



"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." ...John 15:5"

Highland Valley

United Methodist Church

www.hvumc.org

23 NOVEMBER 2009

15524 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211

501.224.6047



Divine Worship

First Sunday in Advent
29 November 2009
8:30am, 9:40am, 10:45am

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26-38

SERMON

"God-Bearers"

Rev. Regina Gideon

HYMNS

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Vanya Gilmore

Focus: "Thanks Giving"

I want to wish each of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving as we gather with our families this week and observe our national holiday thanking God for His faithfulness to us this past year as a nation, through thick and thin. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to take an accounting of our past year and to realize that all that we have comes from the Lord's generous and gracious hand. Our fall stewardship emphasis in recent weeks reminds of this important truth: when we give to God we're giving a token back from all that He's given us. This Thanksgiving week a family memory of my grandmother comes back to me. She and my Gramps owned a used furniture store in the small northwestern Tennessee town of Ridgely. They started life off as sharecroppers with their 4 children and raised them up in our local Methodist Church. Something must have stuck. Two of their sons were called to the ministry and one grandson, me!

After my grandfather's premature death in 1970 from cancer, my grandmother worked as a cook at the local elementary school cafeteria where she made delicious homemade rolls and desserts. My grandmother didn't have much in material things but she was always so generous toward us, her grandchildren. When she died at age 87 in 2000 after a stroke, at her graveside the retired Methodist minister told the story about my grandmother tithing 10% of her modest means to Christ all those years in our local Methodist church. I began to make the connection between her love for God and generosity toward the Church and her giving and generous spirit toward us, her family. My grandmother set a high bar as an example for us.

As your pastoral family at Highland Valley Methodist, it is my responsibility to let you know my family's commitment to Christ. For 2010 Barbara and I have joyfully committed to giving 12% of our total gross before tax income to the Lord through Highland Valley UMC. We thank God that He gives us that opportunity to give back to Him. I can't preach on the biblical tithe and ask you to do the same without taking the lead. I also want you to know that our Arkansas Methodist Bishop, Charles Crutchfield, and his wife, Karen, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Philip Hathcock and his wife, Gwen, also tithe and lead by example, too. Tithing represents a high level of Christian commitment. But ask anyone who takes that step of faith, and he or she will tell you that when you step out for God, God always comes through and makes a way to provide for you.

May the Lord bless each of you and your families abundantly this Thanksgiving season!

Yours in Christ,
Daniel Kirkpatrick



You're Invited!
Special Christmas-
Dinner before the
Children's
Christmas Musical!
December 6, 5:00pm
Family Life Center

Menu

Christmas Ham--Seasoned Green Beans
Cheesy Potatoes--Holiday Fruit Salad
Rolls--Assorted Desserts

Donations only, tickets will not be sold.

Sponsored by the Youth of
Highland Valley UMC.

All proceeds will be used for the
Youth Mission Projects.

Children's Christmas Musical

6:00pm—Sanctuary

**SHEPHERDS, SHEEP
AND A SAVIOR**

Created by Ed Kee



Rex Eley

FAITH UPDATE BY REX ELEY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009

Good morning! I appreciate this opportunity to share a few thoughts about my faith journey and our Church.

My Christian journey began as a boy in a one-room Baptist church in southwest Arkansas. The church was so small that we only had a part-time preacher from Arkadelphia come once or twice a month.

Although my mother died when I was very young, I had the advantage of being raised by a rock-solid Christian Dad. With his leadership, I made my profession of faith during a revival when I was 9 years old. Our little country church provided a regular dose of hell fire and brimstone, but not much about how to deal with life's challenges.

My Dad had strong faith and lived accordingly. And I wish I could say that I have always followed his example, but unfortunately that isn't true. Despite my shortcomings God saw fit to bless me with a loving, Godly wife who has been an anchor in my life and an inspiration when my faith has been tested. For that I will be eternally grateful to God and to her.

Continued on page 2...

2009 Fall Finance Program

**"Tithing: Supporting our Mission to Know Christ and Share Christ
With the World" - Update: Week 8**



Our 2009 Fall Finance program began seven weeks ago and continues through November. The theme is based on our church mission statement: "Tithing: Supporting our Mission to Know Christ and Share Christ with the World" from the Great Commission by Jesus in Matthew 28: 16-20. Persons who are members of our church received a financial packet with a 2010 Estimate of Giving card and copies of our 2010 preliminary budget. After seven weeks we have received 132 Estimate of Giving Cards for a total of \$525,750 or 49.7% of the 2010 preliminary budget total of \$1,057,889.

