

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 2



All Church Event = ACE

What: Soup & 'Sock It to Me!'

When: Sunday, February 23, at 5:30pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

Why: Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Please, bring a new pair of socks any size/color/style to be given to charity.

Cost: \$4.00 per person; includes meal and entertainment. Signups will happen on the weekends of February 8/9 and February 15/16 in the Gathering Area.

Questions, contact our ACE Event Coordinators, Bud & Katy Henkel at 479-876-6121 or Doug & Lynn Stone at 479-876-2260.



A Message from Bro. Jim Benfer

I want to say a great big thank you to the Highlands Church leadership for their warm welcome in helping me hit the ground with my feet running, and receive Cindy with arms of love. I still have so many names to learn, but the smiling faces and warm handshakes I have received tells me that this church is full of God's children and His love.

Many of you heard Nat Collis introduce me at worship and tell you that I love the Global Methodist Church. That is an understatement. I have come out of retirement because I truly believe in its mission: "To make disciples for Jesus Christ, and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land." I will be your pastor as long as an interim is needed, and continue to work as a Connecting Elder for the Trinity Conference.



I have made plans with our office staff to make Tuesdays my office time at the church, and so can be available for appointments then. I will do most of my sermon preparations at home, but plan to be available for events and special worship opportunities with you.

Cindy and I have retired in Springdale to be near our oldest daughter's family where our two granddaughters are growing up. However, we have four children and two other grandsons, so we will be making plans to visit them. I am including a picture of the whole group with this letter. I love ministry in Mexico, so I hope you will soon see an invitation to join me in mission there in May. Life is finding new avenues for us to pursue. We are so glad we are able to enlarge our circle of friends to include new friends in Bella Vista.

Let me share a little about one of my passions, because it is instructive. I have two garden patches, and in our haste to make ready for our move this past July, there was inadequate time to do everything mid to late in the season. I have only had enough time to prepare one of them properly this spring as we planned our move. The difference is readily apparent. My small orchard of fruit trees got the lion's share of my time and attention, plus got the additional benefit of watering through the heat of summer. To be sure, the plants look strong and vigorous and I look forward to their development.

The other patch is where I planted blackberries and some herbs. It did not get weeded or beds prepared very well and I have not had time to set up irrigation or move plantings that have gotten out of hand.



The result is spotty looking and haphazard. Why mention this? I mention it simply because our spiritual lives show the attention we give them too.

A life that properly prioritizes its spiritual needs and spends adequate time studying God's word, listens to God in prayer, attends to worship and the sacraments is in every way well-tended and likely to bear good fruit for the kingdom. However, when we leave things to chance and just hope that they will turn out right, they seldom do. So I have to ask, "Have you been in your garden lately?"

Highlands Church 2025 Leadership Teams

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Chair: Allen Lovell (2023)
Council Vice Chair: Jean Galloway
Council Secretary: Kathy Smith (2025)
Nurture Coordinator: Jean Galloway
Outreach Coordinator: Sara Sherman
Witness Coordinator: Billie Hall
Council Member-at-Large 2027: Dale Simpson
Council Member-at-Large 2026: Pat Lehman
Council Member-at-Large 2025: Mike Maginness
Staff Parish Relations Chair: Jeff Hale
Trustees Chair: Dave Hagaman
Finance Chair: Jim Kuhn
Church Treasurer: Dru Matthews
Lay Leader: Bill Williams (2022)
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Russ Miller (2017)
Alt Member to Conference: Kathy Smith (2025)
Mission Ministry: Sara Sherman
HMM President: Greg Snyder
HMW President: Jean Galloway
Interim Pastor: Jim Benfer

COLUMBARIUM / MEMORIAL GARDEN

Chair: Doug Fowler (2012)

FINANCE

Chair: Jim Kuhn (2025)
Committee Members:
2027 – Kirk Burgess
2026 – Kathy Wine
Treasurer: Dru Matthews
Financial Secretary: Donna Hagaman
SPRC Chair: Jeff Hale
Pastor: Jim Benfer
Council Chair: Allen Lovell
Lay Leader: Bill Williams
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Russ Miller

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Jim Benfer
Committee Members:
2027—Doug Stone
2027—Suzanne Evans
2027—Jerry Snyder
2026— Jeff Hale
2026—Tyra Walker
2026—Greg Snyder
2025 – Flip Smith
2025 – Sue LaHood
2025 – DD Dunagin
Lay Leader: Bill Williams

SECURITY and SAFETY

Chair: Dave Benson (2024)

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Chair: Jeff Hale (2022)
Committee Members:
2027—Jennifer Montgomery
2027—Danny Willeford
2026—Tyra Walker
2026—Flip Smith
2025 – Charis Geisinger
2025 – Carla Lemmeyer
Pastor: Jim Benfer
Lay Leader: Bill Williams
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Russ Miller

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Dave Hagaman (2016)
Committee Members:
2027—Mike Maginness, Vice Chair
2027—Dale Simpson
2026—Geary Lynn Manske
2026—Lynn Stone, Secretary
2025 – Dave Hagaman, Columbarium Rep
2025 – Bud Henkel, Finance Rep
2025—Dave Benson, Safety & Security Rep

Please Note: These are only the standing committees as required by the Book of Discipline.
Our Nurture, Outreach and Witness committees will be listed at a later date.

