



**NEW HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

December 2017

The Envoy

VOL. 13 NO. 12

Dear NHBC Family

My mom, and dad – at least to an extent, were big Elvis Presley fans. My mother thought he was a handsome man who could sing beautifully while my dad wanted to be like him. The swivelly hipped, snarled lipped guy from Tennessee turned the world on its head when he began his recording career in 1954 and obviously captured the attention of Mary Jean Porter and Freddie Paul Mullins. I was raised on his music.

We had a few of his albums in our home collection. Most of them were compilations and at least one of them I distinctly remember was ordered from a TV infomercial. His songs, while not exactly my taste, stuck in my childhood brain. I can remember many times as a kid having the words of "Hound Dog" or "Blue Suede Shoes" running through my mind, involuntarily, but very loud. I didn't even know what blue suede shoes were, but I knew that nobody should step on mine – you could do anything, but don't step on my blue suede shoes!

At Christmastime, Elvis went from being a man who could make me dance, at least inwardly, to a man who made me incredibly sad. His song "Blue Christmas" always brought me down – Elvis sang that he would have a difficult Christmas without his true love. Just read the moving lyrics that could bring a tender hearted eight-year-old to tears –

I'll have a Blue Christmas without you
I'll be so blue just thinking about you
Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree
Won't be the same dear, if you're not here with me
And when those blue snowflakes start falling
That's when those blue memories start calling
You'll be doin' all right, with your Christmas of white
But I'll have a blue, blue, blue, blue Christmas
You'll be doin' all right, with your Christmas of white
But I'll have a blue, blue Christmas

The song truly would make me sad as a child, but I didn't really understand it fully until I was an adult. While Elvis may have been singing about his "girl," the first time I had a truly blue Christmas was the year that my mother died. This will be the 15th Christmas I will have without my mom, and I understand how people can be down during the "most wonderful time of the year."

The first Christmas after her death was extremely difficult. All of us, my dad, brother, wife, aunts and uncles were still in a state of grief. It was difficult to be jolly and excited when I was still dealing with a deep sense of loss. My mom was the queen of Christmas. She made everything big and great. Her smile and laugh were as important as any decoration that we put up in honor of the birth of Jesus. My mom made the house and the season special. Without her things were not going to be the same.

While the emotion Elvis was expressing was very shallow, the
(Continued on page 3)

December Worship

**Sunday, December 3
Second Sunday of Advent
Communion**

Contemporary Worship at 8:30am
Sunday School at 9:45am
Traditional Worship at 11:00am

**Friday, December 8
"One Quiet Night"
Christmas Musical**
Program at 7:00pm

**Saturday, December 9
"One Quiet Night"
Christmas Musical**
Program at 2:00pm

**Sunday, December 10
"One Quiet Night"
Christmas Musical**
Sunday School at 9:45am
Program at 11:00am

**Sunday, December 17
Third Sunday of Advent**
Contemporary Worship at 8:30am
Sunday School at 9:45am
Traditional Worship at 11:00am

**Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Sunday School at 9:45am
Worship Services at
11:00am, 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm
All include candlelight and communion

Sunday, December 31
Contemporary Worship at 8:30am
Sunday School at 9:45am
Traditional Worship at 11:00am

Church Office Closed for Christmas

The church office will be closed for Christmas on Monday, Dec. 25th and Tuesday, Dec. 26th.



Deacons on Call—December

Ken Long	804-381-1544
Cullen Lumpkin	804-512-5854

Prayer Thoughts

Sponsored by the NHBC Prayer Team: Grace Barnes, Michelle Brown, Carol Evers, Charles & Rose Harper, Joey Hostetter, Emma Hunter, Linda Peay, Ron & Sara Rhodes

Putting Prayer First - Part One

(Key topic points derived from Charles Stanley's Sermon Notes)

First, find a quiet place in your environment. Open your mind and heart to God. Now ask yourself the following questions and make a mental and/or physical note of what your immediate answers are:

- *Is your prayer life as good as you'd like it to be?*
- *What is your biggest struggle regarding prayer?*
- *Would you describe your prayer time as a conversation with fellowship between you and the Lord, or is it more of a monologue?*
- *How would praying with an open Bible enrich your communion with God and determine your requests?*

Consider Psalm 37:4, which says that when we delight in the Lord, He gives us the desires of our hearts.

- *So, what does it mean to delight in the Lord?*
- *And, how would this change your desires and your prayers?*

Jesus spoke of many subjects during His ministry, but prayer and faith were the top two.