The Stewardship Committee is asking persons to prayerfully consider making an estimate of giving for 2010 by returning the tear off portion of the card in the offering plate this Sunday or by placing it in the mail. For further information please contact our Financial Manager, Stacie Holloway at 224-6047 or email Stacie@hvumc.org.

Louis Burgess,
Stewardship Committee Chair

Sunday, November 29
Methodist Student Day Offering

**Churchwide Appeal for
Philippines Disasters**

**Please see page 3 of your
newsletter for details.**

CHILDREN'S CORNER

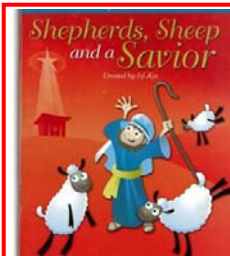


We will be selling Pizza Hut Fundraiser cards over the next few weeks. The cost of each card is \$10 and Highland Valley UMC will get to keep \$6 of each card. Cardholders may use their card up to 12 times and receive a medium, one-topping pizza with purchase of a large pizza each time. The proceeds will help complete the Children's Choir Robe fund. We are almost at our goal! Thank you for your continued support. *(Please see Vanya to purchase your card.)*



BABY DEDICATION DAY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 10:45AM

Please join us as we honor all babies born in 2009 to our Highland Valley members. Since the Advent season is upon us and we are about to honor the birth of Jesus Christ, we thought this would be an appropriate time to honor our Highland Valley babies, as well.



On a hill just outside of Bethlehem, lowly shepherds were tending their sheep at night. They didn't get much company out there. People had been passing through for several days as the census was underway, but they hardly spoke at all as they walked by on their way to Bethlehem. Nobody really wanted to talk to the shepherds. That is, nobody except an angel! They may have been at the bottom of the social ladder in Bethlehem, but

God chose shepherds to be the first ones to see the Savior! This is their story – what they heard and what they saw that marvelous night when God came to dwell with men.

SHEPHERDS, SHEEP AND A SAVIOR Created by Ed Kee—A Christmas Musical

Presented by the Children's Choirs of
Highland Valley United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 6

5:00pm—Dinner sponsored by the Youth
Family Life Center

6:00pm—Children's Christmas Musical
Sanctuary

Make this Christmas a memorable one with
Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior.

Faith update by Rex Eley, continued from page 1...

Prior to Highland Valley, Belinda and I were members of a large church that had great teaching but simply was too big for a country boy to feel at home. After learning about Highland Valley's beliefs and programs, attending the Alpha class, and getting to know and respect Reverend Kirkpatrick, we asked to become members.

Everyone here, especially the members of the Ben Miller class, could not have been nicer or more supportive. And Belinda and I are very thankful for your friendship and for this Church.

But no church is perfect, just as none of us are perfect. And a church very much reflects its members' faith, as well as their support of the church's mission and its leaders. As Highland Valley dealt with challenges this year, I have been encouraged by the faithfulness of its core congregation. Yet now is not the time for us to rest on our laurels or waste time thinking about the past. Now is the time for all of us to dedicate ourselves to the future.

As we move into the final phase of our Fall Finance Campaign and this Thanksgiving season, we each need to prayerfully consider what we can do to further God's work through this Church – not only by our pledges for regular giving, but also by looking for opportunities where we can help out in special ways.

All of us are blessed with different abilities. But we all have something to give that someone else needs, whether it be our time, our money, our prayers or our friendship. It is my prayer that God will help each of us do His will this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Thanks for the opportunity to share these thoughts with you. And best wishes for a great Thanksgiving!



THE EDGE



Sam Welch, John Patrick Holloway, Rebecca Ring, Michael Griffin, Matthew Kirkpatrick, Catherine Kirkpatrick, & Mary Grace Bishop



Kirk Hutchins, Mary Grace Bishop, Michael Griffin, & Jackson Floyd take a break at the tree house during Youth Discipleship weekend.

