



Church for the Highlands/ Highland Center Ministries

New Year Church for the Highlands/Highland Center Ministries Vol. 1, Issue 2

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 Volunteers of America and community partnerships.

Member Spotlight: Shantell Alexander

What does this church mean to you:

This church means the world to me because it helps me see beyond the joys and pains that affect me. It helps open my eyes to the joys, pains and issues that go beyond our church walls and has really helped bring Gods words to life for me. By Jesus' example, our church uses our collective talents in helping others beyond the walls that encompass Church for the Highlands. This is helping me to continuously improve not only my mind, body and soul but those of people I encounter where ever I may see or meet them.

What is a favorite past time of yours?

A favorite pastime of mine is reading books and writing poetry. I published my first book of poetry, Emotions in Motion, in 2006.

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

Saturday's are family day at our home where we gather to discuss what went on during the week and have a nice dinner, a movie is watched and/or a game is played.

What is something positive that has happened this year?

Well the year is still young, besides being thankful for my church, friends and family the most positive thing that has happened to me this year so far is I have become a registered tax professional to prepare this year's returns. It has always been a goal of mine.

January 2013



David Westerfield photography

Rev. John and Jenny Henson

The Best Place for Epiphany

*Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush
afire with God: But only he who sees takes off his shoes.*

~Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Church for the Highlands entered 2013 considering the significance of what it means to have a new year, new challenges, and new opportunities for service. The Season of Epiphany informs us that God continues to reveal His presence and plans for our world beyond the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. With poetic candor, the Browning quote at the beginning of this article describes how this revelation continues all around us. But, do we see it? Are we too busy moving around earth to see that it is "crammed with heaven"?

While there are many suggestions for how to take off your "shoes" and become aware of God's epiphanal moments intended for us, I believe the best way to encounter a burning bush is through service. From day one, our church has focused on blessing the people around us here in Highland through service. The stories and pictures in this newsletter show how that continues on as our primary focus. The impact on lives when we serve others before ourselves is typically readily apparent and measurable. The impact on our lives as we serve can be just as obvious, if we are keeping our eyes open, as we encounter God in the needs, faces, joys, and struggles of the people we get to serve.

Looking forward to sharing a Shoeless 2013 with you.

Making a difference in our church and our neighborhood:

First block party of the year at the VOA GAP 1 and 2 homes



Follow us at:

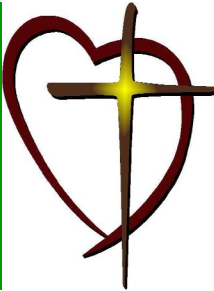
twitter: @forthehighlands, , blog: <http://churchforthehighlands.wordpress.com/>, and Facebook

Worship with us each Sunday:

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

How your donations continue to help
Learn more at www.highlandcenter.org

Highland
Center
Ministries
LLC



Church for the Highlands has created a Christian financial services ministry to address the needs of the people in our urban setting, one deeply affected by the cycle of poverty. Many predatory businesses, such as 12 pay day loan businesses, are within one mile of our church and are some of the sources that keep these people in poverty. After meeting with social workers and people in need in our area this ministry was created. As of now we provide:

- ATM machine that provides access to cash without an outside network user fee.
- Micro-loans that assist with needs from paying utilities and rent to helping with cost of starting a business. These are facilitated by a credit union account that will not overprice the customer like a check cashing vendor. Church member, Monica Grant, was able to start a part time haircutting business through one of these loans.
- Free Tax Preparation through VITA helps keep those in our neighborhood away from the businesses that can charge as much as 40% for instant cash back.



Clothing Donation



Outreach



A Word From Our Highland Ministries Coordinator: Larry Mahaffey

Hello, Larry Mahaffey here. When I came to work for the Highland Center Ministries, I did not have a clue of what I would be doing. Rev. Henson had filled me in but I was not able to see the whole picture. Wow, did I ever have an eye opener.

“Maggie Lee’s Closet”. You have to visit, see and hear what the children say when they are able to dress in pretty things. It is so heart warming to see their expression and see their eyes sparkle. Ladies if you want to make a difference, and do your part in helping in the church, I urge you to visit “Maggie Lee’s Closet”

“Men’s Gear”. Ralph Blake was instrumental in setting up this place for men who in need of clothes and are looking for work, have a low income, or having a hard time meeting their everyday needs. “Men’s Gear” can give a man clothes for almost any occasion. Don’t think we have any PJ’s tho. It is so gratifying to be able to do something for these men. Again I urge the men in church to visit and give some of their time to help Ralph in the “Men’s Gear”

We rely mostly on donations so look through your closet and I am sure you will find clothes that you have not worn in possibly a year. If you have not worn them in a year, you probably will not wear them. Put them to good use by giving them to our programs.

Also we have one day bus passes for people who need transportation to look for work.

Another thing is our Burger King passes for anyone who have not been able to have a meal. It is hard to realize that there are people who go without food.

There are Laundromat vouchers for people who have not been able to wash their clothes. I had a man that came in for a voucher. He lived in a tent down by the river. And yes he was looking for work.

We give out travel size toiletries to those who cannot afford them.

In February we will be offering Free Tax Service thru “VITA-IRS”

Shortly we will see “Pelican State Credit Union” open. They will have all the services offered by a credit union but will be geared to the low-income.

And on Thursdays there is a free meal in the evening at 6pm called “Highland Blessing Dinner”. We partner with a number of churches & organizations to make this possible.

BUT we need volunteers. There are multitude of services you can volunteer for. Call me at [\(318\) 673-8440](tel:318-673-8440). I am sure I can find something for you to do.