

# *The Highline Connection*

*Highline Christian Church*  
*Touched by Jesus to Touch Others' Lives*  
*Experience God's Touch*

*December 2006*



Outdoor Living Nativity  
December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 P.M.

Christmas Eve Services  
4:30 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Sunday Morning services will be at the same times  
(8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.)

There will be **no Sunday School** classes meeting during any of the services. Children are encouraged to attend worship service with their family. Nursery will be provided through age three.





BUILDING UP...

REACHING OUT

## What's Happening with the New Building?

**Outside:** The landscaping for the parking lot area is nearly done! Jane Docherty was the key person who coordinated the landscape project and deserves a big thank you. Right now the new plants are young and very tender. They will use the winter months to become established so please use caution and avoid stepping on them. The north side retaining wall is also complete and will be landscaped soon.

**In the Worship Center:** The interior gas piping is done, we passed several key inspections, and sheet rocking is supposed to start this week.

**In the Education Wing:** The floor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> story is on (see praises below) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> story walls will be going up this week.

### Praises:

- 2-3 days of beautiful weather. This helped the landscapers tremendously, but it was essential for getting the 2<sup>nd</sup> story floor glued down.
- Night Watchers. A lot of people have volunteered their nights to stay overnight at the church building. We've had no thefts or vandalism in the four months we've been doing this.

### Prayer Needs:

- Education Wing roof. This is the last major step to getting the whole building "dried in".
- Doors. The interior doors are scheduled to be stained and finished in four weeks. This will likely be the last step in securing access to the building.
- Sheet Rocking. It's supposed to start this week and is expected to take several weeks. Please pray for this to go well. This is a major milestone and is one of the things that needs to be done before we can discontinue the Night Watch.
- Night Watchers for December.



## Prayer Circle

### *Praise God*

Psalm 9:1 & 2 "I will praise you, O Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you. I will sing praise to your name, O most high."

### *Praise our Lord for*

Roberta (Paula James' friend)—found a job teaching. Praise for all the people that are feeling better and healing this month, and for all the problems that were solved.

### *Pray*

1 Timothy 2:1 "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone."

### *Remember in prayer*

Bob Brown—heart problem and pray he comes to know Jesus; Angie (Marty Dena's co-worker's daughter)—car accident and surgery; Doug (JoAnn Taylor's brother)—cancer in intestines; Jim (Monty Rowley's friend)—broke both legs and ankles; Barnes' friend's newborn has breathing problem; Darla Jones (former HCC member)—malignant sarcoma in leg; Monty and Jill Rowley—sale of their home here and finding a new one in Wenatchee; Katie (Bill Brown's aunt)—finding an assisted living place; Nancy Brown—prayer for a job at Scak; Bob (Sandra Ault's friend)—treatment for prostate cancer; Lilly Strand had a stent put in.

### *With Sympathy*

Gerald James—death of his father.

If you have any praises or prayer requests or want to be on the all church prayer chain, please call Barbara Goodridge or Jane Randall.



**O**n a silent night long ago, in a small know-nothing town, the Savior of the World was born. That baby, God in flesh, has changed our lives forever. Working at Highline for us is not just a job—it's an expression of our faith—it's a utilization of our gifts—it's an opportunity to bring the truth of Christmas into new lives and strengthen that reality in others. We love what we do and we love the God who allows us to serve you in our congregation. Because of that "Silent Night", together let's spread "Joy to the world"!



*Tim Knight  
Chad Schnathorst  
Bret Thorson  
Teresa Barnes  
Holly Fader*

*Nancy Metzenberg  
Jane Knight  
Joni Krantz  
Marsha Louvier  
Gregg Louvier*



Thank you to the entire congregation for your cooperation, participation, and patience in getting your photo taken for our new pictorial church directory and for filling out the forms to update the roster.

Thank you to the Directory Team: Don Berg, Sue Schemp, Joyce Thompson, Wes Smith, Dianne Barnes, Marty Dena, Tammy Bowen, and Tammie Lindblom.

Thank you to the Hostesses who helped the appointments run as smoothly as possible and to those who provided snack crackers while we waited.

Thank you to Jane Knight and Joni Krantz for making the necessary changes in the roster.

When will we get the directories? With all the printing, proofing, and processing steps still to come (as well as the holidays), you can expect to receive your copy of the new directory in February.

## Never the Same Again

After the birth of Jesus, the shepherds returned to the same old world from whence they came. Yet, there must have been a new excitement in that familiar world. Life must have taken on new meaning, for no one is ever the same again after being in the presence of the Lord.



