

Highterian

Pastor's Note

Whew! We made it through the holidays! Yippee! I always feel like we should give each other a hearty pat on the back after the holidays. Don't get me wrong – I love this time of the year. But if we are honest, it can be a lot. A lot of parties, a lot of shopping, a lot eating, a lot of traveling, even a lot of church. Sometimes it is just a lot. And it's okay to use this time to take a breath. Still have your Christmas tree up? Don't worry about it. Still haven't finished all those things that you said you were going to do during Christmas. Let it go.

Each New Year people make all kinds of resolutions, usually to do with being healthier like eating better or losing weight. But what if this year, we chose to take better care of ourselves in a different way? After the business of the holidays, it is important that we take the time to simply be. It is time for us to find rest in God's presence. To return the daily routines of life, but in a way that is mindful of God's presence with us.

The Psalmist reminds of God's words to us, "Be still and know that I am God." Even in a time when we are celebrating God (like Christmas), the busyness can keep us from truly experiencing God's presence. So, let's resolve to take the time this year to breathe, time to slow down when needed, time to rest. Let's resolve to give up the need to perform or produce. God's love is not tied to our performance or productivity. (Amen!) Would you join me in making this a year of choosing be still, so that we may know he is God?

— *Rev Sharon Bell*

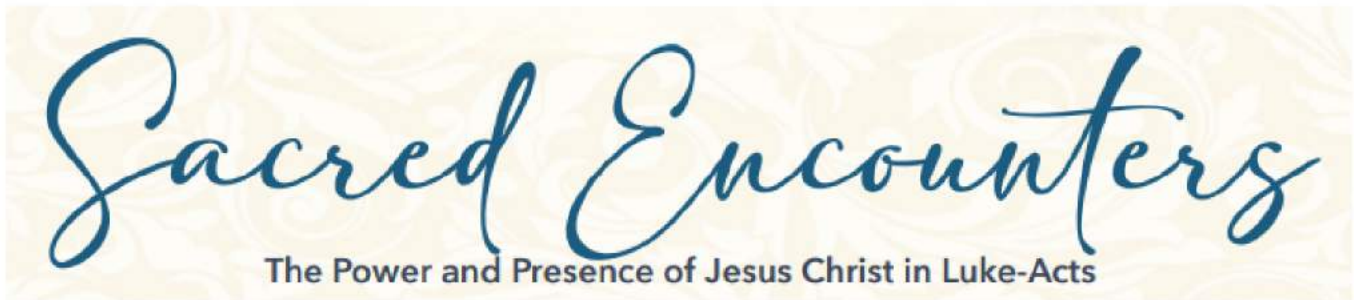
Wednesday Night Dinner (January 3rd)

Dr. Nusair is a native of Jordan. He graduated from medical school in 1997. He trained and worked at the Mayo Clinic, University of Nebraska, Creighton University and Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Nusair has broad experience in medicine. He worked in trauma surgery and emergency medicine. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Critical Care Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He is a professor of medicine at Marshall University. He is a recognized fellow and member of several national and international medical societies. He has numerous peer-reviewed publications. He championed many quality improvement and patient safety projects. He chairs and participates in numerous committees. Dr. Nusair earned numerous awards for commitment to patient care excellence, mentoring, leadership, and medical education. He is the president of the executive committee of the Muslim Association of Huntington. He is a volunteer Imam of the Huntington congregation.

Dr. Nusair will be sharing his experience as an Arab and Muslim man in the wake of increased violence along the Levantine coast



Presbyterian Women



Lesson Five of our Presbyterian Women's Bible Study is entitled... A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus. The main idea of this month's lesson is Jesus challenges us to overcome our prejudices, embrace others, and invite them into the community of faith.

The Samaritan in this lesson helps us recognize holistic healing as well as systems that poison relationships and harm our sense of community. We are challenged to have faith in the miracle of Jesus healing a person with leprosy and healing our fixed ideas that limit life, discriminate and isolate those who are considered to be "different".

Come join us as we learn even more about transformative experience and about the one of the ten men who came back to thank Jesus.

Both groups meet on the second Thursday of each month in Fellowship Hall from September to May. Can't or don't really want to commit to every month attendance? Feel free to come join us when you can and when it fits your schedule.

If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to call Neva, Sally, or myself. Hope you will consider joining us. Thank you.

— *Shelia Brownfield, Moderator of HPC Women*

Next Meeting
January 11th

Neva Baldwin is the moderator of the 1:00pm Group
Sally Lowe is the moderator of the 7:00pm Group

So many stockings! We completed 143 stockings for children and 32 for Senior citizens. The folks at the Salvation Army were so appreciative!

We also filled 15 stockings for foster children spending Christmas at the Children's Home Society Emergency Shelter. We are told the children all receive a nice stack of presents, but that the handmade stockings containing gift cards and a variety of small items is a nice extra.

Over and over Belinda has expressed this sentiment, "Thank you so much for thinking of our children at the shelter and our families that we serve. We could not do what we do without folks like you!"



