



# HIGHLAND HERALD

## December 2016

Vol. CXVI No. 12



Email [highlandprestylar@att.net](mailto:highlandprestylar@att.net)

Website <http://tylerhighland.org>

### Sermons for the Month of December



Advent continues with the Sundays of December, and our celebration of all that Christ's coming in the future and the past meant will continue as well. Don't forget to come and enjoy Christmas music as only the hearts of children can render it on Saturday,

December 3 at 4:00 p.m., as the Higgins Wildcat Choir under the direction of Tory Dorsey comes to sing for us. Tory is the young woman who plays with the Highland Bells. Then, December the 4<sup>th</sup> is the second Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent spoke of what is coming, and the Sundays and celebrations of Advent and Christmas elaborate on that theme. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, through passages in Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13 we will see that what is coming is **A Kingdom**. Then, on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent will examine Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-19 to see what is coming is also **A Way**. December 18<sup>th</sup> will be a special Sunday based on multiple Scripture lessons and traditional Christmas music and carols that portray that what is coming is **A Joy**. The season begins to draw toward a climax with the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Traditional scriptures from Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20 remind us that what is coming is **A Light and Life**. As befits the cycles of years, we celebrate Christmas morning in worship on December 25<sup>th</sup> with readings from Isaiah 52:7-10 and John 1:1-14 that shows that what came and what comes is **A Miracle**. Amidst all the other joyful activities of the Christmas season, do not forget to make worship a prominent part of your Christmas - and invite others to come with you. Wouldn't it be great if we could give someone the gift of Christ this Christmas!

### It Happened in Session

The Session met on Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> at the church.

A letter from Grace Presbytery requested the names of elder members who passed away during the past twelve months. These people will be honored by having their names included in the Presbytery booklet for the December meeting. Highland members included in this list were Bobby Cannon, Eugene Jeffers, and Janet Mackey.

The Planning Budget for 2017 was revisited because there were changes from the budget approved at the

October meeting in both the expected income and expenses. The revised budget was approved for presentation to the membership on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Nominating Committee reported that they have a nominee for the unexpired term of Trustee Bobby Cannon. Their report will be presented to the congregation at a called meeting in January 2017.

A request from the del Coronado Home Owner's Association to use Fellowship Hall on January 19<sup>th</sup> for their annual meeting was approved.

Two elder commissioners were chosen to attend the December 10<sup>th</sup> Presbytery meeting in Ft. Worth.

Pledge cards were mailed to the members and the slide show for the annual Stew & Soup lunch has been completed.

People to light the candles during Advent have been lined up, as per Ron Lowrance. The church will be decorated for the season on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

The annual inspection of the elevator was performed. Jerry Ragan reported that their report will be mailed to the proper state authority to obtain the license to operate the elevator for another year. He also reported that construction of the building next door is nearly complete. WRL construction has been very cooperative during the construction and has cleaned up the area next to our property line.

Lora Savoie advised that outreach cards for the Fall season have been mass mailed.

Plans for the Stew & Soup lunch on November 20<sup>th</sup> are nearly complete, with five people committed to bringing soup or stew. Extra cookies have been frozen for use at Fellowship on future Sundays. A special visit to Prestige Estates to view their Christmas decorations, including snacks in the guest dining room, has been arranged for the afternoon of November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Cards for shut-in members will be available on Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### 2016 THANKSGIVING HARVEST TABLE

Thanks to all of the people who filled the Harvest Table this year. On Monday November 21<sup>st</sup> the folks at PATH happily received the largest amount of food stuff offered in several years from Highland. They were swamped with people waiting for food that day, thus they did not have a chance to weigh what we brought them. Suffice it to say, they were thankful and so are we.

Your Stewardship & Service committee



# HIGHLAND DECEMBER HAPPENINGS



**We want to thank these people for helping with decorating the church for Christmas, on Saturday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>:**

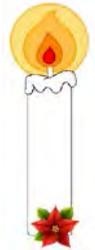
Lon Anderson  
Pat Barnes  
Martin Davis  
Edith Davis  
Eleanor Garvey  
Red Gilley  
Lee Johnson  
Mike Johnson



Deb Lowrance

Ron Lowrance  
Jerry Ragan  
June Ragan  
Dorothy Ragan  
Mike Ragan  
Beverly Scott  
Ed White  
Kay White

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH COMMUNION



Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 PM  
Bring a guest

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN MUSIC & SCRIPTURE



Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
At 10:30 PM



The Annual Joy Offering will be received also.