Children's Worship Center

Children are welcome to visit our Nursery (0-4 years) and Kids Worship (5-11 years) on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 Traditional worship service. For more information, contact Laurie Pearson at 479-256-4452 (Nursery), Fran Lovell at 571-255-0701 or Wanda Krug at 719-213-1115 (Kids Worship).

We'd love to grow this team and if you feel a nudge in this direction, please contact Wanda Krug at wlepillez@gmail.com. We can use helpers, as well as teachers.



The picture to the right is from Christmas Eve 2024. Laurie Pearson (Nursery Staff) said "It was so much fun and exciting to have the time to share God's love and play with all these giggling blessings."



Adult Sunday School

Begin something new this Sunday morning at 8:30 am in the Mark classroom to start a new study entitled, The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way. We'd love to have you join us. Questions? Call Brad Krug at 719-210-6124.

Thank You!

Thank You from the Fellowship Committee: We would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas Lunch on December 15, 2024. After expenses, and the sale of the table decorations, we were able to donate \$1015.37 to the church's general fund. Thanks again, the Fellowship Committee

Thank You! I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for all the cards, text messages, and kind gestures given to me during the difficult time of losing my mother. Your support meant the world to me, and I am grateful for all the kind and compassionate people of this church. Amey Burkett

New Address:

Glen Whiting. 10401 Vineyard Blvd, Apt 315, Oklahoma City, OK 73120



HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

HMW Meeting

Happy February! Please join the Highlands Methodist Women (HMW) on Monday, February 10, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for a program about the Bella Vista Courtesy Van by Kim Carlson. Of course we'll have great food, fellowship and fun! To help us better prepare, please sign up at the Information Station by Sunday, February 9.

HMW Book Club

Please join the Highlands Methodist Women and friends for our Book Club meeting on Monday, February 24, at 1:00 pm in the Mark classroom. Our book will be the final installment of the Carolina Heirlooms Novel, *The Sea Keeper's Daughters* by Lisa Wingate. From modern-day Roanoke Island to the sweeping backdrop of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains and Roosevelt's WPA folklore writers, past and present intertwine to create an unexpected destiny. Coffee, dessert, and the final book in the series discussion should be very interesting. For any questions please call Sue LaHood at 479-855-0937.

HMW Muffins for Missions

The Highlands Methodist Women pray to put their faith, hope, and love in action to benefit women and children's needs in our community. Therefore, we find ways to use our skills to help raise funds to support our mission. We invite you to enjoy homemade muffins before Saturday and after Sunday services on Saturday and Sunday, February 8/9. Please plan to stop by our table in Fellowship Hall and donate to Muffins for Missions. Yes, you may take them to go! Remember, they are perfect to share with your neighbors and friends with an invitation to church! All donations go to help women and children in the Northwest Arkansas Area.



HIGHLANDS METHODIST MEN

HMM Meeting

The Highlands Methodist Men (HMM) will be meeting on Tuesday, February 4, at 7:45 am in Fellowship Hall. There will be breakfast followed by a very interesting speaker from Oasis of NWA. Oasis of Northwest Arkansas is a women's transitional living community in Bella Vista that provides safe, sober, subsidized transitional living in community for homeless women (with children if needed) who are in recovery from drugs/alcohol, abuse, incarceration.

This will be a very informative meeting and while this is not a joint HMM/HMW meeting the information we will be receiving should be of interest to everyone and all are invited, both men and women, as we learn more about the important work being done by Oasis of NWA. Please sign up using the sheet in the Gathering Area so we know how many to expect for breakfast.

Bro. Jim's Mexico Mission Trip

Informational Meeting will be held on Saturday, **February 8, at 5:00 pm**, directly following the Celebration Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.

