



"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

01 DECEMBER 2008

15524 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211

501.224.6047

Divine Worship

Second Sunday in Advent
7 December 2008
8:30am, 9:40am, 10:45am

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1: 18-25

SERMON

"Our Need for a Savior"

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

HYMNS

The First Noel

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Angels From the Realms of Glory*



FAITH UPDATE



Vicki Jackson

When Daniel asked me to give the Faith Update, I thought, "When am I going to have time to prepare that." But then I realized that the topic should be easy for me to talk about because I have strong feelings about supporting my church with my gifts and my service. I have so much to say about it that I would have to write it or else there would be little time for communion.

My husband Ken and I were both blessed to have had work that both allowed us to have a comfortable life while still saving for retirement.

In 2003, I had worked for the same corporation for 31 years. I wanted to retire and Ken agreed. Six months later the company where Ken worked was purchased by a competitor and he was suddenly without employment. We were living in Dallas, but this was an opportunity to move to Little Rock. During this transition period, injuries sustained during Ken's military service began taking its toll on his health.

One of the first things we wanted to do was to find a church home. Ken's sister and her husband and his nephew and his family were already members here. We visited and the people were so welcoming we decided to investigate further. We had questions regarding Methodist doctrine so we attended Brock's Methodist 101 class.

Continued on page 2...

FOCUS: CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

I hope you have all recovered from our Thanksgiving holiday last week! I headed back to the fitness gym at 6:00am Monday morning to try and work off my Thanksgiving indulgence over the weekend.

This past Sunday we observed the first Sunday in Advent, the first of four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. We had three fine worship services, including the baptism of a baby girl, Reese Kate Myers, at 9:40am. Sunday afternoon we all got into the Christmas spirit with our Hanging of the Greens with over 100 persons participating. Our thanks to Mrs. Vicki Jackson and the Altar Guild for taking the lead in helping decorate the Sanctuary and our facilities for this holy season, and to Mr. Greg Floyd and Rev. Brock Patterson and the other men who assembled our Chrismon Tree.

The supper in the gym was also outstanding with delicious soups, sandwiches, and desserts. (The turkey and rice soup was excellent!) Our thanks to United Methodist Women president, Mrs. Cheryl Simmons, Mrs. Carla Coleman, and other volunteers for hosting and serving the supper.

We have many opportunities in the coming days to get into the Spirit of Christmas with our upcoming Children's Christmas Musical and Youth Dinner on December 7. Please remember to invite neighbors, friends, and colleagues to come and join you for worship and activities in our church during this month as we tell others about the greatest news the world has ever received—the birth of God's Son, Jesus our Lord.

I look forward to seeing you in worship this Sunday as we sing the great carols of Christmas and proclaim our Savior's birth.
Rev. Daniel Kirkpatrick

2008 FALL FINANCE PROGRAM—WEEK NINE

TITHING: GIVING GOD OUR BEST

The 2008 Fall Finance program "*Tithing: Giving God our Best*" is in its ninth week. Proverbs 3: 9,10 says:

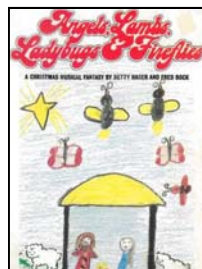


"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine." (NIV)

To date, 139 commitments have been received for a pledge total of \$611,316. This represents 57.06% of our preliminary budget for 2009. **The 2009 budget process will be finalized at the Committee on Finance Meeting Monday night, December 8, and is dependent upon the pledge cards we receive. If you have not done so, please return your pledge card to the office by Friday or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL AND YOUTH DINNER— SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Dinner: 5:00pm Christmas Musical: 6:00pm



The annual Children's Christmas Musical and Youth Dinner will be this **Sunday, December 7** with the Youth sponsored dinner at 5:00pm in the Family Life Center and the Christmas Musical at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. HVUMC Youth Choir will present three selections during the program. The cost of the youth dinner is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for kids 5th Grade and under.

The Children's Musical is "*Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs and Fireflies*" and is the story of the birth of Jesus from God's creatures' viewpoint. It is directed by Mrs. Betty Morgan and Mrs. Kim Markland and accompanied by Mrs. Jeannie Weatherford.

