



Highland Herald

JANUARY 2016

Vol. CXVI No. 1



Happy New Year!

Email highlandprestylor@att.net

Web Site <http://tylerhighland.org>

Sermons for the Month of January



The New Year begins with a five Sunday month and the ever-fresh promise of renewal. On Sunday, January 3rd, we will again take up the cup of the Lord in communion and we will preview Epiphany as we read Isaiah 60:1-7 and Matthew 2:1-12 and speak of **The Glorifying Light**. January 10th we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and our scriptures will be Isaiah 43:1-7 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 which reveal our Lord as **A Redeemer, Not a Reaper**. At mid-month, on January 17th, we will take our readings from Isaiah 62:1-5 and John 2:1-11 as we take lessons from **A Wedding Feast**. The 24th, we will open Nehemiah 8, selected verses, and Luke 4:14-21 and learn of the power of **The Joy of the Lord**. Finally, the last Sunday of the month and the last day of January, the 31st, we will examine Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Luke 4:21-30 where God's prophets prove to be **The Dual-edged Sword**. Don't forget that Sunday evening the 31st we will also have a prayer service to pray for the growth and blessing of the church. May the Lord bless us richly, as families and as a church, in this New Year!

Highland's Website

Early this year we revitalized the Highland website, giving it a new look. We asked then that you check it out and according to the stats that we can see at Google Analytics many people have done so. As the year began we had little or no activity, but beginning in March we had an average of 10 visitors per day, increasing to a high

of 28 per day (868 for the month) during July. Recently the usage has again diminished somewhat. So what does this mean? Who knows? Google gives us an almost infinite array of ways to look at the data. As you would expect, most visitors are from the United States, but others have visited from all over the world. So much information is rather interesting, but it really doesn't tell us why people stop by. We are just glad that they do.

In order that we keep the site looking fresh, we once again have changed several things. Go to <http://tylerhighland.org> and you will probably notice the new header image, which is from the December 13th Bell Choir performance



. If you go to "What's New?" you will find more pictures of the Bell Choir. Under "Programs & Events", scroll down and you will find pictures from the December 6th Advent organ and piano program. And finally, go to



"Music Programs" and again there is a picture of the bells. We will continue to make changes appropriate to the season or the activities. Look for them.

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**SARA's STUFF**

**Ladies, Please Read...**



**Ladies' Evening Circle** will meet Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and **Morning Circle** on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Out-to-eat will take place on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 p.m. at the PotPourri House.

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Attention Ladies!

Joy Falmon, the new liaison for Presbyterian Women, will meet with us during the Ladies' Morning Circle Meeting.

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**News from Jory Bayne in South Asia**

**From his newsletter, emailed to us on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>:**

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." -Philippians 1:3-6*

"About a week ago, my teammate Allen got a phone call from a student named Ani asking to hang out. They had met once on his campus a month prior, and on another day spent the afternoon with some of his friends going first to the Botanical Gardens and ending at Ani's house to meet his family. Allen said he was a little discouraged because he didn't get to have any deep spiritual conversations that day. This time when they met, they ate lunch at a local restaurant. Funny thing about this was as they arrived at the restaurant they found out that the street it was on was being used as the set for a scene in a new movie coming out!



As they were eating lunch, Ani brought up the spiritual conversation saying, "Hey, I want to go to church." The conversation culminated in Ani confessing his sin, and Allen leading him through the Gospel and a commitment to follow Christ! This was a testimony to our team of the power of sharing the Gospel in the context of relationship and trust as well as the value of "walking in the garden" with others like God did with Adam. It's cool to think their walking together led them to the set of a new movie! Turns

out however, there was more than one new story being played out on the street that day."

1. Praise God for being the perfect friend and for the opportunities we've had to just live life with students.
2. Thank God for relationships with (a.) my team through both the fun times and the hard times, (b.) our coach who visited, (c.) the short term Vision Trip of Colorado students and staff, and (d.) friends/partnerships from other ministries in the city. Ask him to use these relationships to discover new heights in outreaches, greater wisdom in security, and deeper levels of friendship.
3. Thank God for relationships with (a.) my team through both the fun times and the hard times, (b.) our coach who visited, (c.) the short term Vision Trip of Colorado students and staff, and (d.) friends/partnerships from other ministries in the city. Ask him to use these relationships to discover new heights in outreaches, greater wisdom in security, and deeper levels of friendship.

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>.

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We'll hold our second Art Fest/and Craft Fair on January 24th at the January potluck. Be sure to bring anything that you have made and show everyone how creative you are. If you missed last year's Fest, we had 23 who entered. We had everything from fine art to homemade crafts and everything in between: books, crocheting, knitting, embroidery, woodworking, you name it, we had some.



If you want to bring things on Saturday the 23rd, I'll be at the church between 9:30 and 11:30 that Saturday. If you can't bring your entry until Sunday morning, there will be someone to help you place your articles on the tables. Please limit your entries to 4. Please call me so I can warn Jerry how many tables we need. My number is 903-509-2592, or 903-521-2277. This is an activity of the Member Care Committee. Think about it! See you and your things on the 23rd or 24th.

