

HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2021

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

Evangelist Luis Palau tells of a wealthy European family that decided to have their newborn baby baptized in their enormous mansion. Dozens of guests were invited to the elaborate affair, and they all arrived dressed to the nines. After depositing their elegant wraps on a bed in an upstairs room, the guests were entertained royally.

Soon the time came for the main purpose of their gathering: the infant's baptismal ceremony. But where was the baby? No one seemed to know. The child's governess ran upstairs and returned with a desperate look on her face. Everyone searched frantically for the baby. Then someone recalled having seen him asleep on one of the beds. The baby was on a bed all right buried beneath a pile of coats, jackets, and furs. The object of that day's celebration had been forgotten, neglected, and nearly smothered.

The baby whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas is easily hidden beneath the piles of traditions and cultural observances of the season. We need to enter every Advent season asking, "Where's the baby?"

What a wonderful time of the year, Christmas! I love the change in attitudes, it seems people are more willing to interact with other people, and even be friendly. There is excitement in the air. The spirit of giving is present and the gatherings are many. I love what we experience at Christmas.

As with other children, Christmas was the biggest thing that happened to me each year. I just couldn't wait until it rolled around again and again. I was mesmerized by the decorations on our streets, in the stores, and in our home. At school, we exchanged names to buy presents for one another. We had a break from school giving us more time to play with the toys we received.

I remember one Christmas Curtis, my brother, slept with a flashlight and about four in the morning, he flashed the light toward the Christmas tree, and said, "Boys, he has been here!"

My parents received calls from the neighbors being awoken by three boys riding bicycles in the neighborhood! LOL

We surely celebrated, but we left out the one who made Christmas real. The reason for the season is Jesus. Enjoy this time, cherish the goodness God has placed in your life but by all means, let's praise the person that made this all possible!

Merry CHRISTmas to each of you and thank you for being some of the goodness God has placed in the Russell's family life!

CPWM

CPWM met Monday November 1. Marlene reported that we are set up with Jeff Parker to cater our Ladies Christmas Dinner Monday, December 6th. All the ladies and girls of the Church are invited, but we need reservations. We are looking forward to hosting this event after a year off. It is a great opportunity to fellowship as we begin this Advent Season!

Our Bible study was the story of the widow and her two mites. Her lesson is that we can all serve God in some way regardless of our circumstances. Most of our meeting was spent planning the Bazaar and chili supper.

We want to thank everyone for all the support we received!! Our Bazaar would not have been a success without each of you who contributed in some way. Special shout-out to Jeanne Mullen, Velva Mullen, and Tammy Gingles! You challenged us to do great things for our missionaries, and we succeeded!! Money is still coming in, but we know we raised over \$4,500.00!

We will not have a December meeting. We hope to see you at our Christmas Dinner, Dec. 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Session Highlights

Items approved at the November meeting:

- Purchase VBS 2022 Curriculum recommended by Youth Director, Elizabeth Spann
- Purchase ~~Once Upon a~~ Manger tee shirts for the youth and adults participating in the Christmas program at a cost of \$234
- From the Diaconate: Have the van detailed at a cost of \$175.00 and serviced in the amount of \$59.50; during Morning Worship make a point of mentioning the visitor's cards in the pews; reactivate the bus ministry
- Participate in the 2021 Gift of the King Offering

November Numbers

Financial Record as of November 30, 2021

income - \$ 30,880.27

expenses - \$ 32,452.23

Attendance

November 7 - 75

November 14 - 77

November 21 - 95

November 28 - 84

December Calendar

December 4 - Paducah Christmas Parade

December 6 - Ladies Christmas dinner, 6:00 p.m.

December 9 - Highlanders to Raffertys, 4:30 p.m.

December 12 - Christmas Program and
finger foods fellowship, 6:00 p.m.

December 19 - Session Meeting

December 20 - Caroling, 5:30

December 24 - Christmas Eve Come and Go
Communion, 5:00-7:00 pm

Ushers — Tanner Parker, Ronnie Parker
Steve and Diane Shrewsberry

Elder - Elaine Overton

Highlanders Host - Marlene Wallace

Paducah Cooperative Ministry Anything

Special Thank You Our Steve Shrewsbury has spent many hours getting the sign by the road to make an impact on passersby; and installing and setting up a new ceiling mount camera for our Facebook stream; and renegotiating our internet bill/services to provide optimal speed for streaming. Thanks Steve.

Information The Highland Directory is on the website you will need the password: highland1874

Youth News

Christmas Program Our youth are presenting their Christmas program, "Once Upon a Manger", on Sunday, December 12 at 6PM. Everyone is invited to attend. Fellowship will follow - **bring your favorite finger foods.**

Highland Kids and Youth Christmas Parties December 15, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m..

Kids through 5th grade - Dinner, decorate cupcakes, & celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Youth 6th-12th Graders - Mystery dinner and gift card exchange. If you plan to participate, please bring a gift card from the location of your choice \$10 or less!

Caroling Join us as we go around McCracken County singing the songs of Christmas, meet at church at 5:30.

Convocation 6th-12th Grade, January 14-17, 2022 in Gatlinburg, TN. If you plan to attend, please see Elizabeth for the registration packet. The deadline to register is December 10.

Congregational Meetings Sunday, December 12 we will nominate elders for 2022-2024; December 19 - we elect elders. Thank you to Marlene Wallace and Wayne Coleman who have served these past three years.

Gift to the King Offering During the Children's Christmas Program we will collect a special offering for our three schools in Colombia, South America collectively called The Colegio Americano. Located in the cities of Cali, Pereira and Manizales, these schools offer academic instruction, spiritual guidance and balanced nutrition to their students.

Sunday Evening Worship - cancelled until January

Christmas Eve Come and Go Communion Make plans to attend with your family, December 24, 5:00 - 7:00

Discipleship Classes Beginning in February, Bro. Bud will offer a series of classes on discipleship. The classes will be on Tuesdays either 9:00 am or 6:00 pm. Sign up sheets will be on the bulletin board.

December Birthdays

5 - Lisa Parker

6 - Caroline Parker

7 - Karen Coleman

9 - David Russell

13 - Doris Lynn

14 - Donna Yates

Madeline Stowell

15 - Jeanne Mullen

16 – Bernice Belt

Laura DeHart

Sidney Milton

19 - Terrella Hancock

Berkley Parker

20 - Buddy Rushing

23 - Melissa Kilgore

Jonathan Cunningham

25 - Clint Cunningham

26 - Johnny Overton

Tony Dodd

Allison Hasty

29 - Alyssa McKinney

30 - Elizabeth Spann

December Anniversaries

31 – Bud and Pam Russell