

# The *Heartbeat* of Highwater

A newsletter for our friends from your friends at Highwater Congregational Church

Serving God Since 1842

January 2008

## Happenings at Highwater January 7 through February 2, 2008

**"If we walk in the light as (God) is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus (God's Son) cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7**

**Pastor Torie Front** will be traveling to El Salvador with a class from the MTSO from January 4-18, 2008. This is a required class, led by a professor from the college, and there will be about 14 students going on this trip with Torie. While she is gone, Rev Bertie Dell will be preaching on Jan 6, and Rev. Steven Szilagyi, the Executive Director of SARA (Sharing America's Resources Abroad) will be preaching on January 13. In case of pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Bertie Dell (our former Interim Minister) at 965-3698, or Rev. Nancy Millwater at 323-0141, current Interim Minister at St John's UCC in Newark. For Columbus area hospital visits please call Wendy Lybarger at 614-537-8918, pastor of the Gates-Fourth UMC in Columbus and a good friend of Torie's. You can also call the church office at 740-745-1281 and leave a message for Debbie Smetts.

### **Dear Family of Faith at Highwater,**

In addition to New Year's Resolutions, in January I find myself writing thank you notes to all who so generously and lovingly gave me gifts at Christmas. I would be remiss if I didn't thank you as well - thank you for the gift card to the Indian Mound Mall! This thoughtful gift will bring me lots of joy as I think of you and shop the after-Christmas sales! Thank you also for the gifts you have given me that, like the commercial, are priceless - your confidence, your support, your energy, your thoughtfulness, your willingness to help, and your love. May the year of 2008 be filled with God's blessings for each of you, and may you grow in your awareness and relationship with our God.

In Christ's peace,  
-Pastor Torie

### Upcoming 2008 Events ....

**Friday, January 11** - Middle School / High School Lock-In 6:00p.m.

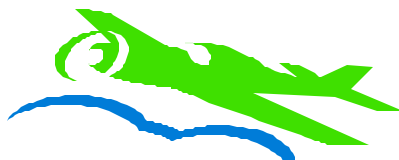
**Monday, January 14** - W.I.S.H. Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, January 20** - H.S. Ice Skating / Game Works 6:00p.m.

**Tuesday, February 5** - Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) Pancake Supper - 6:00p.m. Donations will be accepted.

**Wednesday, February 6** - Ash Wednesday Worship Service - 7:30p.m.

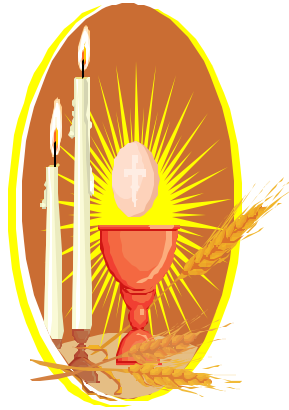
**Sunday, February 10** - Couple's Mystery Dinner - 6:00p.m.  
(reservations accepted on January 20 at both worship services)  
*(This event is a fundraiser to raise monies for the youth to go on the "Passions" High School retreat April 10th - 13th. This event is in Atlanta).*



# Thanks to all who Keep the Light Shining at Highwater

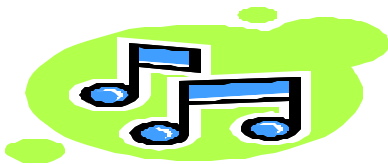
Joy Joy Joy

Thank you to all our musicians who helped make this past Christmas season so beautiful - Judy Grace, Patsy Farmer, Cathy Bero, Loren Goodman, Janine Shipley, and Laura Laughlin. Thank you to singers Mark Hatch, Jenifer Bruce, Grace Waggoner, and Debbie Smetts for sharing their vocal talents on Christmas Eve, and to trumpeter Kennan Belau.



...A Lamp Unto Thy Feet...

**Thank you to Dennis and Brenda Cox and grandchildren** for their huge effort in making our luminaries for this year! Thank you to Kennan Belau, Dave and Darryl Nash, and Vince Front for setting up the luminaries, and to Danny and Larry Steele for taking them down! Thank you to all who donated milk and water jugs and candles and sand to help us make our Christmas Eve full of light.



