

Highlands & News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH |
JANUARY 2020 – VOLUME 24 — ISSUE 1



A NEW YEAR IS BEGINNING!

Take a Breath. Here Comes **2020**! Yes, **2020** is our **new** year and **new decade** coming up. It's time to look and dream on **2020**. It's a cool looking number, a beautifully round number. It's not just another year; it's a **new decade** and a **new** generation.

In our recent Stewardship program, we as a congregation began to develop our Vision for 2020. Now is the time for this Vision to become alive and real. Being a part of a Christian community and worshipping God together is powerful.

God wants to use our church for the plans of His Kingdom.

Let's make a New Year's Resolution together:

I will pray daily for our church
I will attend worship as often as possible
I will support the church with my financial gifts
I will volunteer and serve wherever needed
I will tell others about our church and invite them to worship and serve with us

With all of us renewing our membership vows in this way, there is no limit as to what God can do in our midst.

Serving Us in January

Saturday Host/Hostesses

1/4—Lynne & Duane Penner
1/11—Ruth & Mark Richardson
1/18—Jan & Trevor Taylor
1/25—Doris Barrett

Sunday Guest Table

Mel Snyder

Liturgists

1/5—Gloria Grilk
1/12—Nancy Johnson
1/19—Joyce Sheldon
1/26—Claudia Williams

CPR/AED

1/5—Ron Blackwelder
1/12—Pat Lehmen
1/19—Joan Pehosh
1/26—Linda Virgili

Safety & Security:

Dennis Redenius

Usher Captain: Jean Galloway

Trustee for the Month:

Dave Hagaman

Pastor's Pen

Every year, I create a document outlining my vision and goals for our church concerning the upcoming year and I submit this document to Administrative Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee. I want to share a few key pieces of this document with you and ask you to help me in the ways outlined during the upcoming year.

One of the things I need us all to do as a church is to continue to pray and study the Scriptures daily and dutifully. A church that is not in constant engagement with the Word of God, and in conversation with Him, is a church destined for failure. As we look towards 2020 and hear, yet again, about the decline of Christianity in the United States and in the United Methodist Church, none of the information I have heard is at all shocking. If the personal devotion to living a Christian life is not there for the majority of a denomination or church, you can bet that church is going to be fragile. The good news is that no matter what happens, we have the option to thrive by being faithful Christians.

You might be asking yourself how your personal walk with Jesus affects the church. There is a very simple reason: without being in touch with the Holy Spirit and walking with Him, you will not be bringing to your church family your best. If too many people are out of step with the Spirit, it will throw ice on the whole of the church. So, I implore you, if you love Christ and this church, get in the Word and in touch with God.

Another thing I want to emphasize is, this is Christ's church that "WE" are a part of. The church needs your ideas, your life experiences, and your callings blended with the Scriptures and combined with your walk with Christ in order for us to move forward. I have mentioned some of my dreams for this church, but what are your dreams? How is God stirring your heart? What of my ideas do you agree with that you have even more ideas for? Where is the Spirit leading you? What message is God giving you? My favorite example so far has been the Car Show. A few individuals had this incredible idea, created a team and ran with it. Highlands Church has had two successful Car Shows and I foresee many more in the years to come. I want the people of God to be fully equipped to carry out the missions and ministries that God has called them to.

Recently I met with the HUMMERS and asked them to join me in a Bible reading plan that we could all do together to build up our knowledge and our brotherhood. That plan starts on January first. I truly believe that with their commitment to it, this is going to be a big year for our church as more people are drawn by prayer and the Scriptures to ministries yet to be put in place. If the whole church commits to reading the Scriptures and praying, then there will be no stopping us.

Many years ago, I had a conversation with a man who was fearful of his local church dying out. It turns out that the death of the church was not the problem he should have been worried about. Nor, was it a problem he was interested in doing anything about because when asked how much he was in the Word and praying, you could have heard a pin drop. Yes, study and prayer are that important and they always have been. God is simply not going to give long term blessings to churches of people that are not concerned with His word and with prayer.

I have a few more requests of you. First, if you are interested and willing to devote serious time and energy for prayer, I need you to contact me and volunteer to be on the "Pastor's Prayer Shield." I do not believe myself to be special, but I do believe that by having the office of pastor, I have a target on my back by the forces of evil that exist. I need people that will pray for me in a special way that help to protect my family and myself. I know this church has prayed for me so much, and you have carried me through tough times, but I beg you not to stop your prayers for us.

The second request I have is that those dedicated to prayer and interested in praying for specific causes would email me. Throughout the year you will each individually receive special prayer requests from me on how you can pray for the church.