## The Reluctant Messenger

*“...That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish; I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”* Jonah 4:2 NIV

In my many years of prison ministry, I have found that the most difficult aspect of this ministry is not working with prisoners and their families, but it has been working with some churches. Please allow me to explain what I mean.

First of all, the scriptures are quite clear that the church is to be devoted to carrying out Christ's command; making disciples of all nations, caring for the broken, hurting, rejected and downtrodden (Matthew 25:35-40). There are so many places in the Bible that speak of “...remembering those in prison,” that we are absolutely certain of the Lord's position in this church business. We are to be ‘salt’ and ‘light,’ glorifying God in a depraved world. Our personal devotion to Christ is not to be limited to worship at church, but also taking action in His name! In fact, our worship of Him should lead to action in His most wonderful name! We express our love to Him by being obedient and honoring His commands (John 14:23).

Yet some churches are largely indifferent towards prison ministry. There are those who will involve themselves in Angel Tree gift giving or caring for prisoners' children. These kids pay a high price for their mother's or father's crimes. Then there are a smaller number of churches that will be involved in some sort of in-prison or jail Bible study. Lastly, there are very few churches that will get involved in aftercare ministry, but are critical to a Christian ex-prisoner's effective re-entry into society. Approximately 65 percent of all ex-prisoners will be released back into our communities in a few years. Aftercare or transitional prison ministry has been no doubt the weakest link in all types of prison and jail ministries for many years!

With so many Bible teaching churches in our midst, why is it that more do not participate in

prison ministries? Why is it that only a few see the clear directives of Jesus, Paul the apostle and others, as not being an optional command? These are hard questions for us to deal with, and yet we need to address these issues.

The book of Jonah might offer some insight and help in answering these questions. We all know the story of Jonah. Jonah was a prophet called by God to carry His message to the people of Nineveh, but he boarded a ship headed down to Tarshish, away from the Lord. God's command was to head east with God's redemption story; but Jonah headed west, away from his assignment, and away from the ‘presence of the Lord.’ In fact, he went as far as he could go, in the opposite direction, of where God had commanded him.

This is hardly the response one would expect from a chosen messenger of God, His prophet to the people! Yet Jonah saw fit to thwart God's divine directions. Jonah seemed quite reluctant to be obedient to God's calling to service. Isn't that amazing! You would think Jonah would be excited to do what the God of the whole universe had personally told him to do.

Of course the Ninevites were a wicked and violent people. There was nothing that seemed intrinsically attractive about them. Jonah knew what kind of people they were, and he had absolutely no interest in seeing God spare them. While Jonah knew God's character, he would have no part in being part of God's efforts to redeem and reconcile this lost, corrupt people back to God.

God so graciously gave Jonah another opportunity to reconsider his disobedience, but only after giving him a free ride back to shore in the belly of a gigantic fish. Imagine what Jonah must have smelled like and how he looked.

After being vomited out of the mouth of the fish, God commissioned Jonah for a second time, to go to Nineveh and preach the message of repentance. This time Jonah did make the trip and delivered God's message to Nineveh. The people repented of their wickedness and evil ways, receiving God's undeserved mercy!

Of course, this enraged Jonah. Though a prophet of God, he still had no interest in seeing

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God's grace extended to these he judged as unfit for forgiveness and restoration. He was God's servant, but his heart was not beating in sync with God's heart. It's a good thing that God was so patient with Jonah, don't you think?

Could it be that a similar problem exists in Christian circles today? Could it be that we know God would love to redeem many of those in prison, who like the Ninevites have committed acts of violence and brought harm to others? Possibly, could it be that we refuse to go where God commands us to go? Could it be that we have judged prisoners, ex-prisoners and their family members as unfit to receive the grace and love of God? Do our hearts beat with God's heartbeat, in sync with His will?

In the end, the book of Jonah teaches us that we must learn to see people through God's eyes, and not trust our own flawed judgment. We have been bought with a price. Our duty is to serve God's desires and commands. This includes for Bible-believing Christians, going into prison, writing letters, visiting men or women in jail, helping meet the needs of released prisoners, giving to families of prisoners, thinking creatively as to what we can do to help the hurting, forgotten, downtrodden prisoners! We need to do something.

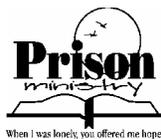
The final time we hear from Jonah, he is frustrated and in a rage, angry with himself and God. In contrast, those who serve as God directs, are at peace and full of joy! It is a blessing from God to be serving the hurting, the broken, and the downtrodden behind bars and in aftercare. It is not a burden! We cannot all do everything, but we can do something!