After we finished filling all those stockings, we had a few items left over for Pam Curtis to contribute to Pressley Ridge which is a residential program that serves boys ages 13-17 who have psychological and behavioral challenges.

**PRESSLEY
RIDGE**

New Year Projects

Hats! Our sweet Karen Albers supported our mission projects by crocheting hats all year long. By my best calculations, she made well over 700 hats in 2023! I am guessing she will be needing more yarn!

This month we are collecting **duffle bags, blankets, and pillows** for Children's Home Society Foster Children. Duffle bags/backpacks provide dignity as it prevents children from carrying their belongings in a garbage bag. **Blankets** are the most requested item by children in need. Their own pillow gives children a comfort item that solely belongs to them to take when faced with a new placement. **Sports bras in small and medium & unisex hoodies in small and medium are always needed.**

After Christmas Sales This is a great time to find gloves, blankets, and toys on sale! Every mission we support needs **toothbrushes**. My dentist has donated generously any time I have asked for help. Please consider asking your dentist to contribute 1 or 2 dozen toothbrushes at your next visit.

Sewing Party

Watch for Sewing Party later in January. Hoping to work on some old and new projects!

— *Nancy Estler*

Harmony House Rapid Rehousing

As we prepare to welcome in a new year, we take some time to reflect on our mission work in Huntington. Highlawn Presbyterian has been an important donator of items for the Harmony House Rapid Rehousing Program and their day shelter. The Mission Committee has kept a record of items donated during 2023, and that list is four pages long! December donations included furniture donations of a twin bed and new linens, a leather couch and loveseat, a second couch, chair and ottoman. Other donations included seven blankets and other sheet sets, and an alarm clock. Items for the day shelter included four men's sweaters, four jackets, and seven women's long-sleeved shirts and seven sweaters. A huge bag of lollipops put a smile on the staff receiving the donations and the clients standing nearby. Many thanks with much gratitude for everyone during 2023 who has offered their housing or shelter donations or money to help purchase items that are so needed.

For the January Rapid Rehousing needs, we are continuing with the suggestions that we had for December. They are still in need of..

Cleaning Supplies
Shower Curtains
Fitted Twin Sheets
Towels
Cereal Bowls

The staff and newly-housed clients welcome new or gently used and clean items. Donations may be brought to church and left in the "wagon display" in the Narthex or brought to the Blessings Room across the hall from the church office. In the Blessings Room, please place donated items on the table by the Harmony House sign. If anyone has questions about this mission, you may call Linda Hansen, 304-421-0860, or speak with any member of the Mission Committee.



— *Linda Hansen, Mission Committee*

Happy Birthday

- 1/2 Gary Baldwin
- 1/6 Mitzi Cyrus
- 1/11 Mary Beth Biederman
Avery Morgan
- 1/12 Linda Hansen
- 1/18 Jenny New
- 1/20 Neva Baldwin
Lauren Pannell
- 1/21 Anna Laura Dorey



NEW BAPTIST CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY

New Baptist Church's Pantry is in need of incontinence supplies like pads or absorbant underwear any sizes

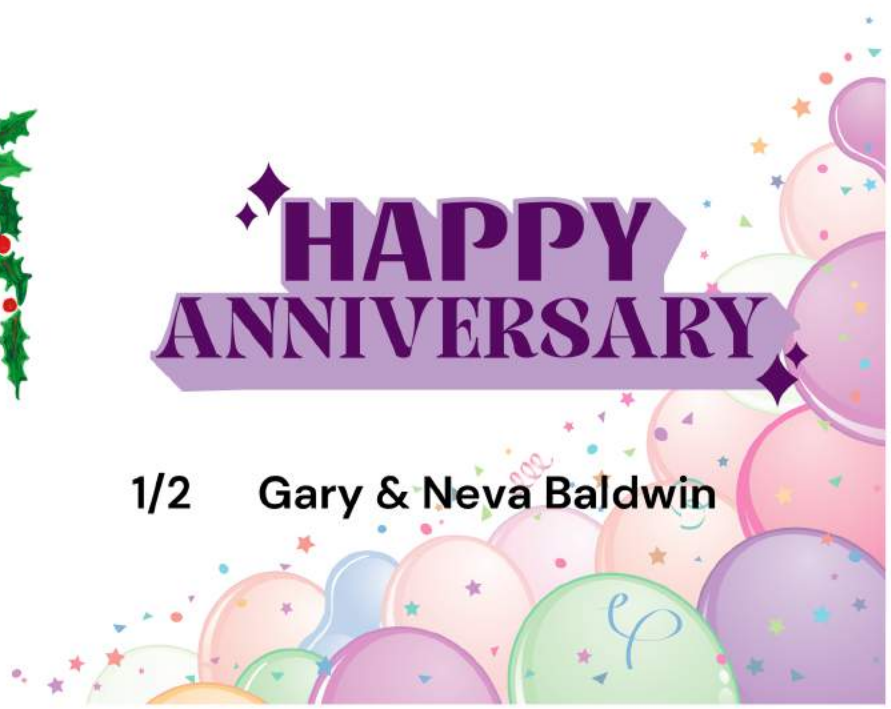
Please place your donations in the collection basket marked in the foyer.