He not only taught about prayer, He practiced it. Mark 1:35-37 describes a time when He woke up early while it was still dark and went to a secluded place to pray. Because prayer was a priority, He regularly spent time talking to His Father in an intimate, personal way—being encouraged, sharing His concerns, and seeking His will for each day.

Since Jesus emphasized the importance of prayer with His example and His teaching, so should we.

The Priority of Prayer

Prayer requires uninterrupted time. To evaluate our prayer lives, we should ask ourselves the following questions:

- *Where does prayer fit into my daily schedule?*
- *Do I have a set time to meet with the Lord, or do I pray on the go while driving to work or doing other tasks?*
- *Are my prayers reserved only for meals or occasions when I need God's help?*
- *Of the twenty-four hours He's given me, how much time do I give the Lord in a day?*

Prayerlessness is a sin against God. Neglect of prayer results in a weak Christian life, unmet needs, and ungodly behavior.

Prayer affects our day. When we meet with the Lord in the morning, He prepares us for the day ahead because He alone knows what awaits us. He may strengthen us for a difficult situation, or He might prepare us to accept a new and challenging opportunity.

Jesus teaches about prayer. When Christ taught His disciples to pray, He gave them and us a pattern to follow in the

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Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). In the Sermon on the Mount, He told us to ask, seek, and knock, expecting that we will receive an answer (Matt. 7:11). And to help us understand that our heavenly Father always gives what is good, Jesus used the example of an earthly father who would never give a snake to his son who asks him for a fish.

Prayer is communion with the Lord. We aren't meeting with Him just to present a list of petitions but to give Him our full attention. Amazingly, God wants to fellowship with us, and that's why we need unhurried time alone with Him every day.

Prayer is empowered by faith. Jesus taught that prayer and faith go together. And every time the Lord answers our requests, our faith in Him grows stronger. But if we doubt Him, our prayer is like a beautiful, high-powered automobile without wheels. Neither one will go anywhere.

God answers requests that are according to His will. When our petitions are compatible with Christ's teachings and are fitting for us as His followers, we can be certain that He will grant them. Although we're not always able to distinguish whether our requests align with God's plans for us, or whether our motives are right, the Lord sifts our prayers and answers them according to His wise choice.

Scriptures are our anchors for prayer. When we know what God has promised in His Word, we can confidently ask Him for it. Jesus taught that when we have faith in the Lord and do not doubt, we will receive our requests (Mark 11:22-24). In fact, He said, "Believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you" (v. 24). When our petitions are according to God's will, we can be so confident in Him that we'll be able to thank Him for the answers before they become a reality.

Prayer Concerns

*Hospitalized at time of printing

Charlie Elliott
Darnley Gammon
Mary Golding
Merry Grimmatt
Rose Harper
Sherwood Haskins
George Linville
Shirley Linville

Beldon Mullins
Dot Pierce
Ann Shearin
Will Smith
Sandra Smolen
Margaret Toney
Ernest Valenti
Robert Whitfield

Submit Your Prayer requests via:

- 1) Guest Card in Sanctuary Chair Pouch—Place in Offering Plate or give to a Deacon or Usher; 2) Main & CLC Foyer Prayer Boxes; 3) Contact Prayer Team Members (550-1562); 4) Contact Church Office Administrative Personnel or Contact Staff - Ministerial Personnel (550-9601).

News from Jennifer

N-HYM and Beyond
(N-HYM – youth grades 6-12 and *Beyond – young adults ages 18-29)

Note special December times.

Sunday, December 3:
6:00-7:30pm: Connect N-HYM & Beyond

Sunday, December 10:
6:00-7:30pm: Connect N-HYM & Beyond

Sunday, December 17:
6:00-8:00pm: N-HYM & Beyond Christmas Party
(Home of the Mullins)
Bring a gift of no more than \$5 for a gift exchange game.
Wear your Ugliest, Tackiest or Craziest Christmas sweater or ensemble!

TBA: Christmas Movie Marathon!
TBA: Beyond get-together

*In the New Year, Beyond will have a separate Bible study time.

Wednesdays:
6:30-7:30pm: December 6 and 13 - Bible study

PILOT: People Invested in the Lives of Teens/
Twenties (former youth lead team)
Will meet Sunday, December 10 at 4:30pm in the youth room.

Get excited about 2018!
Fresh year of Bible study, worship, activities, and events including mission projects, Change the World project, prayer events and great community-building opportunities! Plus mark your calendars for DNOW - February 16—18!



I will need host families for middle and high school boys and girls groups; help with food & planning; plus an Amazing Race and more! So any interested adults, let me know. More information forthcoming!

Family Ministry Teams are Kicking Off!
Check out all the details to the right. The Discipleship and Prayer Teams have already met for the first time. Let me know if you'd like to serve on either of those. For the others, just show up or let me know if you can't attend the launch meeting.

With all my heart, I thank God for New Highland Baptist Church! It is my joy and humble privilege to serve Jesus as your Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor!

May the love, peace and hope of Jesus Christ flood your homes this Christmas season! May we hear the message of the gospel with new ears and see God's love with new eyes and may revival pour out over our church family as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior! Merry Christmas!
I love you! – Jennifer (Phil. 1:3)

Dear NHBC Family—continued

loss that I felt was extremely deep. I have suffered some very blue Christmas' since then.

For those who have gone through something similar – losing a loved one of some kind and experiencing grief, especially at the holidays – I want to offer you some hope. As I mentioned at the end of the service lately, I have been praying about this and I feel that the Holy Spirit has been speaking to me. I want to encourage you that there is never a time when a blue Christmas is required. As a matter of fact, every blue Christmas I have experienced, I chose to go down that path. While the rest of the world was celebrating the birth of our Savior, I was lamenting the loss of my wonderful mother. I could have joined in the season and enjoyed the special spirit of the days, but I chose to dwell on myself and my loss.

The Spirit has been encouraging me to understand that Christmas is not supposed to be about me and my feelings, but it is supposed to be a season of celebrating the greatest gift of all – Jesus, our Messiah and the Savior of the world. Nothing should alter my ability to be thankful to God for what He did for all of us by allowing His only Son to leave Heaven and join us on earth for the sole purpose of being the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

I can't return to my childhood and celebrate the Christmas' of the past – those are memories. I can't skip ahead to the Christmas seasons of tomorrow, because who knows what will happen in the future. The only time I have to celebrate Jesus' miraculous birth and join in the season of hope is right now. Focusing on the past will cause me to lose the joy and the blessing of the now.

If you are suffering in some way this season, I challenge you to make the effort to focus on the blessings of today and celebrate in spite of the struggle. Don't make the celebration about you and how you feel, but focus on the greater things – our God and how He provides! Focus on the manger and the miracle of His coming, not the memories of our past.

It doesn't have to be a blue Christmas. The choice is yours.

Blessings, 

Family Ministry Team Launch Meetings

Whether you have signed up for a team yet or not, you can come to a launch meeting and sign up then. We know everyone won't be able to make the meeting(s), but please try to attend.

Tue, Dec 5: 6 pm—MERCY
7 pm—Missions
Tue, Dec 12: 6 pm—Outreach
7 pm—Community-Building

Church Office Closed for New Year's Day

The church office will be closed on
Monday, January 1, 2018.

Christmas Offerings

Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The National Goal this year is \$160 Million. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 3-10, 2017

Beloved Community starts by welcoming one person home. We and our church can change the world through the love of Jesus Christ by supporting the Offering for Global Missions. 100% of gifts to the Offering for Global Missions will sustain the long-term presence of CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) field personnel serving around the world. This means that you will help care for refugees. You will welcome people, share the Gospel and create Beloved Community.

Offerings not designated to one or the other are split 50/50 between the two.

Christmas Post Office

Save the cost of a stamp by using our Christmas Post Office, and make a donation to our Christmas missions offering(s) instead! Details regarding those offerings are in the box above. Place cards (only for "regular" attenders) in the appropriate slots and then place your donation, marked "Christmas Post Office," in the black box by the church office door. The mailboxes are near the Missions Corner. Mail should be picked up no later than Sunday, January 7.



Christmas Ornaments

We have a limited number of the tenth anniversary (2008 edition) New Highland Baptist Church Christmas ornaments left. They are available one per family, on a first come, first serve basis. We know we have many new families in the church who might love to have one. Contact Kristi in the church office, and she'll reserve one for you. It can be picked up during office hours.



Inclement Weather Announcements



When inclement weather is in the area, we will post a voice mail on our phone line (550-9601) by 5:30 am on Sunday mornings to advise you of our schedule. TV Channels 6, 8 and 12 will have our closing information on their list of closings. If Hanover County schools are closed on a Wednesday, we will not have MWE activities.