All proceeds from the Youth Christmas dinner benefit the missions of the Youth Department. The menu is: baked ham, potatoes, green bean casserole, rolls and dessert. The dinner coordinators are Mrs. Jeannie Mitts and Mrs. Kim Johnson, Director of Youth Ministries.

Santa will be available from 4:15pm-5:15pm in the parlor. Bring your camera!



CHRISTMAS PIANO RECITAL HIGHLAND VALLEY ARTS ACADEMY

Thursday, December 4

7:00pm—Sanctuary

The Highland Valley Arts Academy is presenting its annual Christmas Piano Recital this Thursday, **December 4** at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. The piano instructors are Mrs. Betty Morgan and Mrs. Erica Morrison-Schindler. 35 students will present their Christmas numbers. Admission is free and everyone is invited. A reception will be held afterwards in the Family Life Center.



Maggie Jones and Catherine Kirkpatrick making decorations to decorate during Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 30.

8TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00AM UNTIL WE RUN OUT

FAMILY LIFE CENTER—SPONSORED BY THE INFANT CRISIS 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 12 or Saturday, December 13 from 2:00-4:00pm, or Sunday morning, December 14. Sunday morning beginning at 9:00am, come fill a box with goodies for \$5 a pound. ICM thanks you for your continued support.

INFANT BAPTISM

Mr. Tim & Dr. Jennifer Myers presented their daughter, **Reese Kate**, for baptism this past Sunday, November 30 at the 9:40am worship service. Reese is 9 months old and has an older brother, Ryan, age 3. We thank God for this family and for the baptism of their daughter.

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

By Joseph M. Martin

Presented by the Chancel Choir
Accompanied by Chamber Orchestra
Sunday, December 14
8:30am and 10:45am Worship Services

You are invited to celebrate Christmas with the carols of the season and beautiful new anthems which deliver the message of redemption and the birth of God's promised Son. Carols new and old are wrapped up in beautiful arrangements, readings and orchestration. Come and join us as we welcome the wonderful and blessed season of Christmas!

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

The Pastor's Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning, 10:00am to 11:00am in the Chapel. The lesson on December 10 is Isaiah 60-65. A recap of the previous week's lesson will begin at 9:30am each Wednesday. Contact Brock in the church office (224-6047) or brock@hvumc.org for additional information. Join us!

YOUTH NEWS!!

SIGN UP NOW!

We have a lot of things taking place with the Christmas season! Stop by the Youth Booth or contact Kim@hvumc.org to sign up. Thank you!

Friday Night Live, 12/5 – parent volunteers needed!
Christmas Program and Dinner, 12/7 – youth and parent volunteers needed!

Parents Night Out FUNDRAISER, 12/12 – youth and parent volunteers needed!

Youth Christmas Party, 12/14 – FOOD needed!
Plan to bring a gag gift.

In this great season of joy, be a part of the love of Christ in this body together!
Kim

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

You asked for it, you got it! By popular demand, our Youth will again offer babysitting services on Friday night, December 12, 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 Kim Johnson at kim@hvumc.org. YOU MUST RESERVE BY DECEMBER 10!

PLANNING TO BUY GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

If you plan on giving any gift cards to friends or family as Christmas gifts this year, please consider buying them at Kroger using your [Kroger Gift Card](#) purchased through Highland Valley. By doing so, our Infant Crisis Ministry receives 5% of every dollar spent using your Kroger Gift Card and the church receives any additional funds raised after the first \$500. Kroger carries a wide assortment of gift cards for almost 200 different stores and restaurants. So, why not do some of your Christmas shopping for gift cards at Kroger this season – Everyone benefits!

2009 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2009 Flower Calendar is in the Family Life Center. Please sign your name on the Sunday you wish to provide flowers for our sanctuary, or you may call or e-mail the church office to select your Sunday.

Please note that after much deliberation by our Altar Guild, it has been determined that the price of our arrangements must be raised to \$75 in order to have the size and quality of flowers needed. Thank you for your understanding.