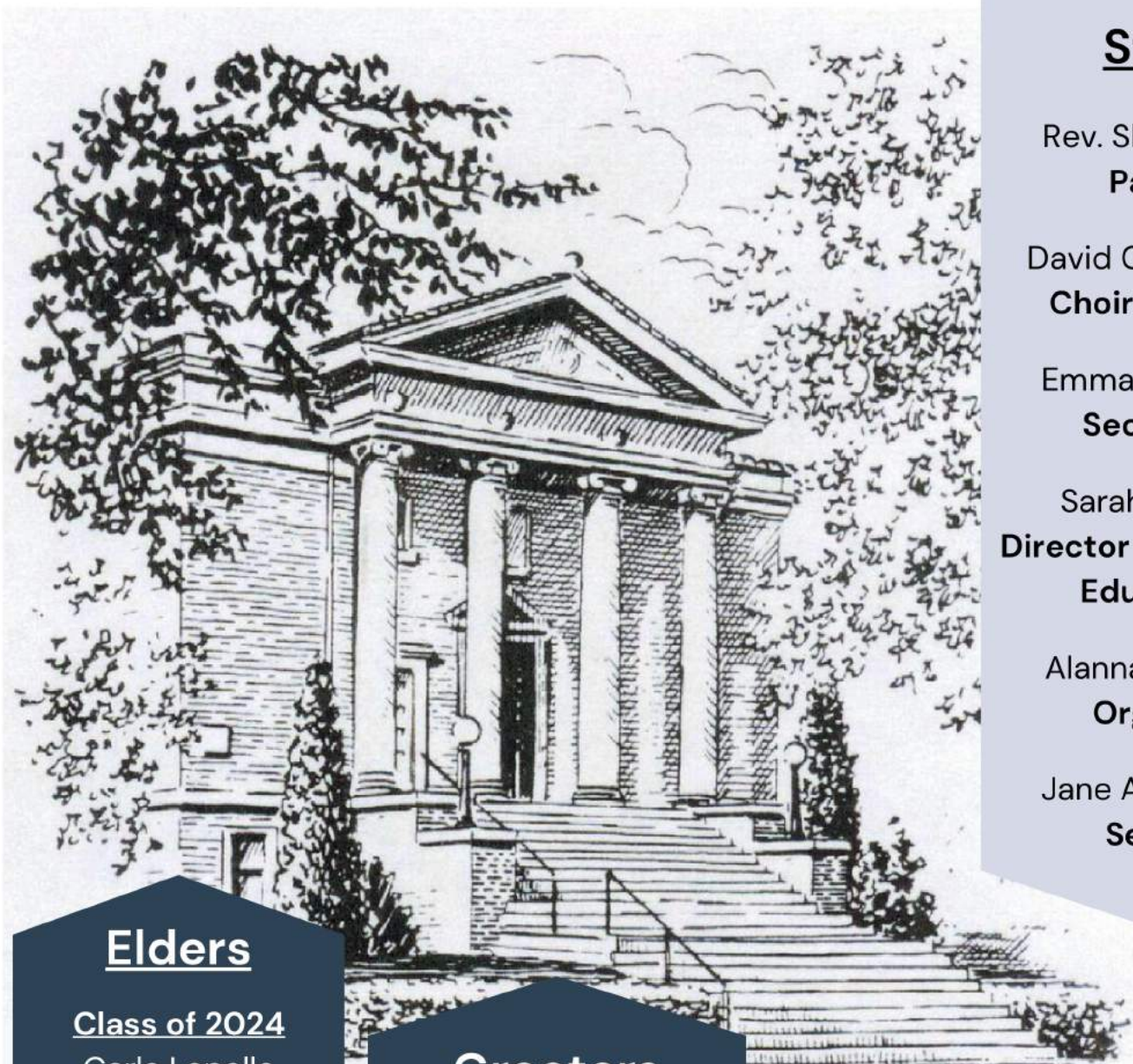


Join us Sunday, Jan 7th after worship to undecorating the church. Lunch will be provided

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1/2 Gary & Neva Baldwin





Staff

Rev. Sharon Bell
Pastor

David Chenoweth
Choir Director

Emma (Em) Rau
Secretary

Sarah Specht
Director of Christian Education

Alanna Cushing
Organist

Jane Armstrong
Sexton

Elders

Class of 2024

Carla Lapelle
Brian Specht
Debby Stoler

Class of 2025

Gary Baldwin
Pam Curtis
Howard Aulick

Class of 2026

Terri Effingham
Bob Hansen
Amy Browning

Greeters

January 7
Patty Meadows

January 14
The Workman Family

January 21
Connie Musgrave

January 28
Evie Butcher & Em Rau

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Church Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm