

WMU News & Views

By Gail Josey, WMU Director



Our WMU recently prepared 34 gifts for residents of Central Adult Care on Rockford Street with the assistance of the Willing Workers Sunday School Class and individual donations. Along with toiletry items, socks, and a Christmas card, each gift bag contained a candy cane and a copy of “the Legend of the Candy Cane.”

Our WMU also sent Christmas cards to various ones in the church to let each one know they are appreciated and loved.

Glory to God in the highest!
Gail

Christmas gifts provided by our WMU for residents of Central Adult Care Nursing Home.

JOIN US FOR OUR JANUARY BIBLE STUDY! - This year’s study is “The Blessings of the Kingdom” (from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount). Everyone is invited to join us in the sanctuary for this wonderful study.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SESSION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>LESSON TITLE</u>
1/10	#1	7:00-7:30	Bob Josey	Jesus’ Shocking Vision for the Truly Blessed Life
1/10	#2	7:30-8:00	Jacob Surratt	The Greater Righteousness of The Kingdom
1/17	#3	7:00-7:30	Michael Melton	Our Praise Problem
1/24	#4	7:00-7:30	Mike Caldwell	The Bridge to Wholeness
1/24	#5	7:30-8:00	Dr. B.J. Mauser	The Right Way to Judge
1/31	#6	:00-7:30	John Nixon	Two Ways of Living



Volume 14

Issue 1

January 2024

He’s Still Knocking

by Dr. Darrell Tate, Senior Pastor



"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and dine with him, and he with Me."
Revelation 3:20

Back in 1853, artist William Holman Hunt painted one of the most recognizable pictures in the Christian faith. I have always referred to it as *Christ at the Door*, but actually it was originally titled, “The Light of the World.” The picture to the left is a rendition of the original work painted by Warner Sallman in the 1940’s. The beauty of the painting is eclipsed only by the symbolism that speaks of Christ’s desire to enter one’s life. However, the picture below is a copy of Hunt’s work. Hunt began the picture when he was 21 years old, but did not finish until eight years later, when he was 29. One of the reasons for the delay was his desire to locate what he called the perfect dawn. He took his unfinished painting to the Middle East, and just outside the city of Bethlehem he found the perfect dawn.

Over the years, the beauty and symbolism of Hunt’s painting has fascinated and inspired me. First of all, the fact that Jesus approaches the door, not in the daylight but at night, reinforces to me that every human heart is darkened until the Light of the World brings illumination. Secondly, the unkempt appearance around the door, overgrown with vines, brambles and weeds, pictures my life before the Divine Gardener came upon the scene. Fruit fallen to the ground lies unattended. The step with no welcome mat has never made room for the Divine Guest, and the uninviting appearance offers no expectation of company. It is obvious the windowless door, with its rusty hinges, has never been opened and prevents any light from entering the room. It is impossible to see from the picture on the right, but there is actually a bat flying above the door, which is another symbol of the chaos and confusion of a life without Christ. However,

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the light of Christ dispels the darkness, His presence towers over the weeds, and His authority has kept the fruit from total decay.

Thirdly, I am amazed that, finding such poor conditions, Christ would still approach the door of my life and begin to knock. If the surroundings on the outside look in disarray, just imagine what its like on the inside! Yet, Christ still desires to come and dine. I cannot help but be drawn to the sorrowful expression on the face of Christ and remember how long He had been knocking before He was allowed to enter.

Finally, and perhaps the most profound symbol of Hunt’s painting, is the absence of a door handle. The beauty here is not what is seen, but what is unseen. The door handle is not on the outside, but on the inside. Christ, the Perfect Gentleman, simply stands at the door and knocks. He cannot—and will not—force His way inside. He enters exclusively upon invitation.

We can choose to keep the door of our heart locked and leave the Divine Guest on the doorstep, or we can open the door of our heart and invite Him in. I’m thankful that Christ continued to knock upon the door of my heart until I invited him in! His persistence and patience with me make me love Him all the more!