## Breakfast With Santa

Thank you to those members of FISH (Fellows in Service to Highwater) who made pancakes and sausage for us at the annual 'Breakfast with Santa' event - Tom Siegel, Jack Schimdt, Galen Gault, Tom Lake, Ed Payne, Dave Nash, Bob Rowe, George Myers, Mark McKimmons, Paul Harris, and Neil Buxton! We had 71 people eating at this breakfast - what a great morning of fellowship - we're so glad we could bring in Good Old St. Nick to be with our kids!



Peace that Surpasses all Understanding....

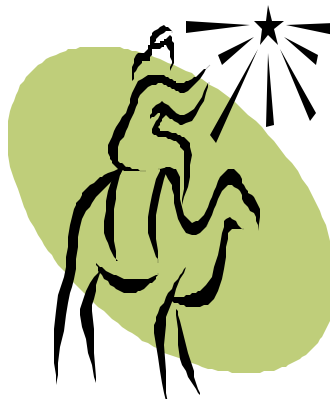
And, speaking of the luminaries, let me share one story with you. While we were setting up the luminaries on Christmas Eve around 6:30pm, we saw someone walking along Dutch Lane Road. This is rather unusual, so it caught our attention. Then, he turned into Highwater, and asked if we had a phone. It was a young boy (mid-teens?) who had been kicked out of his home by his stepfather. He had a thin coat, no hat, no mittens. I brought him inside, and showed him the phone in the library. Dave Nash and I kept an eye on him, Dave even went to get him something to eat, but when he was done making his call, the boy went back outside. I found him waiting by the road, he said his mom was going to come and get him. I walked him back inside to warm up while he waited - I hoped the pretty music that Janine and Laura were practicing for the Christmas Eve service would also warm his heart.

As we walked inside, the boy said "I'm sorry about my appearance, I know I look like a bad kid (he had some lip piercings and his hair was an unnatural color), but really, I'm just a cold kid." My heart filled (as did my eyes) and I thanked God for the luminaries that led a cold, scared boy to safety and shelter. His mom came a few minutes later, and as I walked her inside to reunite them, she expressed frustration with her son, giving her side of the story - there's always two sides! I invited them both back to Highwater, or even to stay for a service that night. She smiled briefly and said, "You know, I might be back. We might need it."

Please pray for this family, and others who are experiencing the stresses of life, of teenage years, of whatever. Know that God can work through something as simple as a milk jug with a tea light inside, and let us renew our dedication to bringing Christ's light to the world through Highwater.

*-Pastor Torie Front*

**The Ohio Conference UCC Disaster Response Team** is planning a mission trip to New Orleans May 10-18, 2008. Disaster Response Team Co-Director Rev. George Siddall is heading up this mission trip. The need is still so great! This trip allows followers of Jesus in the smaller churches in our Association to join with others to help in the recovery of the Gulf Coast. The cost is \$300, and a deposit is required by Jan. 15. A \$150 check or money order made out to George Siddall and sent to him at 403 Green Gate Dr., Lebanon, OH 45036 will hold your place on the team. For more information on this opportunity to help in New Orleans, contact George Siddall at [gtsiddall@juno.com](mailto:gtsiddall@juno.com) or Barb Hobe at [bhobe@fuse.net](mailto:bhobe@fuse.net).



## "Pilgrimage of a Lifetime- The Holy Land"

Have you always wanted to see The Holy Land? Please give prayerful consideration to joining Jack & Nancy Schmidt this coming October 24 thru November 5, 2008 for a tour lead by a retired Navy Chaplain/Commander and his wife who is a Registered Nurse. Reverends Herb and Mary Ann (UCC) will be taking us to all the "must see" sights in Israel and Jordan. This will be their fifth tour in this region and is sure to be a wonderful addition to your faith journey! Estimated cost is just under \$3,000.00 per person, airfares are still being obtained. Please call Herb @ 614-422-1968 after January 15<sup>th</sup> or Jack and Nancy after January 21<sup>st</sup> @ 740-587-2890. Hope you can join us on this adventure!