When: **May 25 to May 31, 2025**

Where: Manos Juntas Mission, Rio Bravo, Mexico

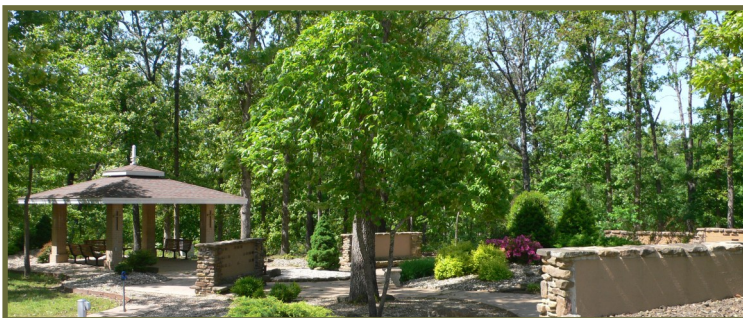
Cost: \$750 + travel to and from McAllen, Texas

Sign Up Deadline: April 15

I want to invite you to be a part of a long-term mission I have been working on for the last 20 years. I take a group of volunteers each year with me to carry out VBS, Medical Clinics, Construction, Sewing, Book and Bible distributions, and evangelism. All ages can attend, but those under 18 will have to have a parent accompany them. You will need a current passport.

You will need to complete applications for the trip. Please request them from me at jim.benfer@outlook.com

Information sheets may be found on the bulletin board in hallway by office.



Highlands Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Located on church grounds, our Columbarium and Memorial Garden is available for current and former members of Highlands Church and their immediate families. You are welcome to visit this peaceful area, located on the south side of our Ministries Activity Center. Brochures are available on the Information Wall located just outside the office. If you would like more information, please contact a Columbarium Committee member or the church office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH SNACK PACKS

Mission Ministry will be packing Snack Packs for the children of Gravette Schools on Wednesday, February 5, 10:00 am - 11:30 am. If you are interested, please join us at the Samaritan Center, 2910 S 8th Street in Rogers. No signups required. Questions, contact Sara Sherman at 870-550-0339.



Care & Share Thrift Store

Volunteers from Highlands Church are needed to work at the Gravette Care & Share Thrift Store the week of Feb 25—Mar 1, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Online signups begin next week, or contact the church office for assistance. For details, contact our coordinator, Connie Kiefer.



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1– No Celebration Service
2– Communion & Combined Worship at 10am	3– Flex 'N Stretch Continues M, W, F	4– HMM Meeting	5	6	7	8–Muffins for Missions —Mexico Mission Meeting w/ Jim
9–Muffins for Missions	10– HMW Meeting	11– Compassionate Disciples Meeting	12– Stitchers	13	14	15
16– 3rd Sunday Cookies	17–Office Closed for Holiday	18– Council Meets – Kitchen Cleaning	19–Staff Meeting	20– Library Meeting	21	22– Scrapbooking & Card Making
23–All Church Event (ACE)	24– HMW Book Club Meeting	25	26– Stitchers	27	28	

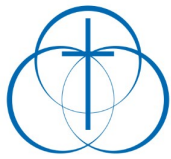
Save the Dates 2025

DATE/S	HMW EVENTS
Feb 8/9	Muffins for Missions
April 25/26	Flea & Boutique
May 11	Casseroles or (TBD) Desserts for a Year
June 1	Crockpot Sunday
Sept 7	Crockpot Sunday
Oct 25/26	Muffins for Missions
Dec 6	Cookie Walk

DATE/S	FELLOWSHIP EVENTS
April 20	Easter Continental Breakfast
Oct 4	Octoberfest
Nov 8/9	Veterans Day Celebration
Dec 14	Christmas Luncheon

DATE/S	WORSHIP EVENTS
March 5	Ash Wednesday
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17	Maundy Thursday
April 20	Easter Sunday
June 8	Pentecost Sunday
Nov 1/2	All Saints Weekend
Nov 30	Advent Begins
Dec 13/14	Christmas Cantata
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Svc.





HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A Global Methodist Congregation

4pm Saturday Celebration Worship 10am Sunday Traditional Worship

First Sunday Combined Worship @10am (No Saturday Service)

Office News

Amey: office@hgmcbv.com

Newsletter: newsletter@hgmcbv.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The Deadline for the March Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon), on February 20. Send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to this email address: newsletter@hgmcbv.com

HOLIDAY: The church office will be closed for Presidents' Day on Monday, February 17.

Operating Budget Report - December 31, 2024

	YTD Budget	Dec Actual	YTD Actual
Income	501,740	60,656	479,036
Expenses	501,740	44,075	474,580
Net	0	16,581	4,457

Thank you for your continued support.

Church Staff

JIM BENFER, *Interim Pastor*

AMEY BURKETT, *Administrative Assistant*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Bookkeeper / Treasurer*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELDON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

LAURIE PEARSON, *Nursery Staff*

MONICA CLARK, *Custodian*

3 ways to give
to Highlands Church

- Online
- In-Person
- By Mail

for details visit... hgmcbv.com/give



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Drop a folded dollar into the offering plate to support our Mission Ministry