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias are being offered again this year as a way to honor or memorialize those important to you. The orders are due by Sunday, December 17. The cost is \$12 per plant. The poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, December 24, and may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service you attend. Order forms will be located in front of the church office on the bookcase and can be placed in the black box with payment attached. Plants will not be ordered without prepayment.



Virginia Baptist Foundation Scholarships

To assist families with the escalating cost of tuition, the VBF and its donors are committed to providing scholarships to Virginia Baptist students. The VBF offers scholarships on an annual basis to qualifying students. Applicants must be full-time students at an accredited institution, members of a cooperating BGAV church and have a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Online applications for the 2018/2019 academic year are available at www.vbfinc.org and must be submitted no later than January 31, 2018.

Commitment Cards

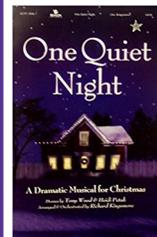
The 2018 church budget was approved at the business meeting on Wednesday, November 29. Now we are asking our congregation to make commitments towards that budget. Start praying about your commitment now, and be ready to turn in your cards on Commitment Sunday, January 7. Your pledge is between you and God. You do not have to put your name on the commitment card, but note that your pledge (and progress) won't show up on your giving statement if you don't. Pledges are confidential. Cards will be available soon in the seat backs, by email, and on the bookshelf in front of the office.

Mid-Week Encounter 2018

A new session of our Mid-Week Encounter will begin on Wednesday, January 10. Watch your weekly emails and bulletins/slides for announcements regarding class offerings for next year. There will be activities for children, youth, young adults and adults, and dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 pm in the CLC.

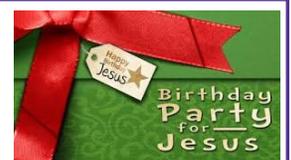
Christmas Musical

Performances of the Christmas musical, *One Quiet Night*, will be in the CLC. The dates of the performances are:
Friday, December 8 at 7:00 pm
Saturday, December 9 at 2:00 pm
Sunday, December 10 at 11:00 am
Invite your friends and neighbors. You won't want to miss it!



Birthday Party for Jesus

On Sunday, December 17th, our children will celebrate Jesus' birthday during Sunday School.



December 3

***8:30am & 11am
WELCOME CENTER**

*Shirley Hawks
Theresa Whitley

NURSERY

*Staci Smith
*Shirley Hawks
Jean Harding
Madison Hutto
Pam Smith

USHERS

*Kevin Harnden
Kirby Hutchinson
DL Wells
Chris Whitley
David Dixon
Jon Cliborne
Sammy Cliborne

**KIC CLUB/
WORSHIP**

*Jon Cliborne
Youth
Jaime Harnden
Youth

December 10

**11am in CLC
WELCOME CENTER**

Laura Beck

NURSERY

Rae Pittman
Barbara Valenti
Tonya Vasser

USHERS

Wesley Thompson
Bailey Thompson
Mark Brown
Jordan Brown
Will Smith
Dylan Smith
Quinn Thompson

**KIC CLUB/
WORSHIP**

OPEN
Youth

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December 17

***8:30am & 11am
WELCOME CENTER**

*Julia Harrell
Julia Harrell

NURSERY

*Penny Layne
*Joan Purdy
Carol Thompson
Tim Smith
Laura McAleese

USHERS

*John Tschantre
*Tessa Chenault
*Cassidy Chenault
*Cory Peay

Harold Elliotte

Bill Martin
Tommy Searles
Nate Hostetter
Fred Small
David McGhee
Cheryl McGhee

**KIC CLUB/
WORSHIP**

*OPEN
*Youth
Tanya Shearin
Youth

December 24

**11am in Sanctuary
WELCOME CENTER**

Cheryl McGhee

NURSERY

Theresa Whitley
Susan Sandridge
Jenny Garthright

USHERS

Jennings Dawson
Tucker Dawson
Tim Smith
Ryan Smith
Arthur Garthright
Mike Sandridge
David Barnes

**KIC CLUB/
WORSHIP**

OPEN
Youth

December 31

***8:30am & 11am
WELCOME CENTER**

*Kim Gunn
Kim Gunn

NURSERY

*Judy Laitinen
*Janice Finnegan
Tim Gunn
OPEN
OPEN

USHERS

*John Tschantre
*Tommy Searles
John Tschantre
Mike Pittman
Pam Smith
Berkeley Rayfield
Nolan Rayfield

