenges as a church. We need more members. It is just that simple. But adding people to the church is never simple. What makes a member of a church is a calling from God - a gift of faith that leads someone to seek out a family of fellow believers for companionship, mutual edification, and growing in grace and gratitude. Any church that grows, grows as a result of God's work and leading.

But are we, then, to do nothing? I was watching a movie the other day, *Facing the Giants*, in which an old pastor told the young football coach about two farmers in a drought. Both farmers prayed for rain, but only one farmer prepared his fields to receive it. The pastor then asked, "Which farmer showed he trusted God more to answer his prayer?" The coach replied, "The one who prepared for rain." It is clear we need "rain." But are we going to say, "We're from Missouri, God, You'll have to show us." Or are we going to prepare for rain even while the sun is hot?

How do we prepare? I'm not completely certain yet. The God who provides must also lead. But I know that participating in Bible studies is a start. As other opportunities to learn new things or develop new skills are offered, will we take them, or would we rather demand of God that He do things our way so we don't have to change? God can do anything. But our faith should also count for something and result in some action. Let's prepare for rain.