FAITH UPDATE—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One of the things discussed there was tithing. As you can imagine with Ken's early retirement our income was not working out the way we had planned. But we decided that if we joined, it was not only our obligation but also our privilege to support our church financially.

By this time it was obvious that Ken's injuries would make it impossible for him to enter back into the workforce. But when the Lord closes a door, he opens a window somewhere. He applied for his VA benefits and also for SS disability benefits. Now we had heard the war stories. We were prepared for a long drawn out series of denials and appeals. It just didn't happen. Imagine our surprise when he was granted both VA and Social Security benefits within a few months. When the Lord closes a door, he opens a window.

I hear a lot of reasons why people don't give. It's a matter of faith. But the truth is if you take care of the Lord first, he'll take care of you. I have a lot more I could say on the subject, but I don't want to monopolize our time. I'll close by repeating the answer an Indiana minister gave to the question "Do I tithe on the gross or the net?" His response – "Do you want gross blessings or net blessings?"
Vicki Jackson

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 21**. 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 14** 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

Ouida Roark, Nelda Hicks, Frank Highfill, Mary Jo Smith, Marie Buckley, Dorothy Dillon, Bill Grimmatt, Wes Schaffner, Margaret Nelmark, Peter Ward, Donna Smith, Mary Lou Rowland.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Amy) Sinks in the death of Michael's father, Mr. James Sinks, age 71, of Pine Bluff on November 26.

Our sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Clark (Carolyn) McCarley in the recent death of his great aunt, Mrs. Ann Speck, age 91, of Little Rock and Joiner, AR.

OUR PRESENCE

November 30

Divine Worship

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| 8:30 | 46 |
| 9:40 | 59 |
| 10:45 | 187 |
| Total | 195 |

Sunday School

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Adults | 132 |
| Youth | 24 |
| Children | 39 |
| Total | 214 |

OUR GIFTS—November 30

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Needed Weekly | \$ 20,550 |
| General Budget Receipts | \$ 42,811 |
| Miscellaneous Funds | \$ 1,087 |
| Youth Emergency Shelter, United Methodist Student Day, local missions, Infant Crisis Ministry | |

Annual Budget 2008

\$1,058,102

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| | Year to Date |
| Receipts | \$897,107* |
| Expenses | \$967,347 |
| Income (Deficit) | (\$70,240)** |

2008 Projected Remaining Expenses \$90,755

***Percentage under budget 8%**

****Includes district and conference apportionments due but unpaid.**

Pledge Results

2008 Total Pledged & Estimated \$738,136

Pledges & Estimates Rec. Year to Date \$643,482

Pledges & Estimates Unpaid (\$94,654)

Percent of Pledges & Estimates Received 87%

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER 30

CHILDREN

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Infant/Ones | 5 |
| 2 Yr. Old | 5 |
| 3/4 Yr. Old | 9 |
| K/1st Grade | 8 |
| 2nd/3rd Grade | 3 |
| 4th/5th Grade | 9 |
| Total | 39 |

YOUTH

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 6th-8th Grade | 13 |
| 9th-10th Grade | 9 |
| 11th-12th Grade | 2 |
| Total | 24 |

ADULTS

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Pairs & Spares | 4 |
| Fellowship | 4 |
| Ben Miller | 23 |
| New Beginnings | 18 |
| Connections | 12 |
| Good News | 12 |
| Faith | 12 |
| Highlander | 27 |
| Alice Fidelis | 4 |
| New Horizons | 7 |
| Children's SS Tchrs | 9 |
| Total | 132 |

GIFTS

BUDGET

In memory of **Annalee White**
... by Nodya Lambert

YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER

by Highlander Sunday School Class

Staff Sharing

WADING IN THE WATER

Our new Boy Scouts had the opportunity to experience their first below 32 degree campout the weekend of November 14 through 16. We call this a Polar Bear campout for obvious reasons. 13 scouts and 10 adults participated.

Several weeks before the boys had practiced setting up their tents in the dark without flashlights. They wondered why we leaders thought this was important as we usually arrive at our camping destination before the sunset. Because our campout was at Blanchard Springs, we did not arrive until after 9:00 p.m. on Friday night. Several said they understood then why we practice for the worst case situations rather than hoping things will be as they always were. It's nice to see the lights finally go on in a twelve-year-old brain.

We had a 5 mile hike planned for Saturday from Allison back to Blanchard Springs by way of the North Sylamore Creek trail. A couple of our adults shuttled us to the trail head 10 road miles away. We took some group pictures then departed down the trail. The shuttles returned to camp. The beautiful day had spirits high in anticipation of a good hike with hot chocolate waiting for us back at camp. How things can quickly change.

About a quarter mile into the hike we came to where the trail crosses the creek. The creek looked to be five feet deep at the crossing. Spirits took a nose dive. Here we were, 10 miles from camp by road and not enough hours in the day to get back before dark. This wouldn't work because we had a flashlight only Cavern tour scheduled in the afternoon.

Reconnaissance was made up and down the creek for about a hundred yards. No crossing was without having to wade through the creek. Even if we waded across, we would still have to bushwhack through some heavy brush on an incline to pick up the trail on the other side.

The patrol leaders took over and decided that if we took off our boots and shoes we could probably get across quick enough to avoid hypothermia. It's amazing how fast you can walk in freezing water. The older scouts lead the way across and then through a jungle of cane to the trail. The dreaded crossing became an adventure that was talked about for the rest of the campout. The boys learned an important lesson.

If you trust your training and stick with the group, obstacles can be overcome. These opportunities for growth abound in our scouting ministry at Highland Valley. The hot chocolate at the end of a tough but beautiful hike was ok too.

Herrn Northcutt



HVUMC Scouts safely to the other side.

TO SHARE CHRIST...WITH A NEEDY CHILD AT CHRISTMASTIME

Again this year, our church is sharing the love of Christ with our friends in the impoverished Delta of Arkansas. In the Galloway Family Life Center, you will find the Delta Angel Christmas Tree, which gives names, ages and sizes for children in Chicot County available for sponsorship this Christmas. You, your family, your children, Sunday School class or small group may take an angel (or two) from the tree to sponsor this holiday season.

Gifts for Delta Angels should NOT be wrapped but should be LABELED with the child's name and placed beneath the large tree on the center of the stage in the Family Life Center. Gifts should be returned NO LATER than **December 17**. Anything delivered after 12/17 will not be able to be sent to Lakeside School District! This is part of our ongoing Delta Mission Project, now beginning its sixth year. For more information, or to volunteer to assist in delivery, please contact Kim Johnson at the church.

CENTERS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES EMERGENCY SHELTER

It's that time again when families and even Sunday School classes are thinking about Christmas and how they might want to share with those less fortunate. HVUMC has always been so generous to the kids. For several years, we have been able to provide a \$50 gift certificate to every child that has to spend Christmas away from family while they are staying at the Shelter. It's a wonderful place for them but it's not home. There are a lot of wonderful opportunities to give at the holidays, but we wanted to ask if you would consider donating for the gift certificates. It may be their only gift. For more information or donations, please contact Amy Sinks or Kathy Ainley.

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 2008 and to avoid an operating deficit for the year. We still have 4 weeks left in 2008 and a long way to go for the church's finances. We received \$42,811 last week.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total giving needed for 2008 | \$1,058,102 |
| Total giving received for 2008 as of 11/30/2008 | \$897,107 |
| Remaining contributions needed for 2008 | \$160,995 |
| Weeks left in 2008 | 4 |
| Giving needed every week for the rest of the year | \$40,249 |

THANKS ALTAR GUILD!

A great big thanks to all who helped with the fall cleaning! Shown: Mrs. Gay McDaniel, Mrs. Vicki Jackson, Mrs. Peggy Taylor, Mrs. Linda Martindale, Mrs. Ardie Otten, Mrs. Bev Stock, Mrs. Mary Pickering, Mrs. Nita Hobson.



Not shown: Mrs. Kathy Bishop, Mrs. Susan Wright, Mr. Jim Martindale.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you, the Alpha Circle and HVUMC members for the care packages we just received. What a blessing. Not only are you helping soldiers, but today I was able to help workers from Fiji who needed basic toiletries. The *Upper Room* devotionals are also popular. I look forward to returning to Arkansas before Christmas! May Jesus bless you with the fullness of His love, peace, and joy!

Wes (Rev. J. Wesley Hilliard)

Rev. Hilliard's unit will return from Iraq very soon. Thank you to everyone for your generosity in providing items. HVUMC United Methodist Women have been able to send a number of boxes to Iraq. Contributions will no longer be needed.



UMW NEWS

DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Friday, December 5—Real Moms Circle -6:30 p.m. Christmas Party at Cindy Griffin's home (see below for Christmas Caroling information)

Tuesday, December 9—Circle 1 - 12:00 noon, Christmas Party and Program at Jewell Murphy's, Parkway Village

Mary-Martha Circle - 12:00 noon at Phoebe Norman's home

Circle 4 - 12:00 noon, Parkway Village dining room

Sunday, December 14—Alpha Circle-6:30 pm. Christmas Potluck at Gay McDaniel's home.

Real Moms Circle - 5:00pm meet at church for Family Christmas Caroling

December Social Action - Delta Mission Angel Tree.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

- 8:30am Divine Worship
- 9:00am Fellowship Time
- Fellowship (Telephone) Class
- 9:30am Sunday School Classes
- 9:40am Casual Worship
- 10:45am Divine Worship
- 5:00pm Youth Christmas Dinner
- 6:00pm Christmas Program

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 9:00pm Bridge Group
- 10:30am Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm Upward BB Practice
- Girl Scout Troop 407
- 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop 335
- Chipato Valley Girl Scouts Makeup Cookie Training
- 6:30pm Finance Committee
- Cub Scout Den 3

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 12:00pm Circle 1 (Jewell Murphy home)
- Mary Martha Circle (Phoebe Norman home)
- Circle 4 (Parkway Village dining room)
- 5:00pm Upward BB Practice
- 6:00pm Men's Bible Study
- 6:30pm Staff Parish Relations Committee
- UMW Alpha Circle Christmas Party (Gay McDaniel home)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study
- 12:00pm Church Newsletter deadline**
- 6:00pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- Higher Ground Bible Study
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (with orchestra)
- Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 12:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:00pm Upward BB practice
- 6:00pm Highlander SS Class

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 5:00pm Upward BB practice
- 6:00pm Parent's Night Out

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 12:00pm Central District Christmas luncheon
- 12:30pm Library Committee
- 2:00pm Cookie Walk set up
- 5:00pm Family caroling

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

Acolytes

Trevor Ward & John Holloway(8:30)
Sam Griffin & Seth Welch (10:45)

Children's Church

Kelly & Tracy Davidson

Rockers and Huggers

Donna Smith (9:40)
Jana Malone (10:45)

Coffee Steward

John & Jo Carter

Fellowship Time Host

Ben Miller SS Class

Bus Driver

Steve Jones & Elaine Jones (821-2104)

Head Ushers

Hot Woodworth, Perry Bolding

December Ushers

Darren O'Quinn, Bob Baertsch
Don Kirk, 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

Email: churchoffice@hvumc.org

Dr. Charles N. Crutchfield
Bishop, Arkansas Area

Rev. Brock Patterson
Associate Minister
Brock@hvumc.org

Mrs. Betty Morgan
Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Betty@hvumc.org

Mrs. Dianne Burnett
Office Manager
Dianne@hvumc.org

Mrs. Erica Morrison-Schindler
Choir Accompanist

Rev. Philip L. Hathcock
Central District Superintendent

Mrs. Kim Johnson
Director of Youth Ministries
Kim@hvumc.org

Mrs. Brenda Welch
Director of Children's Ministries
Brenda@hvumc.org

Mrs. Julie Zimmerebner
Administrative Assistant
Julie@hvumc.org

Rev. Daniel R. Kirkpatrick
Senior Minister

RevKirk@hvumc.org
Mr. Herrn Northcutt
Director of Facilities
Herrn@hvumc.org

Mrs. Stacie Holloway
Financial Manager
Stacie@hvumc.org

Ms. Milinda Brown
Childcare Attendant

Mr. Jay Little
Custodian

Our Mission is to Know Christ and Share Christ