



"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

17 NOVEMBER 2008

15524 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211

501.224.6047

Divine Worship

Last Sunday After
Pentecost

23 November 2008
8:30am, 9:40am, 10:45am

SCRIPTURE

John 14:1-4

SERMON

*"Facing Death for
Ourselves"*

Rev. Daniel R. Kirkpatrick
Series: *Wrestling with Human
Suffering*

HYMNS

*Now Thank We All our God
America the Beautiful
When We All Get to Heaven*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Men's Chorus
Soon and Very Soon
Chancel Choir Anthem
Now Thank We All Our God
Flute accompaniment by
Rebecca Ring

FAITH UPDATE



Jim Otten

Good morning. I thank Reverend Daniel Kirkpatrick for giving me the opportunity to share with you my path to Highland Valley United Methodist Church. My wife, Ardie, and I were both reared on farms near a small town in eastern South Dakota and we were high school classmates. Ardie has been a lifelong Methodist and I was baptized and raised in the Presbyterian Church. I was not an active church attendee, as there always seemed to be other things to do in the mornings when you are raised on a farm including caring for livestock and farming operations, but I grew up in a Christian environment.

Ardie and I were married in a Methodist Church in 1962 after we both had completed undergraduate school, and at the time of our marriage I was in the military stationed at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.
(Continued on page 2)

FOCUS: HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

Our Faith Update speakers in our fall finance program have been outstanding in worship these last weeks. We are most thankful to the 100+ families who have responded thus far in our program. Our finance theme, as you know, is based on the biblical tithe of 10%. The Hebrew word, "tithe" means a tenth. This is the biblical standard for giving.

People in our country have a curiosity about money and incomes and giving, don't we? As your minister, I think it's important for you to know the level of commitment that my wife, Barbara, and I have to the Lord and to Highland Valley UMC for 2009. Our Estimate of Giving is \$18,600 for 2009 or 15% of the senior minister's salary package. This is an increase for us of \$5,000 or 5% over what we gave in 2008. In lean times, I've learned we don't cut back on what we give to God—that instead we increase it.

We're most grateful to the Lord and our church for the generous salary package I receive here. And the most tangible way I have of expressing my gratitude is by giving back to God a minimum of a tenth of what He has entrusted to us.

In these tough economic times, the greatest security we can find is with God our Heavenly Father. Putting God first and giving to Him our first 10% is the best financial security plan that anyone can have. Jesus said it like this: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, then all these other things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6: 33.

I want to encourage and challenge each of you to prayerfully consider your estimate of giving to the Lord for 2009. When you love God, you find a way to show it!

I look forward to seeing you in Sunday school and worship this coming Sunday!

Rev. Daniel Kirkpatrick

2008 FALL FINANCE PROGRAM TITHING: GIVING GOD OUR BEST



The 2008 Fall Finance program "*Tithing: Giving God our Best*" is in its eighth week and we encourage everyone to turn in your 2009 Estimate of Giving Card this Sunday. 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)

The Stewardship Committee asks you to prayerfully consider making an Estimate of Giving for 2009 and return the perforated card in the enclosed envelope. Estimate of Giving cards can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or returned by mail. To date, 122 commitments have been received for a pledge total of \$510,976. This represents 47.7% of our preliminary budget for 2009. For additional information, please contact the church Financial Manager, Stacie Holloway at 224-6047 or e-mail Stacie@hvumc.org.

KID'S CLUB PLAY REHEARSAL TIMES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23—5:00pm-6:30pm in the music room.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30—6:00pm in the Sanctuary following Hanging of the Green and dinner.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6—10:00am-12:00noon in the Sanctuary—dress rehearsal.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7—Dinner in the Family Life Center, 5:00pm; program 6:00pm in the Sanctuary.

All rehearsals are very important! Please make every effort to attend each week.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, December 14—8:30am & 10:45am A presentation of Lessons and Carols by the Chancel Choir, accompanied by Chamber Orchestra.

Betty

YOUTH NEWS!!

UMYF THIS WEEK – METHODIST HEALTH!

We load up on Sunday at 3:30pm to share the “Havumcah” experience with youth at Methodist Health, Maumelle! Don’t be late! We will have regular UMYF, just with some new people. We will return in time for dinner at 6:00pm before youth choir at 6:30.