### *Resolutions Concerning Myself....*

- I will be joyful, that my life may give me wings.
- I will be courageous, that there shall be no binding fears.
- I will be balanced, that neither work nor play nor rest nor worship shall lose its proper share.
- I will be self-reliant, that thoughts of failure shall not hold me back.
- I will be good-tempered, that annoyance shall not irritate.
- I will be patient, that discouragement shall not seem final.
- I will be persistent, that the will to succeed may carry through to completion.
- I will be prepared, that emergency shall not find me in confusion.

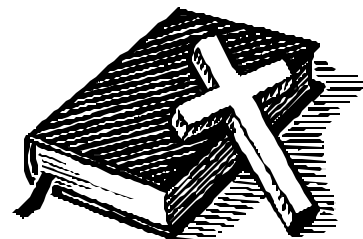
*Happy New Year !*

### Kroger's 2007 Payout

If you have not already heard about our Kroger pay out card, now is a good time to learn about it. We put \$5,741.09 into our giving fund during 2007 just from all of you who have consistently loaded your cards and shopped at Kroger. That is \$100.00 + every week going into the offerings. Nancy Schmidt is the one to call if you need a card or need one replaced for any reason, or perhaps you know a friend who shops there as well and would like to contribute to a good cause. It is simple...you get the card, put money on the card, use the card and we get 5% on every dollar spent. It's that EASY ! Call Nancy now at 740-587-2890

Don't Forget our Bible Studies...A great way to start 2008  
**Thursdays at Noon** at the Church, January 24th and 31st.

**Monday Nights at 6:45pm at each other's homes:**  
January 21st at Torie Front's , 8186 Liberty Church Rd - 967-7529  
January 28th at Judy Grace's, 10481 Reynolds Rd 892-2525  
February 4th at Debbie Smett's, 8994 Northridge Rd 967-2713



Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.  
 Fellowship Hour.....9:30 a.m.  
 Bible Stories.....10:00a.m.  
 Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.

**Torie Front, Minister**  
 Email: vfront@mtso.edu  
 Phone : 740.967.7529

**Debra Smetts, Secretary & Newsletter Editor**  
 Email : highchurch@windstream.net  
 Phone : 740.745.1281

**Grace Waggoner, Youth & Family Ministry**  
 Email: brentandgrace@hotmail.com  
 Phone: 740.975.1871 (c)

Highwater Congregational U.C.C.  
 1213 Dutch Lane Rd.  
 Newark, Ohio 43055

**WE'RE ON THE WEB! Check us out! [www.highwaterchurch.org](http://www.highwaterchurch.org)**

## Did You Know?

- ◆ Flowers for the month of **January** donated by **Edsel and Carolyn Blackburn** in memory of Evelyn Petty, Bill Petty, and Okla Blackburn.
- ◆ Ushers for the month of **January** are **Tom and Nancy Siegel**
- ◆ Acolytes for **January** are **Austin Campbell, Mitchell and Lareese Marston, Tanner MacLachlan, and Grant Ellis**
- ◆ **Office Hours**

Monday - 8:00a - Noon - Debbie Smetts in the office (Torie serving as chaplain and taking classes at Riverside Methodist Hospital on Mondays)

Tuesday - 8:30-5:00 - Office open - Torie will be in the office or out doing visits.

Wednesday - 8:30-5:00 - Office open - Torie will be in the office or out doing visits.

Thursday - 8:30-5:00 - Office open - Torie will be in the office or out doing visits.

### **Planning an Event? Use the LEGG Center**

Call Peggy Green at 740-892-3235 for information and to reserve your date.

December Giving and Attendance		
Dec 2	\$2,086.00	89
Dec 9	\$1,661.00	98
Dec 16	\$1,908.00	112
Dec 23	\$1,801.00	89
Dec 25	\$ 562.00	N/A
Dec 30	\$1,806.00	96