Eleanor Garvey
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# *Becky's Music Notes*



*January 2015*



*What a month we've had so far! We had the Advent Concert on Sunday afternoon, December 6th, with Greg Simmons playing the organ and a couple piano pieces. He did an outstanding job. If you missed it, you really missed something special. On one particular piece he asked me to turn pages, which was really exciting for me. His footwork on the pedals was unbelievable! I want to thank all of you that provided cookies and treats, help me set up the reception and clean up afterward, and the gentlemen that moved the piano and communion table for the program; then moved them back later in the week. It would not have happened without so many hands.*

*Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, we had our Christmas program during worship. The bell choir played three pieces, Mom and I played a piano duet and three piano/organ duets. The music was absolutely wonderful. I was so proud of each and every one of the bell members. They did an outstanding job. And, I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication.*

*Now I am really looking forward to see what the bell choir can do when we start back up on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.*

*My family and I would like to wish each of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and New Year. Christmas is a special time of year to remember those in your past, those in your present and to remember why we celebrate the season to begin with. So as you make preparations for your seasonal celebrations, remember the reason for the season.*

*Merry CHRISTmas to you all!*

**Becky Davis**

## Highland Highlights for January 2016:

**Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>: HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Church Office Closed

**Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:**

11:30 a.m. - Art Fest/Craft Fair during Potluck lunch.

**Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>:**

Newsletter Submission Deadline!

### 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>



5 Vonda Mecham

9 Dave Bugay

### **THE JANUARY 2016 HIGHLAND HERALD SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE is Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>!**

Please submit your articles, information, etc., for the January 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(s) for this month are Blankets, for the winter months, which will continue until the end of March. Diapers, sizes 4, 5, and 6 are still needed. 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:** Ann Gstohl, Ron and Nancy Gillonardo, Jory Bayne, Bonnie Cottrill, Sally Ferrell, Mark Garvey, Joan Heck, Jean Hedges, Leslie Hortman, Janet Mackey, Sue Masters, Sue McCool, Geri Newman, Sue Sharp, Michael Williams, and Joe Yeakley. *(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.)*

What a year! Time sure goes fast when you have a grandchild. January 17, 2016, our grandson, Artie Ragan, will be 1 year old. Hard to believe. From what we hear from Matt and Cathryn, he talks (in his own language) non-stop. Matt



told me that he'll laugh after "talking" to himself. A happy baby. We sure do miss him, "ALL" of us: his Great Grandma Masters, his Great Greatdaddy and Great Grandmommy Ragan, aunts/uncles, and cousins all miss him. I sure am thankful for cell phones, computers and "Skype" (Computer video communication program)!

After Matt and Cathryn were married November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Artie and his Daddy and Mommy moved to the Seattle, Washington area. Artie's daddy got a job at a television station near Seattle and loves his job. We miss them, but we know they are happy there, so we are all happy for them.

We hope to see them soon for Artie's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.

*Dorothy Ragan*



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

Before we leave the Christmas season, it is worth remembering again the wondrous mystery of Christmas. A rebellious set of creatures and a corrupted and cursed creation limp along in heart-breaking fashion before the Lord their Maker. If it were us and we had molded some fine but insignificant sculpture out of colored kid's clay - and it didn't work as we intended - we'd likely smash it down with our fists and start all over again. God did not do that. God's creation, having been given the great gift of free will in order to freely love, was not mere sticks and stones to be manipulated.

Instead, God the Son agreed to leave His transcendent home and become one with the rebellious creatures and to bear the curse of the corrupted creation. In what has been called "The Parabola of Salvation," Jesus came down from Heaven - setting aside for a little while His divine prerogatives (though not His divine nature) to fully experience human nature by taking on human nature. The mystery of how two natures could exist in one person without confusion or alteration of either is more than our minds can comprehend, but they demonstrate that Jesus was not willing to *only* know mentally what divine omniscience allowed (though that was considerable) - rather, Jesus also seeks to know through experience human nature and its circumstances.

Jesus accepts the Adam challenge - to be the human God intended without sin - and becomes the perfect sacrifice for the ever-present sin of human nature. It is the deep reality of sin and its guilt before God that Jesus overcomes by death on the cross. It is a redeemed human nature that Jesus raises from death. It is a triumphant hope that Jesus leads in ascension to the Father - bearing the dead who awaited His coming by faith in His wake. No wonder the angels sang! They saw clearly what we don't see often enough. What manner of love the Father has for us that Jesus should be our Savior and our brother!

*Scott Mackey*



# January 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<br><br>OFFICE CLOSED! | 2                                                                                                      |
| 3<br><br>Holy Communion         | 4                                         | 5<br>11:00 AM-Video Bible Study<br>6:00 PM Prayer Shawl Meeting<br><br>Vonda Mecham | 6<br>6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice  | 7                                   | 8                                                                                                          | 9<br><br>Dave Bugay |
| 10                                                                                                               | 11<br>7 PM—Ladies' Evening Circle Meeting | 12<br>8:00 AM Men's Breakfast<br>10:00 AM Ladies Morning Circle Meeting<br>11:30 AM Ladies' Out to Eat                                                               | 13<br>6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice | 14<br>Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 AM | 15                                                                                                         | 16                                                                                                     |
| 17                                                                                                               | 18                                        | 19<br>6:00 PM Session Meeting                                                                                                                                        | 20<br>6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice | 21                                  | 22                                                                                                         | 23                                                                                                     |
| 24<br><br>Art Fest/Craft Fair | 25<br>Highland Herald Deadline!!          | 26                                                                                                                                                                   | 27<br>6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice | 28<br>Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 AM | 29                                                                                                         | 30                                                                                                     |
| 31                                                                                                               |                                           |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                   |                                     |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                        |