

HIGHLAND HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH  
1370 BRIARCLIFF RD  
MACON, GA 31211-1537

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Permit No. 103

# A Place for Families to Grow

HIGHLAND HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

## Family Matters

January 2014

### In Praise of Epiphany



By Jake Hall

January marks a new year and for many the beginning of a personal journey of self improvement. New Years resolutions abound! Just don't forget the journey that we began together in Advent. During Advent we anticipated the birth of the Christ child. At Christmas, we celebrated the good news of Jesus' birth, along with those first responders, the shepherds. But, the story doesn't end there. During this season, called Epiphany, we celebrate the journey toward faith in Christ. We will remember the journey of the Magi, Jesus' baptism by John, and the revelation of Jesus to his eventual disciples, each moments of discerning the identity of Jesus, each a moment of discovery.

There are many ways to mark this time spiritually, from moments of prayer and pilgrimage to simpler, and sometimes silly, traditions like that of baking a king cake. The season reminds us to seek and discover the presence of Jesus, even in unlikely places. King cakes are typically associated with the end of the Epiphany season and the celebration of Mari Gras; others celebrate the beginning of the season by baking

a cake. In this delectable tradition, a figurine of the Christ child is hidden and baked into the cake or pastry. Children and adults alike gather to symbolically search for the baby Jesus, by cutting and consuming the cake. The person who finds the baby Jesus in their piece hosts the celebration the following year.

A few years ago, Amber and John Essick cut into the king cake only to discover that each of them had a little Jesus figurine in their piece. They looked around the room and watched as six others discovered the baker's happy accident. During the baking of the cake, a number of Jesus figures fell into the mix. Not knowing what to do, the shop decorated and sold these king cakes baked with an unknown number of kings. As each person cut into the cake, there was a greater anticipation that they, too, would find Jesus in their piece.

Epiphany invites this kind of anticipation. Be expectant. Seek Jesus and find Christ. Don't let Hallmark determine your spiritual calendar. Live into this time of discovery.

#### 2014 Pictorial Directory Planned

A church's pictorial directory provides a snapshot of the life and times of the church family. It's time to snap our picture as a church and provide a look at ourselves in 2014!

We will be compiling a 2014 Pictorial Directory and we want to include you and your family as a part of the rich history and promising future of Highland Hills. The professionals from Life-Touch will be at Highland Hills for photography sessions on Wednesday, February 29, through Saturday, March 1. Beginning January 5, you will be able to reserve your session on our HHBC website and on sign-up sheets at the church.

#### REMINDE RS

### Wednesday Nights at Highland Hills

Beginning Wednesday, January 8

Join us for children's choirs, youth choir, mission organizations and Family Night Supper.

# January Calendar

#### Sundays:

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00am Morning Worship
- 6:00pm Vespers (Second Sundays)

#### Wednesdays:

- 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 5:00pm Children's Choirs / Youth Choir
- 5:50pm Family Night Supper
- 6:20pm Children's Missions
- 6:30pm Prayer Service LIFE on MainStreet
- 7:10pm Sanctuary Choir

**1/1 New Years Day**  
Office Closed

**1/5 Epiphany**  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Morning Worship

**1/7**  
10:00am WOM Meeting  
7:00pm PIM Meeting

**1/8 Regular Wednesdays Resume**  
8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
5:00pm Children's/Youth Choirs  
5:50pm Family Night Supper  
6:20pm Children's Missions  
6:30pm Prayer Service/Life on MainStreet  
7:10pm Sanctuary Choir

#### 1/12

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Morning Worship/Lord's Supper
- 4:30pm Touch Ministry
- 5:00pm Seekers In Sneakers
- 6:00pm 2nd Sunday Vespers  
Deacons' meeting following

#### 1/14

11:00am Jim Dandies

#### 1/17

4:00pm Youth Leave for Jubilate Retreat

#### 1/19

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Morning Worship
- 9:00pm Youth Return from Jubilate Retreat

#### 1/21

7:00pm Taize Service in the Chapel

#### 1/26

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Morning Worship

#### 1/27

7:00pm Handbells Resume

### Church Staff

Jake E. Hall  
Pastor

Cass H. DuCharme  
Associate Pastor/Music & Youth

Ruth S. DuCharme  
Minister to Children

Carol A. Brown  
Director of Preschool Ministries

Gerald N. Carper  
Organist

Caitlin R. Childers  
Youth Intern

Deborah L. Buchanan  
Church Financial Secretary

Charles F. Barton  
Maintenance Supervisor

478-746-4846  
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www.highlandhillsbaptist.org  
churchoffice@highlandhillsbaptist.org

## Exploring New Faith with Our Children Seekers in Sneakers

There are moments when we get a glimpse of spirituality seeping out of our children. We hear it in their prayers and songs, and we see it when they share in the elements of worship and devotion to God. In those moments, we realize that our children are developing a faith. They are nurturing a belief in God that will grow and sustain them throughout their lives.

This happens for children because we, the adults in their lives, give them the gift of God. We give God to our children. We do this in simple ways. When we bring children to Bible study and worship, we are giving the gift of God. When we pray with our children, we are giving them the gift of God. When we teach them the practices and tenets of our faith, we are giving them the gift of God.

It is our hope that our children will take this gift and make it their own. Our ministry to children at Highland Hills also seeks to give the gift of God to our children. Each year in January, we hold a class for children who are interested in making a profession of faith in Christ and want to follow Christ in baptism. This class is called, "Seekers in Sneakers." Seekers in Sneakers will be held on Sunday, January 12, at 5:00 p.m.

