



Highland Herald



February 2017

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Website <http://tylerhighland.org>

Sermons for the Month of February



Once again the odd little month of February dawns. It can't shake the colds of winter, yet it often has breaths of the coming spring. It was once known as a month of holidays, what with Washington and Lincoln's birthdays and Valentine's Day. But the two

birthdays have been consolidated into one day to celebrate all presidents, and Valentine's Day is more about boosting the fortunes of the florists and candy sellers!

This year, February is the lead up to the season of Lent. We will begin on the first Sunday of February, the 5th, by celebrating Communion and hearing God's word from Isaiah 58:1-12 and Matthew 5:13-20 to learn about the problem of **Appearances**.

On the 12th, we shall dig into the scriptures of Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Matthew 5:21-37 which illustrates **A Hard Choice**. The third Sunday, the 19th, will be an opportunity to open Leviticus 19:1-2; 9-18 and Matthew 5:38-48 and see what it means to be **Holy**. The fourth Sunday of February is Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, the preview before the hard road of Lent. It will also be a Potluck Sunday. Our readings for the morning will be from 2 Peter 1:16-21 and from Matthew 17:1-9 as we discover that even over spectacular supernatural witness, we have a knowledge **More Sure**.

Remember, we gather as God's people because God's love is more fulfilling and merciful than romance. God is a High King above all presidents. Let us not neglect the call to gather and the gifts conferred on these true "holy" days.

It Happened in Session

The Session met on Tuesday January 17th at the church. This was the first meeting of 2017, in fact the first since the November Session meeting.

With the start of the year there were several items which are required, among them:

- The final budget for 2017 was reviewed and approved.
- A report of the review of the rolls of the church was heard. Members who have not attended worship or made a monetary contribution for a period of two years, may be removed from the active role.

- The annual General Assembly Statistical Report where a whole bunch of statistics (besides the headcount of members) was reviewed and approved.

Scott advised that the annual corporate meeting of Camp Gilmont was scheduled for January 22nd.

The Nominating Committee report was heard. A commitment has been made to fill one of the two open positions on Session. The position of Fellowship Chairperson is still open. Anyone interested in filling that position should contact Lora Savoie to volunteer.

A Congregational meeting was called for the purpose of hearing a report from the Nominating Committee to approve those nominated to fill the unexpired terms for Trustee and Worship Committee chairperson and to approve a change in the Call of the Pastor. This change is due to meeting Presbytery required minimums for his compensation. The meeting was scheduled for January 29th following worship.

Scott noted that Lent begins on March 1st (Ash Wednesday) and continues until Easter on April 16th. Planning for this period will begin in February.

A request to use the building once a month by the Pilot Club, of which Zana Byers is a member, on the third Tuesday at 11:30 AM was approved.

Jerry Ragan, reporting for the Building and Ground committee, advised that the recent malfunction of the elevator has been repaired with the replacement of 4 relays. The maintenance budget for 2016 was exceeded due to major repairs to the lawn sprinkler system. In addition to the preventative maintenance program for the heating and air conditioning systems, the replacement of motors and circuit boards was required. The plan to disconnect one of the two telephone lines cannot be carried out since one line is required for the DSL internet service. The recent power failure which shut down the organ was due to an old circuit which now has no power. The organ and sound system are now connected to a different circuit. The sound system needs upgrading and once the cost to do so is determined, the funds to do so may come from the Memorial Fund.

Other committee chairpersons had routine comments for their areas of responsibilities.

Claudia Anderson advised that the circles would meet on February 6th and 7th. The men will eat out for breakfast on February 14th.



HIGHLAND HAPPENINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2017



Ladies, Please Read...

Please Note: The Prayer Shawl Meetings will be at 6:00 PM until further notice (when it is no longer dark after 6:30 PM). Also, the Ladies' circle meetings and Ladies' Out-to-eat will be on the first Monday & Tuesday only for the month of February.

Prayer Shawl Meeting: Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00 pm at Eleanor's house.



Ladies' Circle meetings:

Monday, Feb. 6:

Ladies' Evening Circle will be at 7:00 PM



Tuesday, Feb. 7:

Ladies' Morning Circle will be at 10:00 AM

Tuesday, February 7: Ladies' Out-to-eat at PotPourri House at 11:30 a.m.



