

# The Highlands



## Annual Meeting Sunday, January 24th

In accordance with our bylaws, the annual meeting of the Church in the highlands will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of January, the 24<sup>th</sup>, following worship. Annual reports from each Board chair are due in the church office no later than Monday, January 11.

## Pub Theology Wednesday, January 6th

Join us Wednesday, January 6th, at 5:30 PM, at The Lazy Boy Saloon, 154 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, as we seek an intelligent and intelligible way of talking about the transcendent over a pint of beer. All friends of God's creation are welcome to participate in the conversation. Please RSVP to Pub Theology at [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com).

## New Year's Day Open House Friday, January 1st

Please join Melanie and Bill at the Manse:  
26 Idlewood Road  
2 PM - 6 PM,  
for a glass of cheer and to welcome the New Year.

## Sausage Making Class Sunday, January 31st, 3 pm

Get ready for the Big Game and make some Italian style hot & sweet sausage with everyone's favorite master sausage maker (note that is a self-granted title). We will grind, season and stuff our own sausage. Students will get one small jar each of hot and sweet seasoning and at least 1 pound of each sausage to take home. Cost of class is \$30 per person which will cover cost of meat, seasonings and casings. Any net proceeds will go to the church and registration must be made by 1/16. Contact the church office or Bill directly (e: [bill@lanzana.com](mailto:bill@lanzana.com) / 914-462-0671) if you are interested.

## Family Worship Sunday, January 17th

Join us on Sunday, January 17th, for a special service for families and children!

### At a glance...

New Year's Day Open House	Jan. 1
Pub Theology	Jan 6
Family Worship Service	Jan 17
Annual Meeting	Jan 24
Sausage Making Class	Jan 31

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne..*

## Bible Study

Please join us for bible study at 10.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. each Tuesday in the Wheelock Room. At 10 AM, join us as we engage in a “Bible Workbench” discussion based on the Lectionary texts. At 7:30 join us as we discuss Marcus Borg’s thought provoking book, “Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary.”

## Invitation from the Choir

Choir will meet on  
Sunday mornings at  
9:00.  
All are welcome  
to join us!



## Staff Meeting

If you have concerns and/or calendar items that must come to the staff’s attention, please contact the office to add them to the agenda.

## Views From the Pews

Every Sunday and Thursday evening, you may see “Views From the Pews” at 7:00 p.m. on cable channel 76 and on FIOS channel 45.



## Nursery School News

The children have been busy making beautiful art work for the holiday season! Our halls are filled with Holiday cheer, from Christmas trees to Hanukkah menorahs. We are also preparing for a visit from Santa. The children will sing wonderful Christmas songs and get to sit on Santa’s lap and tell him what they would like for Christmas—following up with classroom parties, of course.

Amy’s surgery went well. The doctors expect a full recover and she is expected back after the holiday break. We all miss her and send loving thoughts for a speedy recovery.

A Happy and Healthy Holiday Season to All!

-Joanie Bivas

## Thank You

To the congregation:

I just want to express my thanks and appreciation for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers these past few months. Your caring wishes and support brought great comfort to me and my family.

Sincerely,  
Holly Sanders

## Church League Cookbook

The Church League needs your recipes for their community garden companion cookbook. They are accepting “green,” all natural, seasonal and organic recipes. They are also having a “name the cookbook” contest. See Lorraine for details.

## From the Pastor's Desk...

### A Three Generation Dream

I have heard it said that the first ingredient of success --

the earliest spark in the dreaming youth --  
if this; dream a great dream.

-John A. Appleman

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
You old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

-Joel 2:28

I used to spend a week with my Grandpa in New Mexico every summer. The last time I did it was about five years ago. My brother, sister-in-law, my three nephews, my cousin Tim, his wife and three girls meet up in the mountains of New Mexico to chaperone Grandpa. It was the summer after grandma died and we were all wondering if grandpa would partake in his annual trip to Red River. For forty-eight years straight, grandpa had packed up the pickup with his gold pans, maps, legends and dreams. We collectively decided that at the age of eighty-seven maybe hiking alone at twelve-thousand feet wasn't such a good idea. So we met him and hiked with him.

Grandpa goes to Red River, New Mexico every year because he was told a story, nearly fifty years ago, of a "side-walk" made out of gold. It was a large vein of gold that the Native Americans used as a trail. The story became grandpa's dream.

Every year, as long as I can remember, Grandpa would pack up the truck and say, "this is it. This is the year."