**KIC CLUB/
WORSHIP**

*OPEN
*Youth
Sara Rhodes
Youth

December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Page Marriner | 24 | Caitlyn Roberts |
| | Katie Falls | 28 | Jean Harding |
| 3 | Rob Brown | | Heather Uzel |
| | Eric Sandridge | | Peyton Steele |
| | Matt Sandridge | 29 | Jamie Brinkman |
| 4 | Kim Gunn | | Alli Crytser |
| 7 | Ed DuRocher | 30 | Judy Timberlake |
| 10 | Linda Searles | | Norman Eby |
| | Tracy Harrell | | |
| 11 | Robert Whitfield | | |
| | Kathy White | | |
| 12 | Joan Purdy | | |
| 13 | Bill Currie | | |
| | Carson Brickey | | |
| 16 | Leigh Harrell | | |
| | Carter Zavitz | | |
| 17 | Pat Smith | | |
| 22 | Barbara Gammon | | |
| | Sherwood Haskins | | |

December Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 9 | Jon & Elaine Cliborne |
| | Chuck & Christi Finke |
| 15 | Paul & Lori Rozecki |
| 20 | David & Grace Barnes |
| 28 | Ron & Sara Rhodes |

Staff Ministry Team

Rev. F. P. Rusty Mullins, Jr., Senior Pastor

Cell Phone: 804-548-3353
 Email: rusty.mullins@newhighlandbaptist.org

Rev. Jennifer Mullins, Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor

Cell Phone: 804-405-7187
 Email: jennifer.mullins@newhighlandbaptist.org

Paul Rozecki, Minister of Music

Cell Phone: 804-822-2555
 Email: paul.rozecki@newhighlandbaptist.org

Kim Gunn, Minister to Children

Cell phone: 804-543-6607
 E-mail: kim.gunn@newhighlandbaptist.org

Kristi Garstang, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: admins@newhighlandbaptist.org

Page Marriner, Accompanist

E-mail: pmarriner41@comcast.net

Tiffany Miller, The Day School Director

School Phone: 804-550-1557
 E-mail: dayschool@newhighlandbaptist.org

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday, 9:00 am—5:00 pm

Don't forget to call before dropping by
 in case we aren't here.

Phone: 804-550-9601

2017 Contributions

Contributions to the 2017 operating budget can be made until Friday, December 29th by turning them in to the office during office hours. If mailed, they must be postmarked by the 30th (the 31st is a Sunday) to be included in 2017 contributions. Also, as a reminder, appreciated stock can be given to NHBC to receive great tax benefits. You receive a deduction for the value of the stock, but do not pay income taxes on the stock appreciation! If you would like more information, contact Kristi Garstang in the church office.

2018 Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes should be available in the front foyer beginning Wednesday, December 13. (Our shipment hasn't arrived yet.) If you aren't a member and would like a box, let Kristi know.

Operation Christmas Child

"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you." Deuteronomy 16:17.

NHBC Family...thank you for another great year in supporting Operation Christmas Child. We delivered 1,063 shoeboxes this year!!! They will be transported around the world so that children everywhere know and feel God's love.

God bless each of you.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

Jan Envoy — Dec 8 | Bulletin—Each Monday by Noon



Compassion International

November/December
 Sponsorship of Mohamed (Tanzania)
The Peay Pod

Sponsors Needed!!

Children's Mini-Musical

The children will present a mini-musical during both worship services on Sunday, December 17. They always bring us the message in a special way. Come see the results of their time and effort (and our adult leaders' time and effort)!

January Envoy Deadline

Due to the holidays, the deadline for the January Envoy is Friday, December 8th.

November Benevolence Offering

\$415.00

MCEF Donations for December

Peanut butter

Church Council Meeting

December 11 @ 6:30 pm

ACTS II:

Oct 29, 2017

Nov 5, 2017

Nov 12, 2017

Nov 19, 2017

Nov 26, 2017

Attendance

Early Worship	42	66	60	48	76
Sunday School	113	116	151	141	142
Late Worship	110	145	210	128	132

Budget

Weekly Need	10,403.69	10,403.69	10,403.69	10,403.69	10,403.69
Weekly Receipts	20,433.00	13,931.80	6,934.20	3,990.00	5,016.75
YTD Goal	457,762.36	468,166.05	478,569.74	488,973.43	499,377.12
YTD Receipts	384,673.29	398,605.09	405,539.29	409,529.29	414,546.04

Bldg/Debt Retirement

235.00 1,190.00 150.00 0.00 0.00

Designated Gifts

263.05 3,971.50 437.00 131.00 50.00