Are you ready to go with God to Nineveh?

*"...I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me..."* Mathew 25:35-36 NASB

Michael Sgobba, Unchained for Christ  
Hebrews 13:3

Submitted by Janita Lagasca



## Check Out Jesus!

How long has it been since you've studied the life of our Lord? Do you remember the marvelous miracles and tremendous teaching? Of course we are eternally indebted to the cross and empty tomb.

Starting with the first Sunday in December and taking us all the way through Easter I'll be preaching on the life of Jesus through the book of Luke.

### Did you know?

- Luke was probably a Greek.
- He was the only non-Jewish New Testament writer.
- Luke is the only gospel with a sequel – the book of Acts.
- Luke wrote the longest gospel account. Luke's writings account for more than 25% of the New Testament.
- Luke has 18 parables that are found in no other gospel. For example, the Good Samaritan, the Lost Sheep, and the Prodigal Son are only found in the book of Luke (See Luke 10:25-37, 15:4-7, 15:11-32).

Well—enough of that...I don't want to spoil the whole series! Grab a cup of coffee and read through Luke in one sitting. Starting December 3<sup>rd</sup> B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Bible) come to Highline and let's CHECK OUT JESUS together!

Love in the Lamb,

Pastor Tim



Our Library has many newly acquired books. Here's a highlight of some of them. More will be highlighted in next month's newsletter.

A Table in the Presence by Lt. Carey Cash. The dramatic account of how a US Marine Battalion experienced God's Presence amidst the chaos of the war in Iraq. Everyone who knows someone in the military should read this book.

Beyond Belief to Convictions by Josh McDowell. What you need to know to help youth stand strong in the face of today's culture.

The Right Questions - Truth, Meaning & Public Debate by Phillip Johnson (author of Darwin on Trial).

Persecution by David Limbaugh. How liberals are waging war against Christianity.

Is the Bible Intolerant? This book will help you understand God's Word and its important place in today's world. Forward by Ravi Zacharias

The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart & 1,501 other Stories by Chuck Swindoll. This book is for pastors, teachers, ministry leaders, writers and speakers.

What Does the Bible Say About...? The Ultimate Bible Answer Book.

God's Promise to the Chinese. How ancient Chinese script tells Genesis stories and points to the almighty creator God. Amazing!

True Son of Heaven. How Jesus fulfills the Chinese Culture.

Eight Animated Bible Story Videos for children from the Family Entertainment Network.

Pick up one of these books, enjoy and at the same time become informed!

## Church Family Information Address Changes

Michael Brena

Megan Brickell

Jesse & Carlie Curlee

Brittany Fader (College Address)

Linda Fontejon

Chera Kraemer

Galen & Carole Marcille

Andy Pelkey

Britni Ray

Betty Sanders

Chris Sanders

Shelley Smith

Jeff & Melody Strahan

Jake Straight

Richie & Katie Taylor

Christopher Terry

## Can You Add Just One Christmas Card Address to Your List this Year?

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2006, Trina Coleman of Mammoth, West Virginia died from a gunshot wound. Her husband shot her the previous evening, during an argument. She was 36. He is now incarcerated. Trina leaves behind two children- Stacey, age 17, and Robert, age 11. It is believed that Robert was present in the home when his father shot his mother. The newspapers report there was a history of domestic violence. Robert is now in the care of his uncle and aunt, Jerry and Pam Booth. (Trina's brother and his wife) Stacey is residing with Trina's step-sister.

I am hoping this small request- to send these children a Christmas card, will be laid upon the hearts of people at Highline. I am so worried about these children facing their first Christmas without their mother, and the images of domestic violence that must haunt them. I cannot begin to describe how heavily the Lord has laid this upon my heart.

I have family roots in Mammoth and used to visit "up the holler" when I was a child. Both of my parents were raised there. My aunt preached the gospel there, and I had several uncles, plus, my maternal grandmother and paternal grandmother and grandfather who resided there. Mammoth is a small town with a population of approximately 600 people and it is about a 45-minute drive from Charleston, WV. When I used to visit, it felt quite isolated, remote, and just way back in the hills. It is difficult to fathom something so catastrophic happening in such a tiny town.

Robert was baptized at church camp last summer. When asked what these children need, their Aunt Pam's response is quick. PRAYER. She wants these children to know the power of prayer- that people from clear across the country are praying for them. She also asks for prayer that Robert continue to remain in their family home. Pam and Jerry have a strong, Christian marriage and she believes Robert needs the presence of a positive, male role model, now more than ever.

