



Highland Herald

FEBRUARY 2016

Vol. CXVI No. 2



Email highlandprestyler@att.net

Web Site <http://tylerhighland.org>

Sermons for the Month of February



The month of February begins the season of Lent because Easter is very early once again this year. (Remember, Easter is a "moveable feast." The date for Easter is tied to the date for Passover, and the Hebrews used a lunar calendar based on new moon to new moon. Since it doesn't give you the 365 days, that calendar shifts a bit every year.) The first Sunday of February precedes Lent and is Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday. That Sunday, the 7th, we will celebrate communion and hear Exodus 34:29-35 and 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 to consider the revelation of glory as **Fading vs Increasing**. Ash Wednesday is the 10th, and the first Sunday of Lent is also ironically Valentine's Day, February 14. The Scriptures for that Sunday are Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13 as we consider **The Greatest Temptation**. The smallest, yet holiday laden month continues as Presidents' Day is the 15th and the 2nd Sunday in Lent comes on the 21st. We are going to do something a little different for this early in Lent. We are going to have a service of a Lenten journey in music and song - sort of a "lessons and carols" for the season of Lent. The Highland Bells will play and we will hear various scriptures and sing hymns. We will close out February with the 3rd Sunday in Lent and delve into Isaiah 55:1-9 and Luke 13:1-9 for the importance of **Responding to Grace**. Lent is our journey in discipleship following Jesus to the cross in order to fully understand and rejoice in the resurrection on Easter. Let us embrace that journey together.

It Happened in Session!

The Session met on Tuesday January 19th for its first meeting of 2016.

Scott Mackey advised that Camp Gilmont will hold its annual corporate meeting on Sunday January 24th at 2:00 PM.

Scott was unable to attend the December 10th Presbytery meeting, but he did report that, according to the minutes of that meeting, only routine business was conducted.

John Davis advised that the Stewardship Committee recommends the adoption of the 2016 Planning Budget, which had been presented to the congregation on November 15th. The Session approved.

As required by the Book of Order, a list of those members who have not attended worship or provided financial support during 2015 was reviewed. Anyone on that list for two years can be removed from the active member list. No changes were made.

The annual Church Statistical Report was presented. The report contains considerable data, including financial information, all of which is sent to the Office of General Assembly with Session approval.

Jerry Ragan advised that with the repair of the parking lot light and the addition of a new light on the church building, the lighting in the parking lot is now quite adequate. The problem of a water leak around the pastor's office window is apparently solved. Someone has thrown litter in the woods near the parking lot. Based on information found in the litter by the police, a nearby business may be the source of the problem. The police will talk to them.

Lora Savoie, reporting for the Outreach committee, advised that Camp Gilmont is having a Women's retreat on February 5-7 and a Renovare Conference on February 26-28. She also advised that two banners will be purchased for use in the front lawn.

The potluck on January 24th will include the Arts & Crafts fair. Everyone should bring their favorite dish and then stay around to enjoy the arts and craft items.

The MemberCare committee sent Thanksgiving cards, Christmas cards and poinsettias to shut-in members. Contributions for the Arts and Crafts fair will be accepted on Saturday January 23rd and prior to church on the 24th.

The Session approved a special offering to be received on Super Bowl Sunday February 7th. The money received will be contributed to Meals on Wheels.

The Worship committee is considering using couples as lay leaders. The list of people willing to be lay leaders is relatively short and this change will hopefully increase those willing to be a lay leader. With Lent beginning on February 10th the committee will soon be planning the Easter services.

The start time of the Men's Breakfast will be changed to 8:30 AM, beginning on February 9th.

Unforgettable

Anyone who met her was not likely to forget her. Geri Newman was that kind of a lady. She passed away on January 3rd at 102, on her way to 103 in May. We will remember her with fondness and recall her quick wit and sharp retorts. Suffice it to say, she enjoyed life.

Not many of us will live to the grand old age of 100 and beyond. On the occasion of her 100th birthday we celebrated with her. Pictures of that party are available at <http://www.pbase.com/mrd/geri>.

Think of her and her ever-present hat and you can't help but smile.



~~~~~  
**Ladies, Please Read...**

**Ladies' Evening Circle** will meet Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and **Morning Circle** on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. **Out-to-eat** will take place on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 p.m. at the PotPourri House.

~~~~~  
Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. Started in 1990 by a seminary student working with a youth group at a Presbyterian church in South Carolina, the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering has become a national event, collecting in excess of \$8,000,000 each year. The cumulative total of this annual offering has now exceeded \$100 million as local congregations reach out to help get food to those in need in their local communities.



