



"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

14 DECEMBER 2009

15524 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211

501.224.6047



Divine Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent
20 December 2009
8:30am, 9:40am, 10:45am

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

SERMON

"A Song to Lowly Men"

Series: *The Christmas Story*
Rev. Daniel R. Kirkpatrick

HYMNS

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
While Shepherds Watch Their
Flocks by Night
O Come, All Ye Faithful

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Lindsey Garland

FOCUS: Christmas Joy

What a magnificent morning of worship we had this past weekend with the Christmas Cantata presented by our Chancel Choir! Our thanks to the entire Chancel Choir for their dedication to Christ and outstanding music, and to director Betty Morgan and pianist, Jeannie Weatherford. Christmas is the season of singing and music as we express the wonder, joy, and mystery surrounding the birth of Jesus.

My thanks to each of our church families for your dedication and commitment to Christ and His Church in 2009 with your faithfulness in the important area of finances. We have had a strong year in 2009. Thank you for making your faith in Christ a priority. We only need to pull together these last 2 weeks to finish our 2009 in the black. We can obtain this goal, as Finance Chairperson Perry Bolding reminded us Sunday, as we all sacrifice and make a year end second mile gift.

I look forward to seeing you in worship this coming Sunday. I'll be preaching on the great story of the shepherds in the field who were watching their sheep when Christ was born in the stable nearby. Come and join us this Sunday as we experience the wonder of Christ's birth together.

Yours in Christ,
Daniel Kirkpatrick

2009 FINANCIAL STATUS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009



Perry Bolding

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and sincere appreciation for the continued financial support of the dedicated and faithful members of our Church in 2009. Despite an economy that has been very difficult among other things, our Church has maintained its financial position through most of the year; however, there is still work ahead of us. As of last Sunday, these are the numbers that we need to address as we go forward until year-end December 31st:

To meet our original budget amount, we will need approximately \$126,000 in operating budget collections or more through the end of the year. Broken down on a weekly basis, this equates to average collections of roughly \$42,000 per week over the next three weeks.

Our financial year has gone along the lines of a football game. As many of you (like me) who are football fans will note, in most games, at the end of the third quarter, the members and staffs of each team will raise their hands and hold four fingers in the air which denotes their attention to give maximum effort during the fourth quarter until the end of the game.

Continued on page 2...

2009 Year End Giving Update

As 2009 draws to a close, our church is also bringing its 2009 financial budget to completion. In a letter mailed three weeks ago, our congregation was updated on our financial needs to complete 2009 in a positive way. With 2 Sundays remaining, we need to receive **\$100,747** in order to finish the year in the black. The church books close on Friday, January 8 but contributions must be postmarked or received by December 31. The Finance Committee would like to thank our congregation for your strong support thus far in December and asks persons to prayerfully consider making a second mile gift this Christmas season.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

3:00pm-7:00pm

Mark your calendar!



Mark, Nancy & Luke Holleman

Welcome New Members

We are happy to welcome Mark and Nancy Holleman, and their 6 year old son, Luke, to our church. The Hollemans united by transfer from 1st Christian Church in Little Rock this past Sunday, December 13. Mark is employed with Arkansas Children's Hospital and Nancy with Drug Emporium. Their son, Luke, is a first grader at Chenal Elementary. Their address is 60 Epernay Circle 72223, the home phone is: 868-1811 and the email is mholleman00@sbcglobal.net.

We are excited to welcome this family as the newest members of our Highland Valley church family. We currently have 55 new members in 2009 for a total membership of 834.

Please join us in welcoming the Hollemans to our church.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



John, Gwen & Will
Watkins

Congratulations to Will Watkins who had perfect attendance for 3 months in Sunday School. Of course, his parents, John and Gwen, should get one also! Way to go Watkins family!



Dear Vanya, Rev. Kirkpatrick, and Barbara,

Thank you very much for organizing the Christmas Caroling to minister to our shut-in church members and the folks at the retirement communities. The smiles on their faces as the children sang were priceless and truly brought the meaning of Christmas to light. I am truly honored that my whole family was able to be part of such a special evening. We also really enjoyed the yummy treats afterwards at your home and appreciate your hospitality.

To the HVUMC family,

I challenge everyone that didn't get to join in the fun to go ahead and put it on your calendar for next year. I promise that after you see how much this means to the folks that we minister to, you will add this to your annual Christmas traditions!

Sincerely,

Carolyn, Clark, Clark Jr, Cooper, and Miller McCarley

THE EDGE



Dates to remember:

December 18—Youth Christmas Party at 6:00pm at the church. Food, games and the Nativity Story. Bring a \$5 gift. Wear your tackiest Christmas sweater, there will be a prize.

December 31—New Year's Eve party at the church. 6:00pm-12:00pm. Come and ring in 2010 with us!

Well, here we are just a week away from Christmas and there is still so much to do. A big thank you to all of you who came out to support the Youth's Merry Mission. The proceeds allowed the youth to provide Christmas gifts for a young boy and girl in Little Rock. Only a couple more weeks until the start of a New Year, and I ask that all of you keep our Youth in your prayers as we begin 2010.