What a great time we had on the Youth Retreat to Ferncliff. We studied the Three Rules for Living a Simple Christian Life. I know that some of you could not go, and that's ok, we have plenty of exciting worship

activities and fun nights planned in the near future. I hope everyone has a great and safe Thanksgiving. Remember that when you spend these days out of school with your family and friends that we have so much that God has given us and that we need to thank the Almighty for the blessings bestowed upon us.

Save the dates:

December 4—Parent's Night out 6:00pm-9:00pm. Youth and Parents are needed to help babysit children.

December 6—Christmas Dinner 5:00pm. Tasks will be assigned next Sunday night during Hanging of the Greens. Sign up and be prepared to work and have fun.

December 12—Merry Mission. Signup sheet at the Youth Booth in the Family Life Center.

Beginning soon—the **HVUMC Angel Tree benefitting Methodist Family Health** will be set up in the Family Life Center.

There will be more emails sent out as reminders and new events

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

You asked for it, you got it! By popular demand, our Youth will again offer babysitting services on Friday night, **December 4**, from 6:00-9:00pm. We will have snacks available and you are welcome to bring a sack dinner if you need! Reserve your spot NOW by emailing William McRea at William@hvumc.org or 224-6047. YOU MUST RESERVE BY **DECEMBER 3!**



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be placed in the sanctuary during Advent in memory or honor of a loved one or friend and the donation will be listed in the church bulletin **December 20**. Poinsettias may be picked up any time after the 5:00pm worship service on Christmas Eve. If you would like to place a poinsettia, complete this form (*please print clearly*) and place it in the offering plate by **December 13** or send to the church office along with \$10 for each poinsettia requested.

PLEASE PLACE _____ POINSETTIA(S) IN THE SANCTUARY:

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

FROM _____

(Please show name as you would like it to appear in the bulletin. Thank you.)

Membership Vow of the United Methodist Church

I will support the church with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service and my witness.

OUR PRAYERS

Nelda Hicks, Frank Highfill, Mary Jo Smith, Marie Buckley, Dorothy Dillon, Delaine Russell, Jeanette Horton, Mavis Holley, Susie Wilson, Jerry Morgan, Mary Hall, Jack & Eutha Scott, Mary Harris, Tom Lorenzo.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to Randy and Jane Campbell and family in the death of Randy's brother, Mike Campbell, age 61, of North Little Rock, who died Saturday, November 21.

OUR PRESENCE

November 22

Divine Worship

8:30	64
9:40	46
10:45	135
Total	245

Sunday School

Adults	124
Youth	4
Children	32
Total	160

OUR GIFTS

November 22

2009 Operating Budget	\$1,048,372
Operating budget receipts for 11/22/09	24,447
Total receipts, operating & restricted 11/22/09	24,697
Year to date operating budget receipts through 11/22/09	882,677
Year to date receipts, operating & restricted, through 11/22/09	951,465
Restricted funds received for: local missions, Toys for El Salvador, Scout Troop 335	

2010 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

2010 Total Pledged	525,750
Number of Pledges Rec. to Date	132
Percent of 2010 Budget Pledged	49.7%

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - NOVEMBER 22

CHILDREN

Infant/Ones	2
2 Yr. Old	6
3/4 Yr. Old	5
K/1st Grade	9
2nd/3rd Grade	5
4th/5th Grade	5
Total	32

ADULTS

Faith	9
Fellowship	4
Pairs & Spares	2
Alice Fidelis	3
Highlander	26
New Beginnings	8
New Horizons	5
Good News	9
Connections	13
Ben Miller	35
Children/Youth	
SS Teachers	10
Total	124

YOUTH

Jr. High &	
Sr. High	4
Total	4

GIFTS

BUDGET

In honor of **Betty Cathell**
... by Faith SS Class
In honor of **Mike & Bev Stock**
... by Sue Wilson

TOYS FOR ELSALVADOR

... by Highlander SS Class

OUR SERVICE

Thank you to **Carl Trahan-True** for installing hanging rods in the Education Building Closet.

Thank you to **Perry Bolding** for cleaning the gutters.

Thank you to **Perry & Deborah Bolding, Jim Williams, Dona Young, Rob Brakensiek & Kelly Davidson** for putting up the Chrismon Tree.

Staff Sharing



Saying your prayers is like brushing your teeth- It's a habit you form, a commitment you keep. You should brush your teeth both morning and night, The same with your prayers if you're saying them right. Don't let your spirit or teeth begin to decay- PRAY (and brush) at least twice a day!