Lastly, unrelated to prayer. I admit that I am a forgetful man. If you tell me something on Saturday night or Sunday morning when I have my sermon in my head, the odds are high that I will not remember what you said. If I need to know something or you would like to schedule a meeting, please contact me via email or contact the church office.

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you only the best in 2020. I am looking forward to another incredible and fruitful year here at Highlands Church!

Blessings and peace,

Robert



Highlands Church 2020 Leadership Teams

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chair: Greg Snyder (2018)
Council Secretary: TBD (2020)
Member-at-Large 2020: Cathy Woodburn
Member-at-Large 2021: George Chapman
Member-at-Large 2022: Joe Newman
Staff Parish Relations Chair: Oscar Hansen
Trustees Chair: Dave Hagaman
Finance Chair: Andy O'Neil
Church Treasurer: Dru Matthews
Lay Leader: Jackie Warren (2017)
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Russ Miller (2017)
Alt Member to Conference: Andy O'Neil (2017)
Mission Ministry: Steve Terry
UMM President: Nat Collis
UMW President: Jean Galloway
Pastor: Robert Cloninger

COLUMBARIUM / MEMORIAL GARDEN

Chair: Doug Fowler (2012)

FINANCE

Chair: Andy O'Neil (2017)
Committee Members:
2020 – Kathy Wine
2021 – George Chapman
2022 – Jim Kuhn
Treasurer: Dru Matthews
Financial Secretary: Donna Hagaman
SPRC Chair or Rep: Oscar Hansen
Trustees Rep: Bud Henkel
Pastor: Robert Cloninger
Admin Chair: Greg Snyder
Lay Leader: Jackie Warren
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Russ Miller

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Rev. Robert Cloninger
Committee Members:
2020 – Jim Goodwin
2020 – Julie Howe
2020 – Butch Lock
2021 – Carmen Alessi
2021 – Bill Williams
2021 – Cathy Woodburn
2022 – Jeff Hale
2022 – Lorna Pumphrey
2022 – Greg Snyder
Lay Leader: Jackie Warren

SECURITY and SAFETY

Chair: Sue LaHood (2019)

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Chair: Oscar Hansen (2019)
Committee Members:
2020 – Andy Anderson
2020 – Don Woodburn
2021 – Pam Hudec
2021 – Deb Metz
2022 – Jeff Hale
2022 – Dale Simpson
Pastor: Robert Cloninger
Lay Leader: Jackie Warren
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Russ Miller

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Dave Hagaman (2016)
Committee Members:
2020 – Jerry Foster
2020 – Mike Maginness
2021 – Dave Hagaman
2021 – Bud Henkel
2022 – Ken Bloom
2022 – Lynn Stone

FAITH MINISTRY AREAS

Children Ministry Coordinator: TBD (Staff)
Corporate Prayer Meeting: Jackie Warren
Education Coordinator: TBD
Membership Growth & Development: Mel Snyder
Nursery Staff: TBD (Staff)
Student Ministry Coordinator: TBD (Staff)
Worship – Celebrations: Pam Meyer (Staff)
Worship – Gathering: James Hendrix (Staff)
Worship – Traditional: John Matthews (Staff)

FELLOWSHIP AREAS

Care Group Coordinators:
Bud & Katy Henkel, Doug & Lynn Stone
Compassionate Disciples:
Jane Rowland & Linda Virgili
Fellowship Coordinator: Linda Uttley
Flex 'N Stretch: Donna Williams
Library Coordinator: Joyce O'Neil
Loving Hearts: Pat Lehman
Medical Equipment: Jan Lasar
Singles Group: TBD
Stitchers: Loleta Haskins & Sandra Foster
United Methodist Men: Nat Collis, President
United Methodist Women: Jean Galloway, President

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Mission Ministry: Steve Terry



HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



The January 7, 2020 meeting will feature speaker Dave Armstrong. Dave is a Bella Vista resident who has served as the television voice of the Big 12 Conference men's basketball programming for over 30 years. He has also served as the play-by-play voice for both the Kansas City Royals and Colorado Rockies baseball television networks. He has authored the book, "Driving from here to WOW!" Dave brings a vigorously unique, often humorous, and certainly entertaining, "insiders look" at anecdotes involving college and professional athletics.

Our business meeting's agenda will include discussions involving several options for the planning of HUMMERS activities in 2020, plus an update on distribution of 2019 funds and other current matters.