While the children are meeting with our Minister to Children, Ruth DuCharme, parents are invited to a

casual time of conversation with Jake and Erin Hall. In this "Parenting from the Pew" session, Jake and Erin will talk about the ways that parents can guide their children to receive the gift of God into their lives.



## Sharing Wisdom on Wednesday Nights

On Wednesday evenings, Highland Hills comes alive with the sounds of children in the hallways and classrooms, teenagers playing ping pong, and long-time friends catching up on the week's events. In the middle of each week, our church family gathers for a time to enjoy faith, family, and fellowship.

The highlight of the evening each week is the Family Night Supper and Prayer Service. During January and February, Jake will be leading a series titled, "Christian Wisdom: The Art of Living Well." This series of Wednesday evening studies will explore the living wisdom of the Christian life. Rather than focusing on what it means to possess faithful Christian beliefs, we will examine the embodied practices that make beliefs meaningful. We will explore a way of life shaped by

practices that respond to God's grace, and reflect God's love for you, for others, and for all creation.

Craig Dykstra, Research Professor of Practical Theology at Duke Divinity, said, "Christian practices are not activities we do to make something spiritual happen in our lives. Nor are they duties we undertake to be obedient to God. Rather, they are patterns of communal action that create openings in our lives where the grace, mercy, and presence of God may be made known to us. They are places where the power of God is experienced. In the end, these are not ultimately our practices but forms of participation in the practice of God."

Come— join the family gatherings each Wednesday evening as we learn together the art of living well.

### Wednesday Evening Series

Christian Wisdom:  
The Art of Living Well

- 1/8 Practicing Our Faith
- 1/15 Hospitality
- 1/22 Sabbath Keeping
- 1/29 Honoring the Body

## Jubilate Festival Singers Retreat January 17-19, 2014

For the past 20 years, the youth choir of Highland Hills has been a part of the Jubilate Festival Singers. This year will be no exception.



The retreat will be the weekend of January 17-19 and will be held at the First Baptist Church of Dalton, Georgia. The youth will rehearse Friday evening and all day Saturday. On Sunday morning they will sing in the worship service at FBC Dalton. Sunday afternoon they'll travel to

Avondale Estates and present a concert that evening at Avondale Estates Baptist Church.

The youth choirs represented this year are from six churches and include, Avondale Estates Baptist Church, Avondale Estates, Georgia; Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky; First Baptist Church, Aiken, South Carolina; First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky; First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon, Georgia; and of course, Highland Hills. As part of the 120-voice choir, 22 youth and adults from Highland Hills will be participating this year.

Our youth and their leaders love being a part of the Jubilate experience. Along with learning the challenging music, rekindling

friendships, traveling around the country, and singing in a great mass choir, they are sharing God's love through the music they sing.

Next summer Jubilate will travel from Aiken to Charleston to Macon to Atlanta on their summer tour in June. You'll want to make sure you hear this wonderful choir at their Macon concert at FBC Macon on Friday evening, June 20. Go ahead and put it on your calendar—you won't want to miss it.



## Children's Musical

Over the years, the stage of our chapel has been transformed into an ark, a jungle, a ship, an ocean, a fiery furnace, and a pasture. The children of HHBC have also been transformed. They have portrayed the roles of various animals, disciples, kings, queens, and assorted giants. Through it all they have shared the stories of our faith.

In January, our Children's Choir will begin preparations for presenting their spring musical. This year the children will present "The Best of Highland Hills' Children's Musicals." We will look back over twenty years of musicals and bring back some of your favorite characters. This generation of Highland Hills' children will tell the story of our faith from the Old Testament to the New Testament. We will visit once again with Noah, Esther, Jonah (wearing his red high-top Converse tennis shoes), Zacchaeus, and Martha. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, January 8, at 5:00 p.m.

### Anniversaries & Birthdays

## January

### Anniversaries

- 1/3 Barbara & Daniel Sikes
- 1/4 Billy & Carolyn Anderson
- 1/4 Anne & Neil Heath
- 1/6 Lex Horton & Tammy Riherd
- 1/7 Buddy & Gloria Marshall
- 1/10 John & Kathryn Willis
- 1/20 Garry & Kay Williams
- 1/22 Jeanna & Mark Cundiff
- 1/28 Cammie & Thomas McCook

### Birthdays

- 1/1 Bill Wohlford
- 1/2 Dianna Glymph
- 1/3 Gracie Rehberg
- 1/3 Barbara Sikes
- 1/4 Natalie Cundiff
- 1/5 Susan Baker Cartledge
- 1/8 Susan Marie McCord
- 1/8 Inez McLendon
- 1/9 Ruth Dykes
- 1/9 Girard Jones
- 1/9 Beverly Schaaf
- 1/12 John Lane
- 1/13 LeAnn Johns
- 1/16 Lynn Priester
- 1/16 Dot Wynens
- 1/17 Terry Walston
- 1/17 Ruth Wise
- 1/18 Will Bowden
- 1/18 Pat Elliott
- 1/19 Cliff Brown
- 1/20 Rob McCord
- 1/20 Ford Patterson
- 1/21 Billy Bridges
- 1/23 Philip Lord
- 1/24 Eugenia Espy
- 1/24 Ben Griffin
- 1/24 Lisa Hernandez
- 1/24 John Medlin
- 1/25 Marvin Campbell
- 1/25 Jean Trotter
- 1/26 John Page
- 1/26 Cecil Staton
- 1/26 Kathryn Willis
- 1/27 Warren Moncrief
- 1/28 Ann Sims
- 1/29 Doug Corbin
- 1/29 Jayne Gammons
- 1/29 Lisa Walker
- 1/31 Jean Keene