



Church for the Highlands/ Highland Center Ministries

Year End Church for the Highlands/Highland Center Ministries Vol. I, Issue I

520 Olive Street Ph:318-673-4440 www.churchforthehighlands.org

Our Mission: We exist to bless the Highland neighborhood with the love of Jesus through community partnerships.

A look Back at 2012



David Westerfield photography

Rev. John and Jinny Henson

Time flies when you are having fun. Or, as Groucho Marx said, “Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.” How true for this past year at Church for the Highlands (except for the fruit flies), as time has flown by here so quickly. I say “here,” but it would be much more accurate to say “out there,” for that is where our church has been, seeking to fulfill our mission *to bless the Highland neighborhood with the love of Jesus through Volunteers of America and other community partnerships*. It is impossible to list everything our fabulous flock has been doing, but what follows are some highlights:

- Expanding Christian Financial Services beyond free tax preparation and ATM services to partner with Pelican State Credit Union for financial tools helpful for working poor.
- Partnering with 8 local churches, the Food Bank of Northwest LA, and Volunteers of America to start the Highland Blessing Dinner, a free meal every Thursday night at the Highland Center for 125 people.
- Creating Maggie Lee’s Closet, providing clothes for girls and boys K-8th Grade from a donor through Shreveport Community Foundation’s Maggie Lee for Good fund
- Starting Men’s Gear closet to provide men with clothes and tools, made possible by a donation from Third Baptist Church of Houston, TX
- Block Parties—we have taken our party wagon with jump house, snow cone maker, hot dog grill, door prizes, and popcorn machine to provide some great fun and friendships here in Highland.
- Youth Ministry—our youth have taken two mission trips to Lake Providence, LA and also went to Six Flags.
- Vacation Bible School—Betty Walker headed up an incredible team that provided VBS for all the children in the Volunteers of America Lighthouse summer program at the Highland Center.
- Mardi Gras! Our church entered a float again in the Krew of Highland Parade.
- Veterans Service—what has become an annual graduation service/Thanksgiving service for the Volunteers of America Transitional Center
- New staff to keep up with growth and ministry: Bill Allen (Music Director), Sabra Hicks as (Administrative Assistant), Jarcalet Harris (Housing), Dewanna Lovelace (Children’s Coordinator), and Larry Mahaffey (HCM Coordinator)

There is much more to mention, but I’m out of space. During this season of thanksgiving and joy, our church gives thanks to you for the visible difference you have made in people’s lives through your financial gifts. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

--John Henson

Follow us at:

twitter: [@forthehighlands](https://twitter.com/forthehighlands), , blog: <http://churchforthehighlands.wordpress.com/>, and Facebook

Worship with us each Sunday:

9:30am– Sunday school and 11am– Worship service

Member Spotlight: Michelle McCrary

What does this church mean to you:

One of the ways I knew, and still know today, that CftH is the place for us, is that Michael & Sammy are always eager to attend & participate in services, activities, and volunteering opportunities, and them being teenage boys with other things on their minds like video games and girls, that says a lot about how important our church is to them, which in turn, makes it even more important to me.

What are you currently reading?

I’ve been reading ‘Life Interrupted’ by Priscilla Shirer with the ladies in my Sunday school group, led by Jinny Henson.

What is your favorite thing to do with your family on the weekend?

My favorite thing to do with my boys on the weekend is having a Saturday at home, just the three of us.

What is something positive that has happened this year?

I lost my job this summer, but through the help of a church member I began working at Ark-La-Tex Underwriters, and I absolutely love my job. Being hired was such a blessing— God was at work in my life, when the only thing I felt like I had left was to give up my worry and fears to Him, and have faith that He would lead me to where I belong, just as He did when my boys and I first walked into the church two years ago.

How your donations continue to help

Learn more at www.highlandcenter.org

Highland
Center
Ministries
LLC



Maggie Lee's Closet

Because of the generosity of our amazing donors, Maggie Lee's Closet opened its doors on December 10, 2012. 32 Lighthouse kids got to select an outfit, shoes and a uniform. Many chose to strike a pose on the runway in their new clothes! Academy-Award winners Brandon Oldenburg, Lampton Enochs and Kevin Koch from Moonbot Studios volunteered their genius in painting a mural inside the closet. Hundreds of Shreveporters donated clothes, shoes, socks and undies for their Maggie Lee for Good project on October 29th. The 2 Chick Fil locations in Bossier City as well as The Moppet Shop are having holiday sock & undie drives as well. The Grand Opening is scheduled for early January.



Men's Gear



The mission of Men's Gear is to share Gods love through providing free clothing for unemployed and under employed men in our area.

People have been very generous since we first began taking donations of clothing. There are some areas where we need more clothes. We especially need men's winter coats in all sizes. We need denim jeans for men in smaller waist sizes. Through a donation from Third Baptist Church in Houston we have been able to buy new underwear and socks. It is only through the generosity of our members and supporters that we can help the men of our community.

Although we have not officially opened, we have already provided help for at least fifty men. We appreciate your continued support for our ministry. The Grand Opening is scheduled for early January.



The Highland Blessing Dinner is the inspiration of Sabra Scoggin and some others in our congregation. We wanted to address the need of hunger and community making in the Highland area so we thought having a dinner for our community was the answer. This dinner is served family style at round tables enabling easy conversation flow. There is a volunteer table host for each table who helps with the passing of the food, takes pray requests and enables the guests to engage in conversation. Each table also has a volunteer server who brings the bowls of food, all drinks and whatever else is needed by the guests to the table. We have served over 2140 people since we opened in April of 2012.

To make this ministry work there are 8 churches involved, each of them supply volunteers as well as funds. The churches are: Church for the Highlands, Noel Methodist, 1st Presbyterian, Cathedral of St. John Berchman, Calvary Chapel, All Souls Universalist, Kings Highway Christian and St. George Greek Orthodox. This ministry has proved to be a community builder for churches and the people of the Highland area.