Three generations of Millers have been caught up in the dream. And as the years passed we graduated from horses to dirt bikes to four wheeled ATVs. That last advancement happened when Grandpa turned seventy years old. Grandma insisted that he give up taking his motor cycle up in the mountains alone. They compromised: Grandpa retired the two wheeled bike for a four

wheeler. Grandpa's current ATV is named George.

George is part of the family. This trip George logged nearly thirty miles many of which had three or four great-grandchildren piled on.

After nearly fifty years we've been through countless topographic maps. Grandpa still has all of them. Many worn thin, discolored and covered with notes and Xs marking already scouted and searched areas. We haven't abandoned the maps, but we have added GPS technology to the search.

Now Grandpa can pinpoint exact spots that he wants to investigate. He can leave marked trails and head off into the woods with a computer screen to guide his steps. It helps to have a grandchild blazing a trail ahead of him through downed trees and brush.

As the years pass and we all change the hopes and the dreams stay the same. As we visited all the same wonderful places I remember exploring as a kid, I got the opportunity to share them with my nephews; the remarkable Rio Grande Gorge, the ghost town, Midnight, Poiner Lake, Goose Creek and the staged shoot out at high noon downtown. My nephews and second cousins laughed and marveled at the same sights, sounds and smells their parents were drawn to over thirty years ago. The giggles and the games and the love seems to grow with every passing year.

What a blessing to grow up with a Grandpa who shares his hopes and dreams, no matter how fanciful, with his kids, his grandkids and his great-grandkids. What a blessing to know a man who deeply loves God and the church. He has given three generations of Millers a remarkable gift; a love for family and a love for dreaming about what the world can be like when we love each other and grow with our dreams. May your New Year be blessed with the same.



**Environmental Justice**

**Environmentally Responsible  
New Year's Resolutions for 2010!**

From The Daily Green: the consumer's guide the green revolution.

**1. I will avenge my phantom load.** Phantom load has nothing to do with the pounds that mysteriously appeared on your midsection over the holidays. The term refers to the energy wasted by electronics and power chargers when they are plugged in but not in use. That's right — your computer cord, cell phone charger, and time-telling DVD player are all sucking energy from the outlet even when there isn't anything attached or being watched. Actually cut the power to your electronics by plugging them in to a power strip and flipping the switch to off when you're not watching or listening.

**2. I will be smarter than bottled water companies and drink for free what they are trying to sell me.** Kicking the plastic water bottle habit might sound like an impossible feat if you're as addicted as the average thirsty American; last year we consumed about 50 billion plastic water bottles. If the fact that plastic is bad for the environment doesn't get you to

same H2O that's available from your faucet. So buy an eco-chic reusable stainless steel bottle, and refill it throughout the day — for free.

**3. If I can remember to TiVo "Dancing with the Stars," I can remember to bring my own bags to the grocery store.** It's as if plastic shopping bags are required to exit a store—the disposable sacks are forced on customers even when the purchase is just a can of soda. But plastic bags are made from petroleum and only about 1 percent of the estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion Annie Bell plastic bags consumed worldwide are recycled each year. Most end up in landfills (where they take perhaps 1000 years to decompose) or in the sea. If you start bringing your own bags now, you'll be ahead of the curve if plastic ones become outlawed in your community.

**4. I will switch to recycled paper products at home (but not if they make me chafe).** We know there are some folks out there who must have two-ply, but even you can commit to changing just one thing. Try the paper towels. If brown won't match your kitchen colors, look for recycled paper towels that are whitened without chlorine or stick with washable dishcloths. By purchasing recycled paper products you're preventing trees from being chopped down, and paper waste from ending up in landfills. In addition, less energy and water is required to produce a recycled paper product.

**5. I will take a day off from road rage and take mass transit or car-pool one day a week.**

If you have public transportation options available to you, try switching to the train or bus one day a week. According to the American Public Transportation Association, public transportation use saves 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline each year, and can reduce household expenses by \$6,200. Plus you'll get a day off from road rage. If you don't live near public transportation, try organizing a once-a-week carpool with your neighbors or coworkers. You'll save on fuel, tolls, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by removing cars from the road.