MUSIC NOTES

From Betty's desk



The Children's Christmas Musical, *Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior*, was presented on December 6! The children were such adorable sheep, shepherds and angels and Mary and Joseph! Thanks to all of those parents and adults who helped make the night special.

The Chancel Choir presented their annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday morning, December 13 during the 8:30am and 10:45am worship services. The cantata, "*And This Shall Be a Sign*" by Larry Shackley, with lyrics and narration by John and Audra Parker, proclaimed God's promise fulfilled through signs of the Christ. The choir consisted of twenty-two members with narration by Carolyn Thompson and Scott Welch. The pianist was Jeannie Weatherford.

Special music for the remainder of December will include music by our Children's Choir and Ladies' Trio on December 20, and a flute solo by Rebecca Ring on December 27.

Christmas Eve will be celebrated with a service of carols, scripture, and music on December 24 at 5:00pm. The Chancel Choir, and soloists, Kim Markland, Marie Mendillo, Brenna Gilstrap, and Ramy Zimmerebner will present the special music.

Looking ahead to January, the Highland Valley Ringers will ring "*Do You Hear What I Hear*" and "*Carol of the Bells*", two favorite songs of the season of Christmas.

May the blessings of the Christmas season be with each of you and remain in your hearts throughout the coming year.

2009 Financial Status by Finance Chairperson, Perry Bolding, continued from page 1...

This year, our Church, for three quarters, did well taking all factors into consideration; however, at the start of the fourth quarter and continuing to this point, the basic "blocking and tackling" aspects of our financial game plan have not gone as well as we would have hoped.

Now, we realize it is late in our "fourth quarter" and we need a "touchdown" and not a "field goal" to fulfill our budget obligations. Fortunately, there is still "time on the clock" for us to exert maximum effort to carry the ball into the "end zone" and allow our Church to reach its 2009 financial goals.

As a former successful coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks once emphasized to his players, "be a part of something bigger than yourself; be a part of the team." Our "team" is Highland Valley Church. With everyone pulling together, we can accomplish our financial commitments this year and, once again, prove to not only ourselves, but to anyone else who might be interested, the devotion, the dedication and the character of our Church and its members to its mission to carry out the work of the Good Lord.

IN CLOSING, PLEASE REMEMBER THESE WORDS THAT LUKE GAVE US IN ACTS 20:35:

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Thanks for your continued **PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE and WITNESS** for Highland Valley United Methodist Church.

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, Mary Harris, Justin Garrison.

OUR PRESENCE

December 13

Divine Worship

| | |
|-------|-----|
| 8:30 | 88 |
| 9:40 | — |
| 10:45 | 242 |
| Total | 330 |

Sunday School

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Adults | 119 |
| Youth | 14 |
| Children | 23 |
| Total | 156 |

OUR GIFTS

December 13

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 2009 Operating Budget | \$1,048,372 |
| Operating budget receipts for 12/13/09 | 19,401 |
| Total receipts, operating & restricted 12/13/09 | 23,136 |
| Year to date operating budget receipts through 12/13/09 | 940,311 |
| Year to date receipts, operating & restricted, through 12/13/09 | 1,015,591 |
| Restricted funds received for: Angel Tree, Children's Choir robes, Walnut Grove Restoration, Infant Care Ministry & Cookie Walk, local missions, Methodist Family Health | |

2010 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 2010 Total Pledged | 627,451 |
| Number of Pledges Rec. to Date | 149 |
| Percent of 2010 Budget Pledged | 59.3% |

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - DECEMBER 13

CHILDREN

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Infant/Ones | - |
| 2 Yr. Old | 4 |
| 3/4 Yr. Old | 4 |
| K/1st Grade | 5 |
| 2nd/3rd Grade | 3 |
| 4th/5th Grade | 7 |
| Total | 23 |

ADULTS

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Faith | 9 |
| Fellowship | 4 |
| Alice Fidelis | 3 |
| Highlander | 31 |
| New Beginnings | 8 |
| Crossroads | 5 |
| Good News | 11 |
| Connections | 12 |
| Ben Miller | 26 |
| Children/Youth | |
| SS Teachers | 10 |
| Total | 119 |

YOUTH

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Jr. High & Sr. High | 14 |
| Total | 14 |

GIFTS

BUDGET

In honor of **Rev. Regina Gideon** for hosting Staff Christmas luncheon
 ... by Rev. and Mrs. Daniel (Barbara) Kirkpatrick
 In memory of **Cloriese Rich Ulmer**
 ... by Rosemary Wooley
 In memory of **Mike Campbell**
 In honor of **Ken & Linda Baer**
 ... by Maxine Patterson
 In honor of **Justin Garrison**
 ... by Highlander SS Class
 In honor of the **Chancel Choir**
 ... by Bettie Gray

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ROBES

In honor of **Virginia Nix**
 In honor of **Virginia Greenwood**
 ... by Sue Wilson

ANGEL TREE

... by Circle 4
 ... by Circle 1

Staff Sharing

My Favorite Christmas Memory

It's the most wonderful time of the year. This truly is my favorite time of the year. I love the colors, the lights, and most of all, I always feel like a kid again. What helps to make me feel this way is my memories of growing up in a small town. It's a town, where Merry Christmas is the greeting, instead of the politically correct Happy Holidays. Political correctness doesn't really exist where I am from. It is where the community gathers in front of the school the weekend before Christmas to sing Christmas Carols and enjoy fellowship. Plus it's the only place I get to go to a turkey shoot and watch my mother shoot a shotgun. Don't mess with me. She's a good shot.

