

HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2015

Highland Church reaches out in the name of Jesus Christ building disciples with vision for ministry.

Are we ready for Christmas?

I'm not asking if you have decorated the tree, the house and the yard; or if you have sent your Christmas cards; or if you have finished (or even started) shopping.

Let me ask it this way: What do we need to do so we can be prepared for Christmas? The answer lies in what we believe Christmas is. As Christians, the question becomes: Are we ready for the Christ of Christmas? This month is the season of Advent, in which we celebrate the coming of Christ and look for His return.

So, how do we prepare for Advent? The best thing we can do is to be intentional about focusing on His coming. Think of all that He has done for you!

Yes, we will get distracted with all the things to do before December 25, but at the first Christmas, there also were many distractions.

Mary was very young and had to deal with many changes in her body.

- No doubt in the beginning she had a strained relationship with Joseph in their new marriage.
- Public opinion.
- Bad timing to take a trip to Bethlehem.

Joseph had a new marriage without consummation and a pregnancy he did not cause

- Providing for a new family.
- Dealing with moody wife.
- Needed traveling grace!

Now what about our obstacles?

- Shortage of money
- Loneliness
- More to do than energy to do it.
- Expectation from others.
- And the list goes on.

Our focus should be on:

- Who we belong to.
- How much God loves us.
- In all of our situations, He holds our hand!
- Nothing will separate us from the Love of God.
- If God be with you, who can be against you?

Luke 2:10 "Do not be afraid, for behold good tiding of great joy which will be to all people."

Bro. Bud

CPWM

The Highland CPWM met Monday, Nov. 2 in the Fellowship Hall. We explored scripture from Acts that reflects our theme, "Serve and Proclaim". Plans were finalized for our Christmas Dinner, Dec. 7 at 6:00. We agreed to meet again to make favors for our guests. We also discussed gifts for our seniors. There will be a special time of prayer at Milburn Chapel Church Nov. 15. Our members emphasized support for our sister church and encouraged each one to attend. Our next regular meeting will be Monday, Jan. 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Session Notes

At the November meeting, the session agreed to

- Participate in the 2015 Gift to the King offering and collect it during the Children's Program, Dec. 20
 - Authorize Johnny Overton to have a tree cut on the back property line, not to exceed \$500.00
 - Pay the rental of costumes for the Christmas Parade, Dec. 5
 - Allow the Zumba group to place a "Toys for Tots" box in the gym.
 - Authorize Dean Kauffman to look into additional speakers in the sanctuary
 - Give Christmas bonuses to musicians, youth director, custodian, and secretary
 - Resume Sunday evening worship services in Jan. 2016 per a recommendation from the Worship Committee
 - Divide the proceeds from Barbeque on the River equally between the Cemetery Fund and Scholarship Fund.
 - Approved the December calendar submitted by the Christian Education Committee
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November Numbers

Stewardship Report November 29, 2015

Receipts	\$ 24,505.25
Disbursements	\$ 12,886.19

Attendance Record

Morning Worship

November 1 – 81

November 8 – 85

November 15 – 83

November 22 – 87

November 29 – 86

Change of Address

Dick and Elaine Kaye

56 Martin Circle

Paducah, KY 42001

Little Red Wagon Food Ministry

Peanut Butter, Cereal,

Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce

December Elders:

Jeff Parker and Elaine Overton

December Ushers:

Lori and Madelyn Kauffman

Steve and Diane Shrewsberry

December Calendar

Dec. 6 – Second Sunday of Advent, Preparation

Dec. 7 – CPWM Ladies Christmas Dinner

Dec. 13 – Third Sunday of Advent, Repentance

Highland Choir Christmas Cantata, 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Rejoice

Highland Youth Christmas Program and

Gift to the King offering

Dec. 21 – Youth Christmas Caroling

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Come and Go

Communion, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 25 – *Merry Christmas*

Dec. 27 – Congregational meeting to elect and install elders for 2016 – 2018

December Birthdays

5 – Lisa Parker

9 – David Russell

13 – Doris Lynn

14 – Donna Yates

16 - Laura DeHart

Sidney Milton

19 - Terrella Hancock

20 - Buddy Rushing

23 - Melissa Kilgore

25 - Clint Cunningham

26 - Johnny Overton

Tony Dodd

Allison Hasty

29 - Alyssa McKinney

December Anniversaries

16 – Tony and Bindu Finnell

31 – Bud and Pam Russell



"I am about to do a new thing; Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 43:19

The 2015 Gift to the King offering is going to help the Amaga Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Medellin, Colombia with construction of a new worship center. The Amaga Church is one of the newest churches in Andes Presbytery. Not only will The Gift to the King offering help the building project of the Amaga Church, but with the strength of it and other Cumberland Presbyterian Churches in the Medellin region, this offering will help establish a new presbytery.