The breakfast meeting will convene at 7:45 am on January 7, 2020. Bill Williams will provide our meeting's devotional service. Please be sure to sign up on the HUMMERS Breakfast sheet at the signup counter in the Gathering Area so that we can plan for breakfast servings.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Using the bible reading plan provided by Pastor Robert, the Highlands men are encouraged to read the New Testament in the first six months of 2020. To help draw greater spiritual growth, the men are having small groups to review and discuss the previous week's readings. The small groups will start meeting the week of January 6 for an hour. Signup sheets and reading calendar will be in the Gathering Area. Groups are available on Mondays 9-10 am, Mondays 6-7 pm, and Thursdays 10-11 am. Prayerfully consider using this opportunity to develop a stronger bond with Christ and fellowship with other Highlands men. For more information, please contact Steve Larsen at 479-367-0934 or Gary Marshall at 479-866-2481.



United Methodist Women

Faith • Hope • Love in Action



Happy New Year!

The United Methodist Women will start the year off on Monday, January 13, at 9:30 am with a program by Denise Luft about the Arkansas United Methodist Children's Home. Their mission is to give the best possible care to those who may need our help and to treat the whole person spiritually, behaviorally and emotionally. We hope to see all the women of Highlands Church for this informative program. We will have food and fellowship to round out the meeting! Be sure to sign up in Fellowship Hall by the wall! Can't wait to see you on the 13th!

Dessert for a Year

Chris and Mike Pulhamus will ring in the New Year - Upside Down - as in an Apple Pecan Cake prepared upside-down by Julie Lasher! Be careful, Julie! Christmas kisses to Bonnie Bloom for her outstanding Cranberry Almond Pound Cake! Desserts continue to bless and unite so many in friendships and love! Happy New Year Bakers!

The UMW Book Club will start off the New Year on January 20, at 9:30 am in the Matthew Room, with the book: The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World by James Harpur. We meet the Third Monday of the month, for 5 months, January through May. There is a listing of all books and their information in the Library Annex. We really have a great time discussing the book and there is always coffee and muffins. If you have any questions, please call Sue LaHood 855-0937.

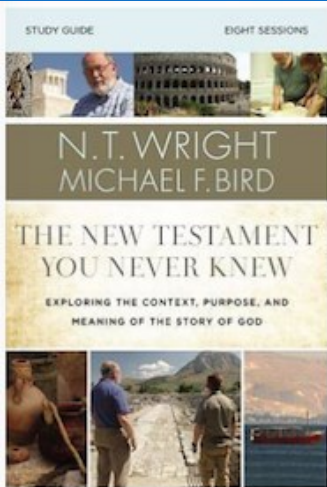
AFTER HOURS

A WOMEN'S EVENING
RETREAT OF FELLOWSHIP,
SPIRITUAL GROWTH,
AND MISSION OUTREACH

January 21

6:00 - 7:30 pm





LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

During the season of Lent, we will have an opportunity to participate in a special Bible Study beginning the last week of February and continuing for eight weeks.

We will be reading, "The New Testament You Never Knew," and will discover things we never knew about Jesus' baptism, and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today.

This study includes a student book and provides a video exploration and reflection of the material. We plan to meet in small groups, once a week.

Facilitators are needed for each small group. As a facilitator, you can choose the day, time and location of the Bible study. We have some facilitators but more are needed.

There are sign up sheets in the Gathering Area. You may sign up to be a facilitator or you may sign up for the group you wish to be a part of. Also, please indicate if you will need a study guide.

If you are interested in being a facilitator or have any questions please contact Julie Howe at 602-819-9862



Centered in Prayer

Frank Laubach's diaries and books on prayer are peppered with his many experiments to remain in constant communion with God. On the first day of 1937 he wrote in his diary, "God I want to give you every minute of this year. I shall try to keep you in mind every moment of my waking hours. I shall try to let You be the speaker and direct every word. I shall try to let you direct my acts. I shall try to learn your language." What a marvelous resolve for the new year! Three months later, he noted his progress in learning to practice God's presence: "Thank Thee...that the constant conversation grows easier each day. I really do believe all thought can be conversations with Thee!"

This kind of living communion does not just fall on our heads. We must desire it and seek it out. We must order our lives in particular ways. We must take up a consciously chosen course of action that will draw us more deeply into perpetual communion with the Father.

The idea is simple. Seek to discover as many ways as possible to keep God constantly in mind. "There is nothing new in that," you say. "That practice is very orthodox." Exactly! This desire to practice the presence of God is the secret of all the saints.

