

HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2018

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

Christmas is coming! This is one of my favorite times of the year. I know it is busy and there is a lot of hustle and bustle, but I love it. I love the sounds, the smells, and the sights of Christmas: the sound of Christmas carols, the sound of cheerfulness, and the sound of well wishing; the smell of pine, things cooking, and hot latte; and the visions of things too numerous to recount.

All families have traditions for the holidays. It has always been a Russell family tradition to read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke before we open presents. Sometimes, we have even signed Birthday cards to Jesus. What family tradition do you honor?

When we repeat the Christmas Story to our children, we need to be careful and make sure we get the story right. This is a copy of a humorous account I recently read. It probably isn't true, but it gives us reason to pause and reflect on how well we truly understand the miracle of Bethlehem.

A little girl came home from Sunday school waving a paper for her mother to see. "Look Mommy," she exclaimed, "Teacher says I drew the most unusual Christmas picture she ever saw!"

Her mother took one look and had to agree with the teacher. Hoping her daughter could explain her creation, the mother asked, "Why are all these people riding in the back of an airplane?"

"Well, Mommy, that's the flight into Egypt."

Accepting that, mother asked another question: "Who is this mean-looking man in the front?"

Her daughter answered quickly and knowingly: "That's Pontius, the Pilot."

Looking at the picture even more closely, the mother said, "I see you have Mary and Joseph and the baby. But who is this large man sitting behind Mary?"

"Can't you tell?" the little girl asked, beginning to shake her head in disappointment. "That's Round John Virgin." (John Beukema, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; www.PreachingToday.com)

I would like to hear your account of the birth of our Savior. I would love to hear about your traditions. One of the things about being a Christian is it is personal. When we know God's story, we are better able to know our story!

Have a blessed Christmas,

CPWM

The ladies met Monday, Nov. 4 in the Fellowship Hall. In business, we discussed the 2018 Loaves and Fishes offering and distribution of funds. Twenty five percent of what we collect will be kept at Highland to assist in local hunger needs. We also discussed and voted on the date of our Christmas Dinner for the ladies of Highland. Our dinner will be Monday, Dec. 3 at 6:00. Jeff Parker will cater the meal and CPWM women will make desserts. Cindy Robertson will provide the entertainment. All ladies are invited, but reservations are required.

Session Highlights

Items approved at the November meeting:

- Linda Johnson will lead evening Worship Sunday, Dec. 2. She will give the history of the Chrismons we place on our tree
- Purchase Video License for public viewing of movies and videos
- Transfer membership of Lora Rogers Kerner to the Oakland Cumberland Presbyterian Church
- Evaluate and service the fire extinguishers and emergency lighting in the building, Roddy Johnson will head this
- Paint the Sunday School room being used for the Pastor's class
- Allow Alec Golightly to serve as a chaperone for the Winter Convocation in Gatlinburg
- Authorized Laura DeHart and Michelle Golightly to buy gifts and gift cards in the amount of \$600 for Angel Tree students at McCracken County High School.

November Numbers

Stewardship Report as of November 26, 2018

Receipts	\$ 15,362.10
Disbursements	\$ 13,182.44

Attendance Record

Morning Worship

November 4 – 104

November 11 – 95

November 18 – 111

November 25 – 100

December Calendar

Dec. 1 – Paducah Christmas Parade, 5:00 pm

Dec. 2 – Chrismon Service, 6:00 pm

Dec. 3 – Christmas Dinner for Ladies, 6:00 pm

Dec. 5 – Highlanders, Kentucky Opry

Dec. 6 – Pioneers, Pork Peddler, 11:30 a.m.

Dec. 16– Session meeting, 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 23 – Christmas Program, 6:00 p.m.

Gift to the King offering

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Come and Go

Communion

CPWM will not have a regular monthly meeting.

December Ushers – Tanner Parker,
Ronnie Parker, Steve and Diane Shrewsberry
December Elders – Steve Shrewsberry
Elaine Kaye

Paducah Cooperative Ministry

Canned Goods

Children and Youth Calendar

Dec. 5 – Christmas Play practice, 6:00 pm
Dec. 12 – Christmas Play practice, 6:00 pm
Dec. 19 – Christmas Party, 6:00 pm
Dec. 21 – Christmas Caroling, 5:00 pm
Dec. 23 – Christmas Play, 6:00 pm

Congregational Meetings

Dec. 9 – Elder nominations
Dec. 16 – Elder elections
Jan. 6 – Elder ordination/installation

According to the Cumberland Presbyterian Confession of Faith Constitution 2.71-2.74

Elders are the immediate representatives of the people, elected by them to share with ministers in the government and leadership of the church; in caring for and leading the congregation which they serve, elders shall be particularly attentive to persons who have not confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, those who are spiritually weak, and those who need to be instructed in the faith; elders may be male or female, young or old, they should exemplify the gospel by their good character, sound faith, wisdom, maturity of judgement, discretion, conversation, knowledge of the doctrine and government of the church, and competency to perform the duties of the office.

Gift to the King Offering

Our offering will be collected Dec. 23 during the Children's Christmas Program. The offering this year goes to support the Iloilo Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the Philippines.

Christmas mail boxes

If you would like to send Christmas cards to members of the Highland family, you are invited to save a US postage stamp and use the Highland Mail Box. The alphabetized box will be in the Fellowship Hall.

December Birthdays

5 - Lisa Parker
7 – Karen Coleman
9 – David Russell
13 – Doris Lynn
14 – Donna Yates
16 – Bernice Belt
 Laura DeHart
 Sidney Milton
19 - Terrella Hancock
 Berkley Parker
20 - Buddy Rushing
23 - Melissa Kilgore
25 - Clint Cunningham
26 - Johnny Overton
 Tony Dodd
 Allison Hasty
29 - Alyssa McKinney

December Anniversaries

31 – Bud and Pam Russell