**We want to thank the following people who purchased poinsettias for the sanctuary in celebration of the Christmas Season and for the enjoyment of the congregation.**



### Ladies, Please Read...



**Prayer Shawl Meeting:** Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Deb Lowrance's house.

### Ladies' Circle meetings...

#### Evening Circle:

Monday, Dec.12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



#### Morning Circle:

Tuesday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.



**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>:** Ladies' Out-to-eat at PotPourri House at 11:30 a.m.

Betty Robinson  
Chuck & Deb Tompkins  
Jerry & June Ragan  
Mike & Dorothy Ragan  
David & Zana Byers  
Ron & Deb Lowrance  
Steve & Lora Savoie  
Red Gilley  
Lon & Claudia Anderson  
Terry Graham, Jr  
Martin & Edie Davis

Rev. Scott Mackey  
Ed & Kay White  
Bill & JoAnne Flores  
Dorothy Glenn  
John & Becky Davis  
Lee Johnson  
Jean Ayres  
Eleanor Garvey  
Laverne  
Sara Cannon  
Doyle & Pat Barnes



# *Becky's Music Notes*

## *December 2016*



December is always a very busy month and It is no different here at Highland. We have several things happening during this month right here at the Church!

First, on December 3 at 4:00 pm, the Higgins Wildcat Choir will perform at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. This choir is made up of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Higgins Elementary School in Whitehouse ISD. They are under the direction of Tori Dorsey, who is the music teacher at Higgins and a member of our bell choir. So, mark your calendar for the special event. There will be a short reception after the program so you will have the opportunity to meet the students.

On December 18, during the worship service we will have our Christmas Program. The bell choir will be playing several pieces. The congregation will, once again, have the opportunity to sing along with the bells. And, of course, there will be a piano/organ duet or two during the service.

The advent season will end with our Christmas Eve service at 5:30 pm. There will be music, hymns and the candle lighting to get us ready for Christmas. Then the magical day arrives, we will all get to meet again to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Here's wishing each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and keep the reason for the season in your hearts as you go through the hustle and bustle of the month of December.

*Love and Prayers,*

*Becky Davis*





## December 2016 Highland Highlights

### Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>:

4:00 PM – Advent Concert by Higgins' Wildcat Choir

### Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>:

10:30 AM – Christmas Story in music & scripture

### Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>:

5:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>:

OFFICE CLOSED!

### Weekly Schedule:

#### Sundays:

- 9:30 AM - Sunday School
- 10:30 AM - Worship Service
- 11:30 AM - Fellowship Time

#### Office Hours:

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

Phone: 903-595-3547

[highlandprestylar@att.net](mailto:highlandprestylar@att.net)

<http://www.tylerhighland.org>



2 Christopher Savoie	4 Reagan Mackey
25 Scott Mackey	26 Jean Jeffers
29 Ross Clayton	31 Claudine Peter

### Fellowship Snacks

*Blessed are those who share FELLOWSHIP in CHRIST, for GOD lives in their FRIENDSHIP. Please join together each Sunday after Worship for some conversation, laughs and to welcome our guests. Refreshments will be provided by the Fellowship committee.*



### NOTICES:

During the month of December, there will be **NO** session meeting, Pastor's Bible Study or potluck. Also, there will be **NO** Bell Practices on **Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**.

Also, the church office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, December 26th.



**The Blanket Drive** runs from November 2016 to March 2017. More information is on the bulletin board. Monetary gifts are always accepted.

**THE JANUARY 2017 HIGHLAND HERALD DEADLINE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>:** PLEASE submit your articles, information, etc., for the January 2017 Highland Herald by this date if at all possible, I will then begin to work on the Herald on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> and get it emailed and mailed by December 29<sup>th</sup>. Please email your information at: [highlandprestylar@att.net](mailto:highlandprestylar@att.net) or bring a typed or hand-written submission to the office. Thank you! **Dorothy Ragan**



*Please pray for Pvt. Ross Clayton, son of April Linthicum, and grandson of Chuck and Deb Tompkins who is serving in Kuwait. Also be in prayer for all of our other men and women in the Armed Forces. Also, please keep the Christians, Kurds, and Jews in your prayers in N. Iraq.*