When asked to describe Robert and Stacey's mother- Trina, Pam explains, "She was

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very fun, always joking, she had bright blue eyes. She was beautiful. She loved kids- she lived for her kids." Pam has a profound, thought provoking remark about Trina's death, "We don't know what Trina prayed for...if she prayed for a way to get her children out of that situation."

Christmas cards may be sent to:  
**Stacey and Robert Coleman**  
**C/O Mammoth Advent Christian Church**  
**General Delivery**  
**Mammoth, WV 25132**

Even if you just tell these precious children you are thinking of them and praying for them during the holiday season, this will mean so much. Perhaps the Lord will place even more words or generosity upon your heart. I can't help but imagine the impact our prayer and good wishes will have on these two young lives. If you wish to send a gift or contribution, that would be an added plus. I just want these children to feel the presence of the Lord....they need this. After all, it is their first Christmas without their mother.

Thank you,

Joy Henley



# HIGHER GROUND KIDS SPOT

DECEMBER IS A TIME MANY OF US THINK ABOUT GIVING AND RECEIVING GIFTS. MY GIFT TO YOU IS A NEW MEMORY VERSE, YOUR GIFT TO GOD COULD BE MEMORIZING IT THIS MONTH. IF YOU WORK ON THE MEMORY VERSE A LITTLE EACH DAY, I KNOW YOU WILL HAVE IT DOWN WHEN WE MEET JANUARY 7, 2007. IF YOU FORGOT WHICH VERSE IT IS, IT'S JOHN 1:1-5, 12-13.

ALSO, DON'T FORGET TO INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND FAMILY TO THE OUTDOOR LIVING NATIVITY COMING DECEMBER 8TH & 9TH.

## SUMMIT SEEKERS

4TH - 6TH GRADERS



**HANDS & FEET**



## TRAIL TREKKERS

1ST - 3RD GRADERS

HERE IS A PUZZLE TO HELP YOU WORK ON YOUR MIGHTY MEMORY VERSE. FIND EACH WORD FROM YOUR MMV IN THE SEARCH, THEN WRITE THE VERSE BELOW.



1 Timothy 4:10 -

# HIGHER GROUND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## FAMILY ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

### November 24th

Macy's Christmas Parade - Take a morning drive downtown Seattle and watch the parade as a family. Get some hot cider or cocoa and enjoy the holiday festivities. Parade starts at 9:00 a.m.

### December 7th & 8th

The Outdoor Living Nativity at Highline Christian Church. Shows start at 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, & 8:30. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to experience the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### December 24

Christmas Eve Services - Invite another family to come with you and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Services start at 4:30 and 6:00.

### Christmas Ships

The Christmas ships are a fun evening activity for the family to enjoy some Christmas music, lights, and company. The ships appear at different ports all month, you can find information at [www.argosycruises.com](http://www.argosycruises.com).

### Home Nativity

Set up a nativity scene the children can play with. Put the manger and animals on one side of the room or under the tree if you like, Jesus is the best gift after all. Set the wise men and their camels on the other side

of the room. Each day have the kids move the wise men a little closer to the nativity scene. On Christmas morning put baby Jesus in the manger and have the wise men arrive to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

### Christmas Lights

Jesus is the light of the world and Christmas lights are fun to look at. Spend an evening together driving from neighborhood to neighborhood looking at all the decorations as you remember Jesus. Another option to look at lights is Zoo Lights.

### Christmas Stories

Choose a few nights this month to sit down as a family and read through a good Christmas story. On Christmas morning be sure to read the Christmas story found in Luke 1-2.

There are many other activities you could do this month, but the important thing is to spend time as a family remembering the gift of Jesus. - *Merry Christmas!*

## THE LIVING NATIVITY

Christmas time is upon us and the Outdoor Living Nativity is only a few days away. Please mark the following dates and times on your calendar and be sure to get some flyers to hand out around your neighborhood.

- **December 2nd, 10:00 a.m.** - Cast rehearsal
- **December 2nd, 12:00 p.m.** - Set Construction
- **December 4th, 6:30 p.m.** - Cast rehearsal
- **December 7th, 6:15 p.m.** - Dress rehearsal
- **December 8th & 9th** - Jesus comes to town!

If you signed up to help, volunteer coordinators should be contacting you soon with how you can help. Thank you for all your support to reach Burien and beyond with the real message of Christmas.