The Holiday Season is here which means a LOT of activity is on the way:

- Christmas Program and Dinner on 12/7; parents and youth – sign up to help!
- Parents Night Out – Babysitting Fundraiser, 6:00pm-9:00pm. Sign up to work; we need 3-4 parents to help, also.
- Christmas Party on 12/14, 5:00pm-6:30pm; sign up to bring breakfast food!

The holidays are a great time to bring a friend to youth! Join us this week!

Kim

YOUTH CLUB SCAVENGER HUNT

Calling all 4th and 5th graders.....Remember this **Saturday, November 22** is the date for our Youth Club fun day. We will meet at the church at 10:00am on Saturday morning for a “unique” scavenger hunt. Following the scavenger hunt, we will go out for lunch and then return to the church for parent pickup. Please bring money for lunch and wear a jacket as we will be outside. For more information, please call Martha Sims at 517-3140.

FAITH UPDATE—(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

San Antonio is where I first became an active member of the United Methodist Church, having joined Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. From San Antonio, we moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee where we lived for 35 years. There I transferred my membership to the First United Methodist Church. We raised two great children in Oak Ridge, and early in my career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, I attended graduate school and graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in microbiology. Our family was active in the Methodist Church, serving in various capacities throughout the years. Our children were active in the youth activities and choir.

In 2001, our daughter who was married and living here in Little Rock, called one day and asked “What do you want to name your first grandchild?” That brought us here to Little Rock. Ardie says the only change for me, other than family life and church activities, is that I fly out of a different airport as I travel a great deal in my work.

What about church? After moving here, one of our first priorities was that of finding a church home. We visited various Methodist churches and finally settled here at Highland Valley United Methodist Church. It was the warm welcome of many members that brought us here, especially members of the Ben Miller class that Ardie and I later joined. This Sunday school class has become a very important part of our Christian lives. Again, we have been called to serve the church in various capacities. We both serve on the Church Council. Ardie is active in United Methodist Women and Altar Guild and I teach Sunday school and usher. We both assist with various other projects and

committees here at the church and feel blessed to be able to serve and contribute to the ministries of this church.

Now to the matter of stewardship. We have all, as members of Highland Valley, been asked to make a financial pledge to the church for 2009. When we think of giving, some look at the size of the gift. To me, this is an individual decision. Jesus measured generosity by the standard of the condition of the giver’s heart. In Matthew 6:21, it is written “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”. So, giving is more than an obligation for followers of Christ; it is an exciting opportunity to lay up treasure that will last for all eternity. In Acts 20:35, it is written “It is more blessed to give than to receive”.

What are some of the common excuses for not giving? In some reading I did, I found the following. “It’s my money, I earned it.” “I don’t owe God anything.” “I don’t owe my church anything.” “God loves a cheerful giver, but I am not cheerful about giving, so it’s better not to give at all.” “There’s a good chance my donation would be misappropriated or wasted.” And another excuse some people use is “Money is the root of all evil; it has no place in the church.”

The current economic condition of our country is also a concern for many of us. I found it interesting to learn that the percentage of giving to the church over all during the ‘Great Depression of the 1930s’ was higher than the percentage of giving in recent years. That really surprised me.

Why should we give? We often assume that money exists for our own benefit, rather than for God or others. We have to remember that everything we have came by the grace of God. According to the Bible, why should we give? First, we should give because of all God has done for

us. God has shown great mercy to us by sending Jesus to suffer in our place. Generous giving is an act of Christian worship. Second, we should give to show how genuine we are in our faith and confession to be a Christian. Third, we should give because Jesus and his apostles command us to give as in 2nd Corinthians 8:7 it is written “but just as you excel in everything, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving”. Christian giving is certainly more than a duty, but the biblical commands are unavoidable. A generous giver is first of all a person who has been reconciled to God through faith in Christ. When he gives, it does not feel like a burden but a pleasure. When this gospel becomes a process in a person’s heart and mind, the stage is set for a new person to emerge.

When we joined the church we made a covenant with God and the church. In that covenant, we each promised to uphold the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and now our witness. Ardie and I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider your pledge and pledge what you can to support Highland Valley United Methodist Church and all the good work it does in the community, region, and around the world. When we give back to God, we are rewarded with God’s blessings. God promises that we will be blessed over and above that which we give and also according to how we measure the amount we give. But if we hold back from giving with a stingy heart, we hinder God from blessing our lives and the countless others that the ministries of Highland Valley serve. Thank you.

Jim Otten



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 Grimmett, Wes Schaffner, Margaret Nelmark, Peter Ward, Mary Lou Rowland, Donna Smith.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Annalee White, age 95, who died November 15.

OUR PRESENCE

November 16

Divine Worship

8:30	75
9:40	62
10:45	202
Total	339

Sunday School

Adults	160
Youth	29
Children	44
Total	233

OUR GIFTS—November 16

Needed Weekly	\$ 20,550
General Budget Receipts	\$ 26,426
Miscellaneous Funds	\$ 731
Youth Programs, Delta Mission Project, Local Missions, Walnut Grove Restoration	

Annual Budget 2008

\$1,058,102

	Year to Date
Receipts	\$837,373*
Expenses	\$939,815
Income (Deficit)	(\$102,442)**

2008 Projected Remaining Expenses \$118,287

***Percentage under budget 11%**

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

Pledge Results

2008 Total Pledged & Estimated \$738,136

Pledges & Estimates Rec. Year to Date \$617,327

Pledges & Estimates Unpaid (\$120,809)

Percent of Pledges & Estimates Received 84%

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER 16

CHILDREN

Infant/Ones	5
2 Yr. Old	6
3/4 Yr. Old	8
K/1st Grade	8
2nd/3rd Grade	5
4th/5th Grade	12
Total	44

YOUTH

6th-8th Grade	16
9th-10th Grade	11
11th-12th Grade	2
Total	29

ADULTS

Pairs & Spares	4
Fellowship	4
Ben Miller	29
New Beginnings	24
Connections	9
Good News	14
Faith	10
Highlander	31
Alice Fidelis	4
New Horizons	19
Children's SS Tchrs	12
Total	160

GIFTS

YOUTH PROGRAMS

In memory of **Cindy Robertson**
... by Jim & Linda Martindale

BUDGET

In honor of **Mary Milstead**; In memory of **Anne Milstead**
... by Ray Milstead

In memory of **James Lilly**
... by Thurman & Mary Ann Woodworth
... by Bettie Gray

In memory of **Cindy Robertson**
... by Patti Boone
... by Wyleen Crider

DELTA MISSION PROJECT ANGEL TREE

In memory of **Cindy Robertson**
...by Chuck, Mary & Michael Bower

Staff Sharing

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34

This past Sunday night I asked our junior high youth to share what they were thankful for and why. Here are some of their responses:

- My family, because they love me...
- My family and all I have been given...
- Jesus, for dying on the cross to save our sins...
- Life and love, because if I didn't have that I don't think I would be able to live...
- My family, because they always help and support me...
- God, for giving us his Son and for my friends and family...
- My family, to lean on when times are hard...
- My family, because they are always there for you...
- My friends because they always make me laugh...

Life. Family. Friends. The Lord. Is it any surprise that what teenagers are thankful for are the same things adults praise God for?



Kim Johnson & Ryan Atkins

We had a visual lesson on Sunday night at UMYF. Ryan Atkins and I sat on tarps while the youth prepared a cake directly on top of our heads. Can you picture it? Cake batter, eggs, oil, water, lots of icing, and even candles... the batter falling off our heads and into our ears and icing running into our eyes with gooey eggs and oil everywhere! We had all the right ingredients, but that batter just wouldn't set!

Isn't it true with our lives? We can have the "right" things...but without a good foundation, they are just things. We can show up on Sunday morning, but if our heart isn't right we are just going through the motions. We can have a big house, but if the house is empty of peace, love and joy, it's just a house and not a home. We can put a "Jesus fish" on our car, carry a nice fancy bible, quote a few scriptures and listen to K-Love, but if we aren't

moving in our relationship with the Lord and living it out in our love towards others, we are kind of like a cake that just won't set...we're just a big mess!

I asked our senior high youth why "foundation" is important. Here is what they had to say:

- It doesn't matter what is on the outside; it's what's on the inside that counts.
- So the thing you're building or trying to improve doesn't fall apart.
- To keep everything from falling apart in church or outside of church.
- So you have support in everything you do.
- You can fall back on something.

You have a person caring about you.
...Your family is also a large part of your foundation because they are the ones who accept you no matter what. Foundation gives everyone the chance to go back and start over...especially with Jesus.

