



The Heartbeat of Highwater

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

Serving God Since 1842

February 2008

Highwater U.C.C. to Again Host the Award Winning **Blackwoods**



Tickets
 Call Dave Nash at 892-3676

Advance Tickets:
 General Admission \$10.00
 Reserve Seating \$15.00

At the door \$12.00 and
 \$17.00
 (At the door cannot be guaranteed due to limited seating)

On March 2, 2008, Highwater will once again host the Blackwood Quartet and the Blackwood singers from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. This award winning family is made up of Ron Blackwood, Baritone, R.W. Blackwood Jr., lead, John Rulapaugh, tenor, and Paul Hyde, bass.

Along with the quartet will be Shelley Blackwood and Donna Blackwood, wives of Ron and R.W. The two ladies along with R.W. and Paul comprise the Blackwood singers.

Appearing with the Blackwoods will be the guest quartet "Bound For Glory", Highwater's own Susie Hatch and Dave Nash, along with Michelle and Robin Davis of the Licking Valley Church of Christ comprise this group.



If you did not attend last years concert with this distinguished award wining family, then plan to attend this years event. It appears to be even bigger and better.

What is Worship in the Style of Taizé?

On **Ash Wednesday** we will be worshipping in the style of the Community of **Taizé**, an ecumenical community of reconciliation in the Burgundy region of France. At Taizé, services are centered on silence, prayer, and singing that becomes prayer. On their website, the community explains: "As the words are sung over many times, [the reality of faith in the text] gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly."

During the silence, take time to meditate on the scripture and pray. During the singing, you may also let the song bear up your own prayers as you "slip out" to pray, coming back in to support the praying of others. The music itself becomes a deepening of song and prayer as it continues.

You are invited to enter the worship space in reverent awe and sit in the quiet of God's presence. Reflect the glow of the candlelight, let your eyes adjust to the light, let your spirit rest in the peace, and when you are ready, join in the song. Each song will be repeated many times, sing as the spirit leads you.

What is Ash Wednesday?

The service of **Ash Wednesday** seems to have started in the 6th or 7th century as a service of penitence and confession. As part of the confession of sins, and as a sign of mortality and penitence, ashes are placed on your forehead. During Lent, we focus on our own unworthiness and total need for God. May you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and a growing awareness of God in your life during this Lent as you use

What is Lent ?

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent begins on February 6, 2008 and ends on March 22, 2008, which is the day before Easter.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock.

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism.

By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent.

The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

Sermon Extract - "Ministry With The Poor"

(the following is an excerpt from the January 27, 2008 sermon)

"On Saturday, January 12, 2008, our group 'enjoyed' a hike in the beauty of God's creation near Perquin, El Salvador. Tired after this longer than expected outing, we came back for some lunch before our next speaker. Slightly cranky from being 9 days into the trip, tired, hot, sweaty, we straggled in to the community room to listen to yet another speaker. Claudia joined us, and in the words of this simple peasant with limited schooling I found the motivation and guidance for my own ministry with the poor. Claudia shared with us the organizing principle for the Christian Based Community in which she was a member. "It's clear, in the Bible, you have to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, etc." It's clear, in a world made foggy by politics and materialism, privilege and power, that the Son shines light that burns away the fog so that we can see what we are to do. Simple words, spoken simply, yet with much wisdom, from a woman who is unable to read or write.

The voice of another woman who shared her story with us provides more guidance for Claudia's words. A nun who lived at the pastoral center in which we had been staying came to share her story with us for a few moments before dinner. Within the story, she said: "Being pastoral is 'walking with the people'" and when you do that, it makes you look at the Bible and church differently." What wisdom and insight!

Worship Schedule for February

February 3 - Communion - "Telling the Story" - Slide Show from El Salvador

February 10 - First Sunday of Lent - "Temptations in the Wilderness." Special Music: 'Bound for Glory'

February 17 - Second Sunday of Lent - "The Wilderness of Understanding." Special Music: Choir

February 24 - Third Sunday of Lent - "Presentation of the Gospel of Mark"

Choir Notes

Our very own Highwater Choir will be back in action for Lent and Easter this year! Our first practice will be

Battlefield of the Mind...

Scripture let's us know how very important it is we think properly. Thoughts are very powerful, and they have creative ability. If our thoughts are going to affect what we become, then it should certainly be a priority that we think the right thoughts. I want to impress on you the absolute necessity of getting your thinking in line with God's Word. You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind.

-Joyce Meyer



...Dear Friends at Highwater

Once again you have filled a need for both of us - in body, mind, and soul. We thank you again for your visits and calls, your cards, the delicious meals, and most of all your prayers. What an outstanding support team you are!

With God's tender care and mercy, with Pastor Torie's visits and prayers, and with the help of all of you along with the care of our doctors and nurses, we are both feeling much better. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Many Thanks!

May God continue to bless us all.



Don't Forget our Bible Studies...A great way to keep a positive mind..

Thursdays at Noon at the Church, February 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Monday Nights at 6:45pm at each other's homes:

- ◆ February 4th at Larry and Debbie Smetts'; 8994 Northridge Rd
- ◆ February 11th at Bruce and Carolyn Claggett's; 2659 Lundy's Lane
- ◆ February 18th at Torie Front's, 8186 Liberty Church Rd.
- ◆ February 25th at Sid and Rosie Shipley's, 8696 Marion Rd.

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

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WE'RE ON THE WEB! Check us out! www.highwaterchurch.org

Did You Know?

- ◆ Flowers for the month of **February** are donated by **Larry and Sue Baughman in honor of their wonderful family**
- ◆ Ushers for the month of **February** are **Jack and Nancy Schmidt**
- ◆ Acolytes for **February** are **Austin Campbell, Evan Rowe, Avery and Grant Ellis**
- ◆ **Office Hours :**

Monday 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.
Wednesday 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Thursday 8:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Planning an Event? Use the LEGG Center

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

January Giving and Attendance		
Jan 6	\$1,787.00	77
Jan 13	\$1,928.00	92
Jan 20	\$1,380.00	70
Jan 27	<i>Numbers not available</i>	

