

January - February, 2012

Highland Crest Baptist Church

T.R.U.T.H



Jim Downs

Senior Pastor

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

John 13:34-35

I would like to share a New Year’s “challenge” for the Highland Crest church family. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34) I would consider Highland Crest to be a loving and caring group of people, but one part of this verse grabbed my attention and made me realize that God wants to do a deeper work in us. Jesus qualified his “new commandment” by saying that our love needs to be the same kind that He has! Is there something wrong with our kind of love? Well, I don’t know about you, but my love is sometimes off and on, mixed with selfishness, and many times it wants something in return! I often meet people who seem caring and compassionate, and they are willing to do acts of kindness for others, but they don’t claim to be followers of Christ! But Jesus also clearly told us in the very next verse, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (vs. 35) Evidently, the Jesus kind of love is so distinct and superior to our human love that lost people will be able to identify us as His follower when they observe our lives!

I would like to suggest a fresh reading of the words and actions of Jesus, as recorded in the four Gospels. That has helped me to realize that Jesus’ love wasn’t a quick “luv ya” or an act of random kindness. He loved people enough to tell them the truth, knowing he would eventually be crucified for it. He loved people by putting on the towel of a slave and washing feet. He loved people by caring about every person and listening to their hearts. He loved people even when He knew that He wouldn’t even get a “thank you” from them.

Church family... even though God has done a wonderful work at Highland Crest, He is certainly not finished yet! May His supernatural love be so perfected in us that our families, friends, co-workers, and even casual acquaintances will know that we are more than a building where people meet for worship on Sundays. May they be convinced that we are committed followers of the greatest lover of all – Jesus.

Let’s love better in 2012!

Bro. Jim

PS: By the way... I luv ya!



WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY?

Would you consider receiving your newsletter by email instead of traditional mail? Email us at info@highlandcrestbaptist.com to request being moved to our newsletter email list.



Jed Manders
Minister of
Youth & Family

Upcoming Youth Events

... January 21st Youth Tubing Event, parents are welcome to join us!

... February 19th Dodge ball following the Sunday night service, parents are welcome to join us!

Note:

As an event gets closer, I typically hand out quarter sheets on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings for up-to-date details on all events. If you have questions, ask your youth for the most recent quarter sheet.

READING TOGETHER

A few years ago Dawn and I starting doing something together that has proven very useful over the years. We read together. I know this may not sound very exciting to some of you because I never would have thought I would enjoy it as much as I do. I am not sure exactly how long we have been reading together in the evenings before bed but I am sure it was suggested to us at some point, or perhaps it was just a crazy thought that one of us had, Either way it has proven to be a blessing to our marriage. We intentionally read through books that will both challenge and grow us spiritually and in our marriage relationship. As a guy I have found it natural to just keep my thoughts to myself, but reading through books together has allowed us to talk about a number of topics that we might not talk about otherwise. The book we just finished, *Slave*, by John MacArthur was a gift we received from a dear lady whom we love and who worships with us at Highland Crest. It brought to light the humility and honor of being under God's authority in all that we do and say, challenging us to think just as a "slave" is to his master. The other book we had a chance to read, *Leading With Love*, by Alexander Strauch, was a very practical and insightful book for anyone - leaders or followers - to understand what the Bible teaches about leading with love.

I wanted to share with you the idea of reading together as a couple because it has proven to be an incredible blessing to Dawn and I. Each book was a tool that helped bring us together at the end of the day and lead to many meaningful, wholesome discussions. I hope you too will be richly blessed by developing some habit together as a couple that will draw you closer to one another; be it reading, playing cribbage, having coffee, going for walks or whatever works for you as a couple.

THE PRAISE FACTORY

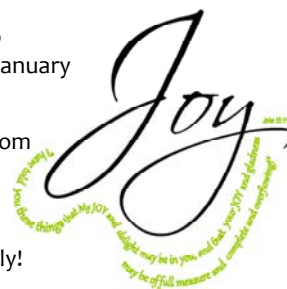
Beginning January 2012. An exciting new curriculum that equips children (ages 4 through 5th grade) to know the fundamentals of the Bible, memorize Scripture, and provides an assortment of fun games and activities. See Pastor Chad for more information.

Ladies Retreat

Our Ladies Retreat is set for February 17-18, 2012. Cost is \$85 and includes 3 meals and resort accommodations plus many special treats!

Deadline to register is January 22nd.

We have room for only 50 ladies this year so register early!



Couples Retreat

HCBC will be offering a Marriage Retreat on January 6-7, 2011 at the Bridgeport Resort in Sturgeon Bay. The cost will be \$85 which includes your room and materials. board. Space is limited to the first 20 couples.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL 5:15 p.m.