SERMON TOPICS will no longer be in the Tyler Morning Telegraph's Saturday issues as they are reducing their "Faith" section to one page which will only include Special events. So, if you have a Facebook account, sermon topics will be posted on Highland's [Facebook page](#). However, the Tyler Paper will welcome any story ideas on mission projects, such as our Prayer Shawl ministry, clothes for children in Haiti, etc., on the "Faith" page. Also, of course, we could let them know about "Faith-related" events, such as music programs, Advent concert, etc. The person to be contacted for these story ideas is: **Emily Guevara (Staff Writer)**, Tyler Morning Telegraph: [Tyler Morning Telegraph](#). Her email is: eguevara@tylerpaper.com; 903-596-6281

Jonah's Heroes

5k/1 mile Family Fun run/walk

A year ago, 4-year old Jonah Daily was diagnosed with cancer. Jonah is the son of Ricky Daily who was the Vice Principal at Higgins Elementary in Whitehouse, last school year. He and his family were hit hard by this news, but were assured measures could be taken to help him survive. And he has. Jonah has been on our Church Prayer list since last January and when John and I drove over to Dallas last May we took him a Prayer Shawl. A picture of him with the Prayer Shawl is still on our bulletin board at the Church.

Jonah is now 5; I believe he will be 6 in February. He started Kindergarten in the fall, but was unable to actually attend school. His kindergarten teacher went to his house every school day to teach him. In January, he was finally able to attend classes at the elementary school where his father, Ricky Daily, is now Vice Principal. He continues to go to Children's Hospital in Dallas periodically, but has otherwise, done very well. However, it is still a strain on the family. Last March, Ricky's sister organized a Jonah's Heroes 5K/1 mile Family Fun run/walk in Chandler. Several of us from Higgins participated. This year there will be another such event. It will be Saturday, March 25, in Chandler. If you are interested in participating please ask me for a registration form. The proceeds this year will go to Jonah and another young girl battling cancer. If you do not wish to participate in the Family Fun run/walk but would like to make a donation, please let me know. They are asking for donations for raffle and door prizes, as well as bottled water for participants. If you are interested, please let me know. Becky Davis





Becky's Music Notes

February 2017



The bells are scheduled to play Sunday, January 29. I don't know if you will receive this newsletter before or after that....but in any event, you will either be looking forward to hearing us play or have heard us play. Music selected for this particular Sunday is "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow" and "We Three Kings". I wanted to play these two particular pieces because I think they are fun. They certainly keep the bell ringers on their toes! We will also be playing two hymns that the congregation will sing. It is such a joy to hear you sing along with the bells. And I'm in the perfect spot to hear the balance between the bells and voices.

We said goodbye to Deb and Ron Lowrance a few weeks ago and they are missed very much. We still have a couple open spots in the bell choir if you think you would like to give it a try. You are welcome to come to a rehearsal, or two, just to see what it's all about. It is a fun hour. We start promptly at 6:00 pm on Wednesday and rehearse for one hour. So, if you are interested, stop by; or if you just want to see how much fun we have, you are welcome to come watch rehearsals any time.

The bells will be working on Lenten or Easter music in the coming weeks. I always get excited when a new "season" in the church rolls around. It's fun to go through all the music, not just for the bells, but organ music too. I've already started planning February, March and April music. March 1 is Ash Wednesday, and the beginning on the Lenten season, which leads up to Easter. And, yes, Sara, Mom and I will be playing "The Palms" on Palm Sunday.

Next on the agenda is to get the organ speakers and sound system working properly. We lost power to the organ, light above the organ, and sound system during the worship service a couple weeks ago. Fortunately, it only affected the one corner, so I was able to finish the service playing the electronic piano. After investigating the situation, Jerry determined that it was a bad wire and he got the organ and sound system up and running again in a day or two.

Love and Prayers,

Becky Davis



Highland Highlights for February 2017:

Notice: Date change in Ladies' Circle meetings and Ladies' Out to Eat (February only), and a temporary time change for Prayer Shawl meetings.

Monday, February 6th:

7:00 PM - Ladies' Evening Circle

Tuesday, February 7th:

10:00 AM - Ladies' Morning Circle

11:30 AM - Ladies' Out-to-Eat at
Pot Pourri House

6:00 PM - Prayer Shawl Meeting

Tuesday, February 20th:

MARCH 2017 HIGHLAND HERALD DEADLINE!

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

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4	Steve Savoie	11	Deb Lowrance
22	Jason Park	27	John Davis
28	Deb Tompkins		

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.