God Bless,
Pastor Darrell

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**HIGHLAND PARK’S MLK Day
Blood Drive Signup Now Open!**

redcrossblood.org 1-800-RED CROSS

Monday, Jan. 15th, 1:00—6:00 pm
HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

For questions, please email:
blooddride@hpbcm.org
or call Alan Belcher at
336-408-7179.

SCAN HERE



Highland Park is pleased to host this blood drive for the American Red Cross. Even if you can’t donate blood, you can still help by donating store-bought or homemade snacks and drinks as refreshments for the donors after they give blood.

- Juice or soft drinks (the Red Cross provides bottled water).
- Salty or sweet snacks.
- Single portions preferred.
- Deliver to the FLC by 1:00 pm on Monday, 1/15/24.

Thank you so much for helping to make this MLK Day Blood Drive a success!

JANUARY Birthdays

- 3 Marilyn Childress
- 4 Mary Ruth Beamer
Hunter Jackson
Jessie Pruitt
- 6 Benny McPeak
- 7 Yolanda Brown
Lincoln Flinchum
Candace Holder
Dennis Rodriguez
Aaron Hunter
- 8 Russell Riggan
Eli Riggs
- 9 Colton Lewis
- 11 Lee Knight
Morten Kristensen
Josie Spurlin
- 12 Willow Crouse
Bobby Hiatt
Regina Hill
Linda Newman
- 13 Dale Parker
Eliah Smith (Love)
- 14 Gene Handy
- 15 Annie Gullion
Mike Jarrell
Kimberly Peeples
- 16 Brad Beasley
Evelyn Giuffre
Russell Parsons
- 17 Rex Branch
Jake Simmons
Celena Watson
- 18 Lillyana Eason
Jonathan Silva
- 19 Kayla Love
Diane Robinson
Kara Rodriguez
Jordan Vogler
- 20 Ridge Bruner
Landon Holmes
LeeAnn Nixon
Sawyer Spurlin
Becky Sumner
Jacob Tilley
- 21 Rick Haynes
Mac Sumner
- 22 Angela Shinault
- 23 Tony Morrison
- 24 Alan Belcher
Paige Goins
- 25 Sandra Boles
Leeman Haynes
Noah Hiatt
Melissa Secrest
Hadley Vogler
Brandon Wilson
- 26 Norma Hawks
Joey Holder
Eliahna Stanley
- 27 Jon Boles
Donna Edwards
Valerie Mangum
David Clontz
Renee Janey
- 28 Katherine Rosemire-
Endriga
Kathy Simpson (Todd)
- 29 Jonathan Simmons
Leah Whitehead
- 30 Carla Tyndall
- 31 David Boyd
Tim Hamlin
Jonathan Vernon

A Year with God

By Rev. Jim Richland, Associate Pastor

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17

A new year brings, for many people, hope for new beginnings, blessings and better circumstances. People often make New Year resolutions and commitments to be and do better. All of these things are natural and can even be good, within reason. However, as Christians, we ought to remember and recognize that our hope can not be found in anything in this broken world. The writer of Ecclesiastes was right when he stated that there was nothing new under the sun (1:9). This new year will be, in many ways, similar to the previous. It will be a mix of blessings and hardships. We will do better at some things and drop the ball in other areas.

To be clear, this is not a pessimistic outlook, but rather a reminder that our hope should never be in what *I will do* differently this year, but our hope is in what *Christ will do* in me this year. Now, that is something we can get excited about! After all, God has promised us that the good work that Christ has begun in the life of every child of God will continue until completion (Philip. 1:6). I don’t know about anyone else, but God has taught me some pretty incredible things over this past year and I can’t wait to see what next on the agenda.

The change that God is wanting to bring about in your life is not about your resolutions or your efforts and self-discipline, but rather, it’s about His faithfulness to you and to His promises concerning you. So, I wish all of you the very best year possible! A year in which you grow significantly in your relationship with God as He develops you into the man or woman of God that He created you to be.

In Christ,
Pastor Jim