See the connection? We are "thankful for" our faith, our family, our friends. Our Foundation – the "church's one Foundation... Jesus Christ the Lord" – is where it all comes together. When everything is falling apart, our foundation is there. However it may look on the outside, the inner foundation is what counts. We can fall back on our foundation... we are cared for. Something to be thankful for? I think so!

If today is a day where you feel like a messy cake that just won't set, I pray you will stop and be thankful and remember your foundation. And remember your family – at home, at church, at Heaven – that will accept you no matter what and give you the chance to go back and start over...especially with Jesus!

Kim

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)

What follows will be a 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 6 weeks left in 2008 and a long way to go for the church's finances. We received \$26,426 last week.

Total giving needed for 2008	\$1,058,102
Total giving received for 2008 as of 11/16/2008	\$837,373
Remaining contributions needed for 2008	\$220,729
Weeks left in 2008	6
Giving needed every week for the rest of the year	\$36,788

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!**

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

The Pastor's Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning, 10:00am to 11:00am in the Chapel. We will take a break the week of **November 26 for Thanksgiving**. The lesson on **December 3** is Isaiah 1-7.

8TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14—9:00AM
UNTIL WE RUN OUT
SPONSORED BY THE
INFANT CRISIS MINISTRY
HOMEMADE COOKIES,
CANDIES & SMALL BREADS

The cost is \$5.00 a pound. We need lots of candy and cookies. If you can donate cookies and/or candies, we would greatly appreciate it. Please drop off at church on Friday, December 12 or Saturday, December 13 from 2:00-4:00pm, or Sunday morning. Thank you for your continued support.

GAITHER HOMECOMING

The Gaither Homecoming Lovin' Life Tour 2009 is coming to Little Rock! The date is Friday, **March 20, 2009** and will be in Alltel Arena in North Little Rock, AR. Tickets are \$19.50 each for a group of 10 or more. For more information and interest in purchasing tickets, please contact betty@hvumc.org. We will be taking the HVUMC bus. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

Transferred to the Church Triumphant
Annalee Bradford White
 11 May, 1913—15 November 2008

Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live." **John 11:25**

CALENDAR

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23
 8:30am Divine Worship
 9:00am Fellowship Time
 Fellowship (Telephone) Class
 9:30am Sunday School Classes
 9:40am Casual Worship
 10:45am Divine Worship
 3:30pm Youth depart for Methodist Health
 4:00pm Worship Committee
 5:00pm UM Kids/Christmas program rehearsal
 6:30pm Youth Choir

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24
 9:00am Bridge Group
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 407
 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop 335

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
 10:00am Grace Notes
 6:00pm Men's Bible Study
 Men's Chorus Rehearsal
 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (with orchestra)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
 12:00pm Church Newsletter deadline
 6:30pm Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27
 THANKSGIVING DAY—
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
 5:30pm "Our House" Dinner (Connections SS Class Host)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
 No scheduled activities

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23

Acolytes
 Winston & Jonathan Cartwright (8:30)
 Sam Welch (10:45)

Children's Church
 Barbara Kirkpatrick

Rockers and Huggers
 Karen Latch (9:40)
 Jackie Kolstad (10:45)

Coffee Steward
 Ardie Otten

Fellowship Time Host
 New Horizons SS Class

Bus Driver
 Mark Latch (224-0030)

Head Ushers
 Hot Woodworth, Perry Bolding

November Ushers
 Joe & Susan Burkett
 Don Adams, Werner Schneider

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. Philip L. Hathcock Central District Superintendent	Rev. Daniel R. Kirkpatrick Senior Minister RevKirk@hvumc.org
Rev. Brock Patterson Associate Minister Brock@hvumc.org	Mrs. Kim Johnson Director of Youth Ministries Kim@hvumc.org	Mr. Herrn Northcutt Director of Facilities Herrn@hvumc.org
Mrs. Betty Morgan Director of Music Ministries/Organist Betty@hvumc.org	Mrs. Brenda Welch Director of Children's Ministries Brenda@hvumc.org	Mrs. Stacie Holloway Financial Manager Stacie@hvumc.org
Mrs. Dianne Burnett Office Manager Dianne@hvumc.org	Mrs. Julie Zimmerebner Administrative Assistant Julie@hvumc.org	Ms. Milinda Brown Childcare Attendant
Mrs. Erica Morrison-Schindler Choir Accompanist		Mr. Jay Little Custodian

Our Mission is to Know Christ and Share Christ