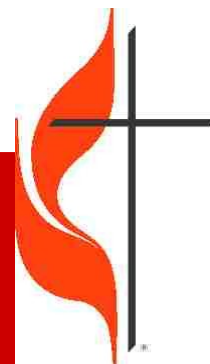


BI-WEEKLY HIGHLANDER

February 2-15 2009



Highlands United Methodist Church

Volume 3 Issue 3

High-

From the Pastor's Desk...

A Conundrum?

In the gospels we read about Jesus blessing the little children and saying, ‘... *whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.*’ (Luke 18:17)

So! Being childlike is a virtue, and we must strive for ‘childlikeness’. Right?

But! Jesus is calling us to be his disciples, to follow the law and more—to love God and neighbor as ourselves. Jesus tells us to take up our cross and follow him. Discipleship requires that we give up our ‘me-first’ thinking, and move out of ourselves to becoming the person that God knows we can be.

Somehow there is a ‘disconnect’. Is Jesus asking us to do two opposing things—be childlike **AND** act like a grown up? What are we to do?

First of all God made humans begin as small people and to GROW UP. God didn’t make us mature people at the outset. We are babes for quite a while. We get some good time as children before we become adolescents and then finally adults. That’s part of God’s plan. There are even specific hormones that dictate how we’ll grow and at what time. The direction of life is to GROW UP.

Second, the Bible is full of “GROW UP” messages. St. Paul was clear about it: *“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.”* (1 Cor 13:7)

I believe that one of the greatest problems we face in this world is people who don’t act grown up. They are still acting like immature children, wanting their own way.

Remember Kohlberg’s inventory of Moral Development? [spoken about a couple of Sundays ago.] 1. reward/punishment: doing what you’re told; 2. self-interest: obey if it brings personal gain; 3. good boy/nice girl: live up to expectations; 4. law and order: obey for the sake of the system 5. social contract: act for the greatest good for all 6. universal principles: decide in accord with principles of justice and human rights.

Being ‘childlike’ might be seen as staying within the first three levels of Kohlberg’s development scheme. Too many of us live our lives according to ‘what’s good for Number One—self-interest.

I don’t believe that’s what Jesus meant when he spoke of receiving the Kingdom of God as a little child. Rather I believe Jesus meant that the trust and the wide-eyed awe [considering God’s greatness] that a little child exhibits is what we need.

There’s much to this question that can’t be explored in this short address, but I believe we need a good melding of the two: childlike trust and GROWN UP thinking and responding to our world.

LORD! Help us to be the children you have called us to be. Amen.

Pastor Marjorie



HIGHLANDS BUDGET FOR 2009

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| CONFERENCE ASKINGS | \$10,204 | MISSIONS | \$1000 |
| CLERGY BENEFITS | \$12,710 | OFFICE OPERATION | \$2720 |
| EDUCATION | \$810 | PASTOR PARISH | \$52,265 |
| EVANGELISM | \$250 | STEWARDSHIP | \$250 |
| HOSPITALITY | \$600 | TRUSTEES | \$27,932 |
| NURTURE | \$500 | WORSHIP | \$580 |
| | | TOTAL | \$109,821 |

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We are praying for:

Virginia Piner
Gordon & Pat Cottrell
Tim and Jeannie Hardin
Jim Patton (cancer)
John, Joe, & Mollie McColpin
Faye & Bosie Harris
Pastor Elisha Kabungaidze. (in Zimbabwe)
Our country's new leaders!
Hazel Bowen and family
co-worker w/ cancer
Chantella Owens



Millie Whalen (in Florida)
Ken Kavanaugh (cancer)
Ira Laney & Family
George Weldon
Kellye Davidson
Kay Weiss
Sara Jones—for remission
Unspoken (from Newman's)
Eddie Thomas
Two Scott families
Our troops in the middle east
Lindsay Philips, Pete's granddaughter
Marion Moore Family

**LENTEN STUDY:
COME TO THE CROSS**

BEGINNING, WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 25—10 A.M.
Books available in the fellowship
hall;
Sign up for class and get your book.



February 8

Fund Raiser Lunch;

Following worship
The meal will be provided by the Hospitality
Committee; all funds received will be put to-
ward buying a new copier/printer for our
church office.



Happy Birthday!

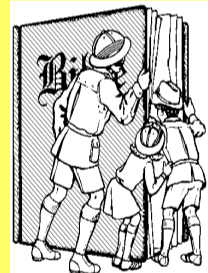
**Nora Bahr February 8
Gerry Grant February 11
Reba Johnson February 15**

Huntsville Assistance Program:
Highlands participates in HAP; we are
giving money and food to HAP, because
we no longer keep up a food pantry of our
own. HAP screens their 'clients' and



keeps track of those
who would abuse a
good system.
We need to continue
to bring food to
HUMC for the pantry.

**Bible Explorer's
Sunday School Class:
Continuing with this
week's lesson.**



**Pastor Marjorie will be
teaching this class, beginning February 8.**

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