**Important Telephone Numbers  
& Addresses**

Pastor — Melanie Miller

(914) 428-4215 (home)

(914) 671-5390 (cell)

[mmiller@churchinhighlands.org](mailto:mmiller@churchinhighlands.org)

Moderator — Tony Casinelli—(914) 997-1506

Vice Moderator — Gary Vaughan—(914) 328-0687

Treasurer — Veda Szkolar—(914) 682-4728

Director of Music —Dr. Robert A. Chase

(914) 946-8126

Altar Guild —Debbie Oleson—(914) 328-8453

Church Office—(914) 949-2023

Church Office Fax — (914) 686-2816

Church e-mail — [Info@churchinhighlands.org](mailto:Info@churchinhighlands.org)

Web Site —[www.churchinhighlands.org](http://www.churchinhighlands.org)

[www.churchinhighlands.com](http://www.churchinhighlands.com)

Early Childhood Center (Nursery School) —

Amy O'Donnell

(914) 946-6132

[Ecc@churchinhighlands.org](mailto:Ecc@churchinhighlands.org)

**From the Altar Guild**

If you would like to order flowers to beautify the sanctuary for a particular Sunday, please call our Altar Guild chair, Debbie Oleson at (914) 328-8453.

## Order of Worship Change

When the new year begins in January, you will notice a few changes in our Order of Worship. The Board of Deacons, those in charge of worship here at the Church in the Highlands, took on the task several months ago of looking at our Order of Worship and how we could better shape the flow of our worship experience. The Deacons found the following summary of church history written by Larry Kalajainen, the senior minister at Scarsdale Congregational Church, very helpful in our discussion:

“Over the past 40-50 years, one of the most important developments in Christian worship has been the emergence of a nearly universal “shape” of worship, structured by the reading of common scripture texts (lectionary) and marking time by the seasons and rhythms of the church year. This development has been embraced by all “mainline” Protestant denominations as well as some Baptists and “evangelicals”. It began at Vatican II. The ecumenical council convened by Pope John XXIII in the 1960s decided to go back as far as possible (the earliest extant sources date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century) to recover the shape or pattern of the earliest Christian worship. This decision was recognized by both Roman Catholics and Protestants as the true ground for any attempt at recovering and rebuilding Christian unity.

“Throughout the 1970s, Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, Congregationalists (UCC), Disciples of Christ, and many more denominations also re-worked their service orders and built their revised books of worship and their hymnals around this new/old shape. Work also began on developing a common lectionary of readings – an Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel for each Sunday, organized around the seasons of the church year. This task was undertaken by an ecumenical body, the Consultation on Common Texts. Each denomination or local congregation puts its own stamp on this common “shape,” but the shape itself is a guideline to create a sense of “being at home” spiritually across cultural, geographical and denominational boundaries. This “shape” can be likened to a drama in four acts:

### **Act I The Church Gathers in God’s Presence**

Prelude      Greeting      Opening prayers      Hymns of praise  
Announcements – Life of the Community

### **Act II The Church Speaks to God and Listens for God Speaking to US**

Scripture Readings      Anthems      Sermon

### **Act III The Church Responds to God’s Work by Praying for the World and Giving Thanks**

Affirmations of Faith or Creeds      Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession  
Offering of Tithes and Gifts      The Great Thanksgiving (Communion)

### **Act IV The Church Goes Forth to Bear Witness and Live as Christ’s Disciples in the World**

Final hymn      Benediction      Postlude

“This shape itself, as is easily seen, has a coherent internal logic. Many variations within the shape are possible, but the shape itself keeps our worship from becoming idiosyncratic or parochial, and over time, helps form within individuals and congregations a distinctive self-understanding and identity.”

The Deacons welcome your feedback concerning our new order of worship. We look forward to a wonderful new year as our life together grows and evolves. We’re glad you’re on this faith journey with us.

## Stewardship Moment By Bob Grossman

Last year our goal was to narrow the gap between income and operating expenses. Difficult, necessary budget cuts were made. And thanks to your contributions large and small, the challenges to the life and mission of our Church were met.

Our goal this year continues to work toward a balanced budget. We need your continued support. Have you made your pledge for 2010? Please don't forget. Might you increase your pledge? Please do consider that.

“All shall give as they are able, according to the blessings of the Lord your God that he has bestowed on you.”

Sincerely,  
The Stewardship Committee

## Service Opportunities

We need you to play an important role in our worship services - to be a reader or to join the ushers team contact Rob Essick; to be a Communion server, contact Mimi Nacario.

## Submit an Article to The Highlands

Send or e-mail ([info@churchinhighlands.org](mailto:info@churchinhighlands.org)) your article to the church office marked “For Highlands.” Be sure to include your name and phone number. Any articles submitted after the 15th of the month will appear in the next issue of the Highlands.

## Stress Management

Tucked in with Catherine and Charles Lockyear's Christmas letter (Virginia Beach, Virginia) was the following good advice that can benefit one and all:

- Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue
- Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them
- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may be the world to one person.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

... For aed lang syne

*Best Wishes for a  
Happy New Year!*

*From  
The Church In The Highlands*