**The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16b NLT.** **Cancer Patients:** Laurie Lund, Jonah Daily, John Davis, David Garvey, Jeff Hedges, Rita Kelly, Jan Park, Donna Richardson, Lee Shafer, and Carl Trent; **Continuing Concerns:** Jean Ayres, Mike Arbour, Sara Cannon, Ross Clayton, Sharon Cohen, Bonnie Cottrill, Mark Garvey, Georgann Hickman, Jean Jeffers, Scott & Reagan Mackey, Claudine Peter, Charley Brooke Reese, and Michael Williams **Also pray for:** families facing first holiday season without someone (Jeffers, Masters, Burrow, Mackey, Sharp, Cannon, Wellborn, Zeigler). *(In the spirit of getting the best out of our prayer ministry, please submit names for the Prayer list, a brief reason and then a subsequent update to the request, by the monthly deadline for the Highland Herald. This will enable us to keep the list current and to give thanks for God's answers. Also submit updates for the prayer list.)*

## Thank You!

Dear Highland family,

I have felt your prayers and support these last few months. Thank you for your many kindnesses, visits, cards, emails and for being with me for Bobby's memorial service, visitation and graveside service. Words really are just inadequate to say what all of you mean to me. Special appreciation to Scott, Becky and Eleanor for the service on October 20th; Bobby would have loved it, and I thought it was perfect.

Love and thanks,

Sara Cannon



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

### **The View from the Back Page**

I must confess that this will be the most difficult Christmas season that I have ever encountered. Christmas migrates through our emotional histories from the joy and mysteries of childhood to the discovery of glory as young adults to the participation in mystery as parents to the comfort of nostalgia and hope as seniors. There are rough patches on the way - the discovery that some aspects of Christmas were "manufactured," the death of grandparents and being cut-off from our earliest Christmas roots, the hard realities of economics during some Christmas seasons. Yet as many of you know, the hardest of all is Christmas without a spouse.

Family holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas deepen the bonds of family and especially husband and wife. Life in microcosm is displayed in the sharing of roles and activities of holidays. Suddenly going it alone leaves a considerable hole in the holiday as it does in life.

The message of Christmas, however, is that those of us in darkness - those of us in the hole deeply shadowed by death - have seen a great light. Jesus came to enter into just our kind of suffering. Jesus' earthly father Joseph died when Jesus was a young adult. Jesus knew what all of His disciples would face in the way of suffering and death. Jesus came to endure death in order that He might overcome death and defeat death's oppression. Hope exists because of the Babe of Bethlehem. Hope does not take away pain, but it does moderate it and it seasons the celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas with another kind of joy - the joy of anticipation that can out-grow the sadness of loss. The tenor and type of joy may change, but we still find joy and can say with conviction, "Merry Christmas!"

*Scott Mackey*



# December 2016

## Highland Presbyterian Church

Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 8:30 AM till Noon  
 Sunday School 9:30 AM—Sunday Worship 10:30 AM



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>REMEMBER: No Session Meeting, Pastor's Bible Study or Potluck lunch this month.</b>				1  Gary Mecham	2  Christopher Savoie	3 <b>ADVENT CONCERT: HIGGIN'S WILDCAT CHOIR</b> 4 PM at Highland
4  Holy Communion   Reagan Mackey	5	6 6:30 PM - Prayer Shawl Meeting	7 6 PM - Bell Practice	8 NO Pastor's Bible Study	9	10
11	12 7:00 PM Ladies Evening Circle	13 8:30AM Men's Breakfast  10:00 AM Ladies' Morning Circle  11:30 AM Ladies' Out to Eat	14 6 PM - Bell Practice	15	16	17
18 Christmas Story in Music & Scripture 10:30 AM  	19	20 NO Session Meeting	21 NO Bell Practice	22 NO Pastor's Bible Study  <b>HIGHLAND HERALD</b>  <b>DEADLINE!</b>	23	24  <b>Christmas Eve Communion Service at 5:30 p.m.</b>
25  Scott Mackey   <b>Christmas Day</b>	26  Jean Jeffers  <b>OFFICE CLOSED!</b>	27	28 NO Bell Practice	29  Ross Clayton	30	31  Claudine Peter  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>