The March 2017 Highland Herald submission DEADLINE is February 20th!

PLEASE (Pretty Please!) submit your articles, information, events, etc. to your friendly Highland Secretary by this date! I would like to get the newsletter emailed and mailed no later than February 27th.

Thank you, **Dorothy Ragan**



Please pray for Pvt. Ross Clayton, son of April Linthicum, and grandson of Chuck and Deb Tompkins who 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: Jonah Daily, John Davis, David Garvey, Jeff Hedges, Rita Kelly, Laurie Lund, Jan Park, Donna Richardson, Lee Shafer, and Carl Trent;
Continuing Concerns: Mike Arbour, Sara Cannon, Ross Clayton, Sharon Cohen, Bonnie Cottrill, Irene Cundiff, Mark Garvey, Georgann Hickman, Jean Jeffers, Scott & Reagan Mackey, Sheryl Peck, Claudine Peter, Charley Brooke Reese, and Michael Williams; **Also, pray for the following circumstances:** All affected by violence and the threat of violence, Our nation and our electoral process, Men and women defending our country, our elected officials, and people needing jobs. *(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.)*



Items for Path are Oatmeal and canned soup and will continue until the end of March 2017. The Winter Blanket Drive will also continue until the end of March.

Update on the Water Wells in Tanzania

From Wendy Wolfe:

I recently received an email from Wendy who reported that all seven wells are now producing. Here is a copy of her letter:

Dear Partners in Christ,
Philip Nasari has been able to find good locations for seven more water wells in the Maasai tribal areas! First, they dig the wells by hand. Then they build a concrete top, and last the water is pulled up in a bucket.

In Christ,

Steve and Wendy Wolfe

Please pray that:

- The people will understand the water wells are provided by God.
- Philip will be able to show the Jesus Film in many locations and that hearts will be given to the Lord.
- Philip and his family will be used mightily by the Lord as they faithfully serve in many different areas of ministry.

You can also follow the progress of these water wells on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TanzaniaWaterWells/>



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The View from the Back Page

Looking back at the presidential inaugural and many of its resultant protests, it is hard not to lament the coarsening of our culture and the paradoxical virulent intolerance of those who claim to be tolerant. We cannot just disagree anymore. Having pushed God to the sidelines and idealized (and idolized) political positions, disagreements are now tantamount to religious arguments over orthodoxy versus heresy. Hyperbole and crudity have replaced argumentation and genuine tolerance.

It is human nature to want approbation for a point of view, a chosen behavior, a way of life. Yet where differences in points of view, moral understandings of different behaviors, and different bases for ways of life exist, then tolerance of them all becomes impossible. Implicit in approving one means disapproving of another. Too often the modern call for "tolerance" masks a call for approval, guaranteeing the choices become ones of winners and losers. True tolerance - the freedom to dislike and argue against points of view, morality, and politics - means living with the disapproval of many in a tradeoff for limiting their disapproval's means to discriminate and limit the life of others.

The Christian point of view is that we love our neighbors, even our enemies, but loving does not mean liking or approving everyone. Love can mean calling for repentance and promoting the need for transforming grace. In a tolerant society, the Church foregoes certain potential powers for separation of church and state. If the State will not force us to disobey God's commandments, we will not attempt to usurp the power of the State to for others to obey all of God's commandments. To the extent we can agree on moral positions, we welcome their being enshrined in law. But demonization of opponents tends to lead to either a reverse demonization or the acceleration of violence over argument. Tolerance is a kind of cross - but it is better than a real cross. Let us pray that our nation chooses tolerance instead of the latter.

Scott Mackey



February 2017

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
 = MARCH HIGHLAND HERALD DEADLINE!			1 6 PM - Bell Practice	2	3	4  Steve Savoie
5  Holy Communion	6 7:00 PM Ladies Evening Circle	7 10:00 AM Ladies' Morning Circle 11:30 AM Ladies' Out to Eat 6:00 PM - Prayer Shawl Meeting	8 6 PM - Bell Practice	9 10AM - Pastor's Bible Study	10	11  Deb Lowrance
12	13	14 8:30AM Men's Breakfast  6 PM - Bell Practice	15 6 PM - Bell Practice	16	17	18
19	20   PRESIDENT'S DAY	21 6 PM - Session Meeting	22  Jason Park 6 PM - Bell Practice	23 10AM - Pastor's Bible Study	24	25
26  POTLUCK!	27  John Davis	28  Deb Tompkins				