I thought this was most appropriate surrounding the "sweet seasons" of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. This would be a great poem to hang on the bathroom mirror!
Yours in Christ, Vanya

MISSION CORNER

**9TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
9:00AM UNTIL WE RUN OUT**

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

**SPONSORED BY THE INFANT CARE MINISTRY
HOMEMADE COOKIES, CANDIES & SMALL BREADS**

We need lots of candy and cookies to make this Annual Cookie Walk a success. Please make cookies, candy, bread, etc. and drop it off at the church on Friday, December 11, Saturday, December 12 from 2:00-4:00pm, or Sunday morning, December 13. Sunday morning beginning at 9:00am, come fill a box with goodies for \$5 a pound. ICM thanks you for your continued support.

METHODIST STUDENT DAY OFFERING—NOVEMBER 29

Highland Valley UMC will receive a second mile offering this Sunday, November 29 for the United Methodist Student College Scholarships and loans program. Special envelopes will be included in the bulletin. Many of our Highland Valley UMC college students are eligible to apply for a United Methodist college loan or scholarship. This is a yearly offering received at United Methodist churches across the country. **Please mark your checks "Student Day Offering" in care of Highland Valley UMC and place in the special envelopes provided.**

Each year, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awards scholarships and loans to students at United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities through the United Methodist Student Day Offering. In addition, a portion of the United Methodist Student Day offering is returned to annual conferences for merit scholarship awards to students of their choosing. Thank you for generosity.

CHURCHWIDE APPEAL FOR PHILIPPINES DISASTERS

Recently four powerful typhoons hit the Philippines, causing widespread devastation. At least 1,000 people were killed, and thousands more were displaced because of flooding and landslides.

The United Methodist Council of Bishops has issued a **Churchwide Appeal for Philippines Disasters.**

Your prayers and financial gifts are needed urgently as our church responds, rebuilds, walks with survivors and stays until the job is done. Contributions will provide humanitarian relief and support for the ministries and congregations of The United Methodist Church in the Philippines.

You may donate by writing your check payable to HVUMC with **Philippines Disasters** in the memo portion. Your gift will reach hurting individuals, congregations and ministries in the Philippines, answering their cries for help. **One hundred percent** of every donation goes to the **Churchwide Appeal for Philippines Disasters.**

THANK YOU!

The 15th Annual HVUMW Arts and Crafts Fair was held on Saturday, November 14, and was a great success. We had 34 vendors representing Arkansas and Missouri. The money raised from booth rental and the luncheon is the major fund raiser for the UMW each year and is used to fund missions.

This event cannot take place without the help of loyal volunteers – from setting up the gym, helping during the fair, the luncheon and getting the gym back in order for Sunday morning. My thanks goes out to **Rick & Sheila Jennings, Milinda Brown, Karla McDuffie, Karen Shepherd, Herr Northcutt, Jay Little, William McRea, and Vanya Gilmore** for all your hard work. I would also like to thank the volunteers who made the luncheon a success - **Linda and Kenny Baer** for overseeing everything but also everyone who helped out – **Marilyn Winburne, Dorothy Henninger, Alison Clark, Sue Jones, Kathryn Baertsch, Miriam Bilheimer, Wadene Hilliard, Ardie Otten** and everyone who donated cakes.

This is my last year as chairperson for this event – it has been a fun 15 years. Thanks again to all the volunteers – not just this year's but to everyone who has been a part of this event through the years – I appreciate each one of you!

Linda Brown, Chairperson, HVUMW Arts & Crafts Fair

**Church Office Closed
Thanksgiving Day &
Friday, November 27**

The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



**2010 FLOWER
CALENDAR**

The 2010 Flower Calendar is now in the Family Life Center. Please sign your name on the Sunday you wish to provide flowers for our sanctuary, or you may call 224-6047 or e-mail churchoffice@hvumc.org to select your Sunday. The price of the flower arrangements is \$75.

UM WOMEN NEWS

UMW Installation Service and Tea will be Tuesday, December 1 at 10:30am in the Parlor.
Social Action is the HVUMC Angel Tree. Remember to bring slipper socks with non-skid soles for men patients at UAMS.