Cost: \$3/person \$10/family

JANUARY 4th is *Breakfast for Supper*.
Biscuits & Gravy, French Toast,
Scrambled Egg Bake & Fresh Fruit

FEBRUARY 1st will be *Italian Night*
Stuffed Shell Pasta with Garlic Bread,
Salad and Homemade Cookies

RECENT DECISIONS

Daniel Meshigoud

801 Jordan Road
DePere, WI 54115
Ph: 371-2751

profession of faith; baptism

Fred Lueptow

1528 Eastman Ave,
Green Bay, WI 54302
ph: 362-4856

mbrship by baptism

Eun Mee Ju

1435 Skylark Lane
Green Bay, WI 54313
Ph: 217-5936

mbrship by statement

NEW BABIES

Cameron Alyson Schmit

11/28/11 ~ 7# 10 oz
Parents: Jeremy & Maryjo
Siblings: Christian

Ezra James VanGheem

12/04/11 ~ 8# 2 oz
Parents: Ryan & Bobbi
Siblings: Grayson

Mackenzie May McCarty

12/16/11 ~ 6# 8 oz
Parents: Matt & Erin
Siblings: Caitlin

BABY SHOWER

**Ladies ... join us on
Saturday, January 14th at
1:00 p.m. for a baby
shower for Ashleigh
(Cape) Gilson. She is
registered at Target
It's a GIRL!**

AN INVESTMENT THAT YIELDS ETERNAL DIVIDENDS

Recently, the Green Bay Packers availed a stock sale to the public for the fifth time in their storied franchise. For \$250 one can boast that they are part owner of the 12 time world champions! The stock itself has no value. It will never pay dividends and cannot be sold or traded on a stock exchange. Despite this, the Packers sold \$400,000 worth of stock in the first 11 minutes of the sale!

It is not my intention to get ugly towards the Packers or anyone that would choose to spend \$250 on this stock as a Christmas gift, but I would ask you to consider with me this concept of investing. One invests now in order to gain a greater yield later.

As we enter 2012, I am convinced one of the best spiritual investments we can make is memorizing the Word of God. Further, it is a worthy pursuit of our church to encourage you and your children to hide God's Word in your heart. God's Word serves as a seed to salvation (1 Peter 1:23, Romans 10:17), helps us to keep our way pure (Psalm 119:9), and leads us along the light of God's path (Psalm 119:105).

With this conviction in mind, our church will be launching a Wednesday night (6:30-7:30) curriculum entitled **Praise Factory** in January of 2012 for our children (ages 4 through 5th grade). Praise Factory not only addresses essential Biblical teachings (i.e. How Can I Know What God Is Like? What's So Special about the Bible? What's the Gospel?), includes fun games/activities, but also emphasizes Scripture memory. In fact, each child will receive a music CD that has Bible verses put to music that they can listen to at home or in the car with their parents. It is another way for us to keep God's Word central in our lives. Unlike the stock sold by the Packers, the investment of memorizing Scripture will yield an abundance of rewards.

Please join me in praying for our children and families as we begin this new curriculum. Pray for teachable hearts, lives to be receptive to the Truth of God's Word, and for adult leaders to help.

Check out <http://www.praisefactory.org> to learn more of the material.

Have a Wonderful New Year!



Chad Hertler

Associate Pastor of
Education/Evangelism

Mark your **calendars**
for upcoming
Discipleship
Opportunities for
the Adults.

Starting February
8th we will offer
two new classes:

For WOMEN:

*James - Mercy
Triumphs* by Beth
Moore

For MEN:

Forgotten God by
Francis Chan

Please sign up to
ensure you have a
book in time for
the start of the
study.

You can sign up
for the class
online at
[www.highland
crestbaptist.com](http://www.highlandcrestbaptist.com)

CALENDAR

JANUARY

1		NEW YEAR'S DAY
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Morning Worship
2		Church Office Closed
3	11:30 am	XYZ Fellowship
	6:30 pm	South Campus Fellowship at Sleep Inn - DePere
4	5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Meal
6-7		Marriage Retreat in Door County
11	5:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
	6:30 pm	Business Meeting
14	8:00 am	Deacon Meeting
	1:00 pm	Baby Shower for Ashleigh (Cape) Gilson
18	5:30 pm	Ministry Council Meeting
21		Youth - Snow Tubing
22		Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
28	7:00 am	Honor Role

FEBRUARY

1	5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Meal
5		Super Bowl Sunday
7	11:30 am	XYZ Fellowship
8	5:30 pm	Finance Committee
14		VALENTINE'S DAY
15	5:30 pm	Administrative Council Mtg
17		Youth - Ice Skating
17-18		Ladies Retreat in Door Co.
25	7:00 am	Honor Role
	8:30 am	Deacon Meeting

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun	9:00 am	Sunday School (all ages)
	10:15 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Prayer Group
	6:00 pm	Evening Service
Wed	6:30 pm	Discipleship Training all ages
	7:40 pm	Choir Practice

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Regular Hours: Monday thru Friday
9:00 a.m. to Noon & 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Our Ministers

Jim Downs Senior Pastor
Chad Hertler Associate Pastor
of Discipleship & Evangelism
Jed Manders Minister of Youth & Family

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Highland Crest Baptist Church
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Green Bay, WI 54304

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