Though if I had to choose one memory to out shine all the others it would be making cookies with Grandma. Not just any cookies, the world's best sugar cookies. Grandma would make the dough a day before and let it chill in the refrigerator and the next day Grandma, my sister, sometimes my cousins, my aunt and myself would take out, what seemed like hundreds of cookie cutters and get to work. There would be trees, stars, wreaths, reindeer, angels, and Santa. Once we cut them out, they would go straight into the oven to bake. We would wait with anticipation for them to cool enough so that we could decorate them with sprinkles, and colors of homemade icing. Once we would finish, they would be all spread out like a feast fit for a king, and we would grab an ice cold glass milk and enjoy the spoils of our work. I am not a child anymore, and Christmas seems to keep moving buy faster and faster. Of course this Christmas brings the joy and the new memories in the making because I have a new nephew celebrating his first Christmas, and yes, I am going to spoil him very much. Still, no matter how old I get, I will always make Christmas Cookies just like I did and still do with Grandma and I can't wait till the day I get to share that memory with my own family through actions and word.

I hope this Christmas brings back your favorite memories as well as making some new ones.

William



NOTICES

- ☛ **Holy Communion** is available each Sunday from 8am to 12pm in Hart Chapel (except during the Sunday School hour).
- ☛ **Upper Room Devotionals** are available in the entrance to the Family Life Center. Upper Room Devotionals are free. (Sponsored by HVUMC United Methodist Women).



Highland Valley on Facebook!!

Check out Highland Valley United Methodist's fan page on Facebook! You can connect with other members, check out upcoming events and see pictures from the latest happenings!



THANKS A MILLION!

The Infant Care Ministry wants to thank all the bakers, shoppers, and workers who made the Cookie walk such a festive success. The Highland Valley family donated over **\$1200** and took home more than 100 boxes of cookies and 8 baby blankets.

Many newborns throughout Little Rock will enjoy a happier, healthier start next year, due to your generosity. Thank you again for blessing so many others.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Thursday, December 24
Office closes at noon

Friday, December 25
Office closed

Thursday, December 31 &
Friday, January 1
Office closed

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.

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.

**BUDGET WATCH
(WE REALLY NEED YOU)**

Here is our weekly watch and reminder of how much is needed to fully fund the operations of Highland Valley for 2009 and to avoid an operating deficit for the year. We still have 2 weeks left in 2009 and a long way to go for the Church's finances.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total giving needed for 2009 | \$1,048,372 |
| Total giving received for 2009 as of 12/16/2009 | \$ 947,625 |
| Remaining contributions needed for 2009 | \$ 100,747 |
| Weeks left in 2009 | 2 |
| Giving needed every week for the rest of the year | \$ 50,374 |

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP

CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20

8:30am Divine Worship
9:00am Fellowship Time
Fellowship (Telephone) Class
9:30am Sunday School Classes
9:40am Casual Worship
10:45am Divine Worship

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:00pm Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

12:00pm Church Newsletter deadline

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE—
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSE AT NOON
5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY-CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20

Acolytes
Izzy Boehm (8:30)
Maddie & Glory Knox (10:45)

Children's Church
Barbara Kirkpatrick

Rockers and Huggers
Need Someone (9:40)
Tammy Felder (10:45)

Coffee Steward
Jeanette McNeill

Fellowship Time Host
New Beginnings SS Class

Bus Driver
Steve Jones (821-2104)

Head Ushers
Hot Woodworth, Perry Bolding

December Ushers
Don & Lena Adams
Werner Schneider
Greg Floyd

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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|--|---|--|
| Dr. Charles N. Crutchfield Bishop, Arkansas Area | Rev. Philip L. Hathcock Central District Superintendent | Rev. Daniel R. Kirkpatrick Senior Minister RevKirk@hvumc.org |
| Rev. Regina E. Gideon Associate Minister Regina@hvumc.org | Mr. William McRea Director of Youth Ministries William@hvumc.org | Mr. Herrn Northcutt Director of Facilities Herrn@hvumc.org |
| Mrs. Dianne Burnett Office Manager Dianne@hvumc.org | Mrs. Vanya W. Gilmore Director of Children's Ministries Vanya@hvumc.org | Mrs. Stacie Holloway Financial Manager Stacie@hvumc.org |
| Mrs. Betty W. Morgan Director of Music Ministries/ Organist Betty@hvumc.org | Mrs. Julie Zimmerebner Administrative Assistant Julie@hvumc.org | Ms. Milinda Brown & Ms. Vickie Downes Childcare Attendant |

Our Mission is to Know Christ and Share Christ

Mr. Jay Little
Custodian