A MESSAGE FOR OUR TROOPS

Xerox is doing something for our troops. If you go to www.LetsSayThanks.com, you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services.

**CROSSROADS SUNDAY
SCHOOL CLASS**

Are you looking for an opportunity to join with a group of friends or to make new friends and to connect in a small group fellowship and study? We want you to join us for the launch of the Crossroads Sunday School Class and our Christmas Open House on **December 6** at **9:30am**. We will meet on the second floor of the Wesley Wing in the former New Horizons classroom. We will be studying the Advent series "The Scriptures Sing of Christmas" during the month of December. After that, our study material will be geared toward the application of God's word in our everyday lives. Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship on December 6! Contact Janet Floyd, 868-9175, for more information.



DAILY BREAD COUNSELING

Highland Valley United Methodist Church serves as host to the Daily Bread Counseling service, provided by Rev. Garry D. Teeter, an Arkansas United Methodist minister and full time pastoral counselor. Counseling addresses such issues as: adjustments to stress, anger management, depression, anxiety, bipolar, grief, divorce recovery, spiritual growth, individuals and families surviving Multiple Sclerosis, individuals and families surviving a brain injury.

For more information, go to:
www.dailybreadcounseling.com.

**Pastor's Fall Bible Study
Wednesdays—10:00am-11:00am
Connections Classroom**

"The Book of Psalms: How the Psalms Teach Us to Talk to God"

Christmas Wishes: It's that time of year when we all think about how blessed we are and how there are those that have little. Highland Valley has always been so generous in their effort to help others. It is so seldom that we know the impact of our giving. We recently were told of a young 20 yr old girl who dropped by the Centers for Youth and Families new facility in Monticello. She wanted to help with the kids there. The President and CEO of Centers, Doug Stadter, was there and asked her what made her come by. They had just been talking about not knowing what activities they would be able to provide for the kids. She said that she was in the Emergency Shelter for 6 mos when she was younger. She said that people brought them Thanksgiving dinner and had a Christmas party for them while she was there. It meant so much to her that she wanted to give back. Guess who donated food for Thanksgiving and had a Christmas party for them? Folks at HVUMC. We are once again wanting to give each child a \$50 gift certificate for Christmas. There are 24 beds at the Emergency Shelter. If you feel at all lead to donate please see Sue Keathley or Patty Downes for more information.

Thanks, The Good News Sunday School Class

CALENDAR

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29

- 8:30am Divine Worship
- 9:00am Fellowship Time
- Fellowship (Telephone) Class
- 9:30am Sunday School Classes
- 9:40am Casual Worship
- 10:45am Divine Worship
- 3:00pm Hanging of the Greens
- 4:15pm Children's Choirs
- 6:00pm Alpha Class
- 6:30pm Youth Choir

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- 10:00am Staff Meeting
- 6:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting
- Troop 335 Troop Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 10:30am UMW Executive Committee
- Installation and Tea
- 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00pm Men's Bible Study
- 6:30pm Handbell Choir
- 6:45pm Women's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study
- 12:00pm Church Newsletter deadline**
- 6:00pm Higher Ground
- Art Class
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir
- 7:15pm Art Class

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 6:30pm Arts Academy Recital
- 7:00pm Book Club

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 6:00pm Parent's Night Out

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 8:00am Girl Scout Diamond Brownie Celebration
- 8:30am Girl Scout Cookie Training
- 9:00am Children's Program Rehearsal
- 5:00pm Christmas Party for Centers Emergency Shelter
- Connections SS Class party

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29

Acolytes

Seth Welch (8:30)
Maddie & Glory Knox (10:45)

Children's Church

Lesley Haughaboo & Amy Sinks

Rockers and Huggers

Jenn Wegener (9:40)
Jackie Kolstad (10:45)

Coffee Steward

Gay McDaniel

Fellowship Time Host

Highlander SS Class

Bus Driver

Scott Grimes (223-5370)

Head Ushers

Hot Woodworth, Perry Bolding

November Ushers

Bill & Suzanne Yee
Mike & Bev Stock

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00am-5:00pm

Phone: 224-6047 FAX: 224-1139

E mail: churchoffice@hvumc.org

Highland Valley United Methodist Church

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Childcare Attendant

Mr. Jay Little
Custodian

*Our Mission is to Know
Christ and Share Christ*