From *Freedom of Simplicity* by Richard Foster

Happy New Year

January Calendar

Sundays

8:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
11:15 am The Gathering Worship
7:00 pm AA Meeting

Mondays

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
9:30 am UMW Board (1st Monday)
9:30 am UMW Meeting (2nd Monday)
3:00 pm Women's Emmaus (2nd & 4th Mon)
5:00 pm Men's Emmaus
6:00 pm UMW After Hours (3rd Monday)

Tuesdays

7:45 am Hummers Meeting (1st Tuesday)
1:00 pm Growth Group- McCauley
3:00 pm Yoga

Wednesdays

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
1:00 pm Staff Meeting (2nd & 4th Wed)
1:00 pm Stitches (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)
4:00 pm Bells (starting Jan 15)
6:30 pm Choir (except Jan 1)

Thursdays

9:00 am Kitchen Cleanup (2nd & 4th Thurs)
4:00 pm Care Group Leaders Mtg (3rd Thurs)

Fridays

7:00 am Men's Emmaus
7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
9:30 am Marathon Bridge (2nd Friday)
10:30 am Compassionate Disciples (1st Friday)

Saturdays

1:00 pm Scrapbooking & Card Making (4th Sat)
5:30 pm Saturday Celebration

Other Events and Meetings:

Wednesday, Jan 1 Church Office Closed
Thursday, Jan 9, 1:00 pm Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Jan 14, 3:00 pm Finance Meeting
Monday, Jan 20, Church Office Closed
Tuesday, Jan 21, 6:00 pm Ad Council Meeting

Family News

Scott & Glenda Kettering new email address:
scottkettering@gmail.com

Katy McMahan new address:
57 Skyline Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72714

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To Maxine Bushee upon the recent loss of her beloved daughter April Arambasich. Please remember Maxine and April's family in your prayers.

PRAYER CHAIN & MEMBER CARE

If you know someone in need of prayer, ill or hospitalized, please contact the church office and let Lori or Amey know.



NURSERY

Childcare is available every Sunday morning during our 9:30 and 11:15 services for birth through 3 years old.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

All children ages 4 through sixth grade are invited to Children's Church on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 service. Children will worship with their parents and after the Children's time in worship will be taken to their classroom for fun, fellowship and learning more about Christ and His love for them.



The Little Free Pantry
at Highlands Church

Please help fill the Little Free Pantry with nonperishable food items and toiletry donations. Getting into the habit of bringing one food or toiletry item to each worship service can go a long way in helping the needy in our community. There is a bin located in the entries of Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary to drop off your items.



The 31st Annual Cookie Walk

Twas the day after Thanksgiving and all through the land
 Women started their cookies for the 31st Annual Cookie Walk
 10 dozen of this kind another 10 dozen of that kind
 With candy, bread, soups and rolls we were baking until we were blind
 The week before the cookie walk and all through the church
 Busy workers unloading their crafts, food, goodies and cookies
 Making the place look superb, the pricing and packaging taking days to prepare
 Feet and backs aching, and one with a bad cold
 The men rearranging, setting up and making it look easy but we know it was a load
 Sleep escaping us but fun 'til the end
 It's finally Cookie Walk morning with crisp fall like air and lots of sunshine
 The place comes alive with the shoppers, hard workers and our choir was fine
 \$4,500 for the cookies and \$347 worth of coffee, rolls and brownies to jump start the day
 The United Methodist Women sold \$5,500 worth of merchandise
 All for Northwest Arkansas Missions we love to help out
 THANK YOU ALL who worked to make this another great Cookie Walk year!
 THANK the Good LORD for blessing Highlands again
 Because we all know HE was really the One in charge! The end....

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERY SUNDAY • 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM

8:00 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:00 in the Mark Classroom. Contact Donna VanderSchaff at 479-715-6959 for further information.

9:30 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Mark classroom. We are using the Standard Lessons Commentary. Each lesson will use scripture with verse by verse explanation of the text with detailed background followed by group discussion. Everyone is welcome. Contact Gary Marshall at 479-866-2481 for further information.



HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A United Methodist Congregation

CELEBRATION SERVICE

SATURDAYS 5:30 PM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

SUNDAYS 9:30 AM

THE GATHERING

SUNDAYS 11:15 AM

Church Staff

REV. ROBERT CLONINGER
Senior Pastor

JOHN MATTHEWS
Director of Music Ministries

JAMES HENDRIX
Contemporary Worship Leader

PAM MEYER
Celebration Worship Leader

JEANNINE WAGAR
Organist

JOYCE SHELDON
Chimes & Bells Director

LORI HEALD
Office Administrator

AMEY BURKETT
Administrative Assistant

DRU MATTHEWS
Bookkeeper /Treasurer

TBD
Children Ministries Coordinator

TBD
Nursery Worker

Giving Your Tithes & Offerings

You can give your tithes & offerings online by visiting our website, www.humcbv.com. Online giving is a safe and easy way to give to Highlands. Contact the church office if you have questions regarding online giving.

Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 20 at noon. Please email items to **Dru Matthews** at dru@humcbv.com or place in the Newsletter mailbox in the hallway next to the church office.

The Mission of Highlands Church
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.



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facebook.com/humcbv

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