In the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday, congregations take up collections (many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2016, our congregation will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring special offering. This year we will be donating the money we collect to our local Meals on Wheels Ministry. So please bring a dollar (or more) and, upon your exit from the sanctuary on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, place it in the soup kettles we will place near each exit door.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

John Davis, Stewardship and Service Committee

~~~~~  
**Under a Bridge project**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed winter clothing, blankets, shoes, tarps, and bedrolls for Under a Bridge. These things have been taken to Faith Community Church where they are categorized by volunteers and then are distributed to needy people in Tyler. I will continue to check the church nursery where you may leave things.



Sara Cannon

**Geri Newman**

Marie Geraldine "Geri" Newman, a member of Highland since Nov. 30, 2009, passed away on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 102. Geri loved people and was loved in return by this congregation. Geri came to Tyler from the Houston area; she quickly endeared herself to us with her quick wit, her multitude of hats, her decorative bracelets and her loving spirit. Her family included Barbara Cooper, Willie Cooper, Lynn McCabe and Duane Cooper.

**News from Jory Bayne in South Asia**

**Excerpts from his newsletter, January 9<sup>th</sup>:**

A student-birthed Christmas program on a closed campus was one of the ministry high-lights in December. Many students attending closed campuses (a campus with such high security that our National Staff team is unable to enter to meet with students) often go their entire college career strictly focused on academics, never getting to experience the joys of authentic community. Sure they have classmates and friends, but no one to share their passions with, no one to share how they are really doing.



By hosting a Christmas program we provided an opportunity for National Staff and students to walk on a closed campus, meet new students, and share the Good News of the One born to cure us of our toxicity and deliver us from our spiritual quarantine. Imagine walking with God in the remade Garden of Eden after death, knowing God personally and enjoying Him forever. He will "cleanse us with hyssop, and we will be clean". He will "wash us, and we will be whiter than snow".

Thank you for your prayers during the Christmas season! I would love to hear anyways I can be praying for you as we enter into the New Year. :)

Jory Bayne

For those of you with Facebook accounts, view more updates of Jory's South Asia mission stories, progress, and photos at <https://www.facebook.com/jory.bayne>. Also, the newsletters that we have been receiving from Jory, are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church. Dorothy "Dotty" Ragan



# *Becky's Music Notes*

*February 2016*



February is upon us and that means the Lenten season is just around the corner. The bell choir is working on a few pieces for the season and will perform one or two of those during worship service on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February. The plan after that is to play sometime in late April or May.

After Christmas we lost one bell member, Lee Shafer. Lee was a big part of the music program for many years and she will be missed. She not only played in the bell choir, but played with the bell quartet and sang in the choir. She volunteered each summer to sing a solo (or two); she will be missed. But as you know, when one door closes, another one opens. I want to welcome Tori Dorsey to our bell choir. Tori is the music teacher at Higgins Elementary and has played in bell choirs before. She just fit right in with the group. You'll get a chance to meet Tori when the bell choir plays on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

We would also like to congratulate the Lowrance's on the newest addition to their family; Rowan Paul Rennolet, born, January 20, 2016.

I'm really looking forward to getting back to our normal bell practice schedule and working hard. It is so exciting to see what I can get out of this fabulous group.

And on a personal note, please be sure to keep young Jonah Dailey in your Prayers. His father is our Vice Principal and just came to Higgins last August. They are a very faithful family and I believe that is what is helping them get through this situation. Your Prayers are greatly appreciated.

*Love and Prayers,*

*Becky Davis*



## Highland Highlights for February 2016:

### Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>:

Souper Bowl of Caring (Super Bowl Sunday)

### Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

Men's Breakfast – new time 8:30 AM

### Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Newsletter Submission Deadline!

### Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>:

Leap Year Potluck

### Weekly Schedule:

#### Sunday:

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>



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

### **THE MARCH 2016 HIGHLAND HERALD SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE is Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

Please submit your articles, information, etc., for the March 2016 newsletter before the end of this month. Please email your information to the church:



[highlandprestylar@att.net](mailto:highlandprestylar@att.net) or bring a typed or hand-written submission to the office. **Dorothy Ragan**

### **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.*



**Please continue to pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces:** Please keep the Christians, Kurds, and Jews in your prayers in N. Iraq.



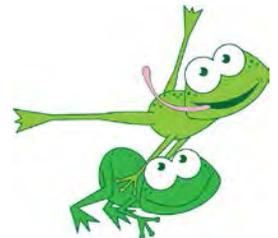
*The item for February is soup. Blankets will be collected for the winter months, which will continue until the end of March. Monetary donations are always welcome.*



**The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16b NLT**

**Cancer Patients:** Mike Burrow, Joy Carreno, David Garvey, Jeff Hedges, Rita Kelly, Jan Park, Donna Richardson, and Carl Trent;  
**Continuing Concerns:** Sue Masters, Janet Mackey, Ann Gstohl, Ron and Nancy Gillonardo, Jory Bayne, Bonnie Cottrill, Sally Ferrell, Mark Garvey, Joan Heck, Jean Hedges, Leslie Hortman, Sue McCool, Sue Sharp, and Michael Williams. *(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.)*

The Fellowship Committee is planning to make the February 28<sup>th</sup> potluck a special "Leap Year Potluck". It will be a regular potluck, but will include something special in recognition that the next day, February 29<sup>th</sup> is that once in four year's day, Leap Day. This should be fun!



## *Thank You!*

*We would like to thank you all for your prayers and cards during Mike's illness upon our return from Seattle.*

*Mike and Dorothy Ragan*



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

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

The season of Lent is known as a period of somber reflection and the practice of self-denial and recognition and repentance from sin. It is something of a willing journey through the valley of the shadow. The shadow is our human mortality, our human rebellion, our distorted attempts at glory carrying our sins with us rather than the grateful relinquishment made possible by grace. This is a journey all of us make all the time, not just for six weeks a year - though we often try to hide from it. When we have to walk it alone, it is even more difficult.

Janet, Reagan, and I are making something of a real life Lenten journey as Janet has her second cancer surgery in less than a year. The prognosis is very good, but there is no question that it is nonetheless a trial. Thankfully, we are not going on this journey alone. We are so grateful for the members of Highland and for all of your prayers. Your willingness to help in many ways is appreciated more than we can say. You have had to sacrifice some while I and my family have dealt with the various health issues we've encountered in the last year. That on top of the usual infirmities and weakness we as humans have in trying to fulfill our various callings.

I am so thankful for your forgiving nature and forbearance. We as a church are in a larger picture "season" of Lent, as our numbers dwindle and reaching out for new members is difficult. The cultural impetus that once led most people to drift about visiting churches until they found one they were willing to attend regularly is no more. In one sense that is good. People should either be seeking answers to spiritual mysteries, hopefully with openness to the truth, or seeking a proper place to exercise their faith where their gifts fulfill a needed role in the body of Christ. Yet such true seekers or logical and passionate believers are harder to find.

Still, hardships and lean times can prepare us for greater service, just as loving and taking care of one another can prepare us to offer needed care to others when the world turns upside down once again. The key for all of us is to remember that God is on this journey with us.

*Scott Mackey*



# February 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                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3                                                                                   | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 5   | 6                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00 PM<br/>Bell Practice</div> | <br><b>Steve Savoie</b>                                                                                                |     |                                                                                                            |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 10                                                                                  | 11                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 12  | 13                                                                                                         |
| <br>Holy Communion<br><br><br>Souper Bowl of Caring                        | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:00 PM<br/>Ladies Evening<br/>Circle Meeting</div>                                                                                                                   | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8:30AM<br/>Men's Breakfast</div><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00 AM<br/>Ladies' Morning<br/>Circle Meeting</div><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11:30 AM<br/>Ladies' Out to Eat</div> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00 PM<br/>Bell Practice</div> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Pastor's Bible Study<br/>10:00 AM</div><br><br><b>Deb Lowrance</b> |     |                                                                                                            |
| 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 17                                                                                  | 18                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 19  | 20                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00 PM<br/>Session Meeting</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00 PM<br/>Bell Practice</div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |                                                                                                            |
| 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 24                                                                                  | 25                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 26  | 27                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <br><b>Jason Park</b><br><br><div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 2px; color: red;"><b>Highland Herald<br/>Deadline!!</b></div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00 PM<br/>Bell Practice</div> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Pastor's<br/>Bible Study<br/>10:00 AM</div>                                                                                                          |     | <br><b>John Davis</b> |
| 28                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 29                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |                                                                                                            |
| <b>LEAP YEAR</b><br><br><b>Pot Luck</b><br><br><br><b>Deb Tompkins</b> | <br><b>HAPPY LEAP YEAR</b>                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |                                                                                                            |