

**New Year. New Beginnings.  
Same Amazing God!**



**We thank you for your continued prayers  
for this ministry.**

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

7:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday

PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5

ANN SMITH, Director 455-8642

**Celebrating  
56  
YEARS**

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**HighlandBaptistChurch.com**

January 2026

**THE CONNECTION**



Last year, I challenged you to read your Bible through the chronological Bible reading plan, and hopefully you were able to do that. If you didn't get through it all, hopefully, what you did impacted your life for the better. As we enter a new year, I want to give you another challenge: to spend at least a few minutes every day in prayer for your family and friends who are lost, for the church and God's blessing for our future, and to pray for those who are struggling and hurting. Prayer is one of the foundational building blocks of the Christian life, yet it's often the most neglected. We understand the power of a single phone call in the natural world. One call can determine the outcome of a championship game, change the direction of a business, or alter the future of a family. Most of us will never be placed in a position where one decision affects millions of dollars or the legacy of an athlete, but every believer has access to a call that carries eternal significance. God Himself invites us into that moment when He says in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." Prayer is not a religious formality; it's a divine invitation. When prayer dies, spiritual power dies with it. God has done everything possible to invite us, encourage us, and command us to pray, and yet we often find every excuse not to do it.

Think about how quickly we would respond if a famous athlete, a beloved musician, or a famous person invited us to sit down for a private conversation. We would rearrange schedules and overcome obstacles to make that meeting happen. Yet the Creator of the universe invites us daily to come into His presence, to speak openly with Him, and to listen to His voice, and too often we refuse. This is an invitation we can't afford to ignore. Fathers, your family needs you to be a man of prayer. Mothers, your children need to see what it looks like to depend on God. The church and even the nation are strengthened when God's people take prayer seriously. And for the one who doesn't yet know Christ, prayer becomes the doorway to salvation, because calling on the Lord in faith is how a sinner is saved.

God begins this verse with a command: "Call to me." God would never command us to pray if He didn't intend to hear us. Prayer isn't optional for the believer; it's essential. Scripture reminds us that refusing to pray isn't just a weakness, it's disobedience. In 1 Samuel 12:23, the prophet said that it would be a sin to cease praying for God's people. It's amazing that God has to command us to pray. We don't need to be commanded to eat when we're hungry or to seek help when we're sick, yet we have to be commanded to talk to the One who holds our lives in His hands. But God does more than hear prayer; He answers prayer. He says, "I will answer you." God always responds, though not always in the way or timing we expect. Sometimes His answer is yes, and the response is immediate. At other times, His answer is wait, because He knows the perfect moment to act. There are moments when God says no, not out of neglect, but out of love and wisdom.

*Continued on the next page* 

And there are times when God gives us something different and better than what we asked for. God's answers always line up with His will and His purpose for our lives.

Finally, God honors prayer by revealing what we could never discover on our own. He promises to show us "great and hidden things." Prayer isn't meant to be a one-sided conversation. God wants to not only hear our voices but to speak into our hearts. The greatest knowledge we can gain is knowing God's will, and that knowledge comes through prayer. The greatest joy we can experience is walking closely with Christ, and that intimacy is cultivated through prayer. Prayer is the call that reaches heaven every time. God hears it, God answers it, and God honors it. And the greatest call a person will ever make is the call to Jesus Christ for salvation.

Prayer is a vital building block of faith, but the cornerstone of it all is Jesus Christ Himself. When we build our lives on Him, prayer becomes not a duty, but a joy, and the steady foundation upon which everything else stands. Make sure to spend time in prayer every day throughout this new year!

Pastor Jim



## Deacon of the Week

December 27–Jan. 2	Rick Miller
January 3–9	Paco Prince
January 10 – 16	Jason Robison
January 17 – 23	Jonathan Sipe
January 24 – 30	Mark Smith
Jan. 31 – Feb. 6	Roger Williams

## Greeters – January 2026

January 4 – Jimmy/ Kristy
January 11 – Johnny/ Gayle/ Brian
January 18 – David/ Diane
January 25 – Samanthia/ Linda/ Kathy
February 1 – Jimmy/ Kristy

## Security – January 2026

December 27–Jan. 2	Paco Prince
January 3–9	Jason Robison
January 10 – 16	Jonathan Sipe
January 17 – 23	Mark Smith
January 24 – 30	Roger Williams
Jan. 31 – Feb. 6	Stan Smith

## HBC Deacon Family Assignments 2025-2026

Group	Deacon
A-BO	Roger Williams
BR-DOU	Stan Smith
DUN-F	Steve Conner
GA-HEN	Jimmy Gaddis
HES-JOR	Bradley Rogers
KI-MOF	Ben Murray
MON-RAY	Rick Miller
RID-SM	Paco Prince
SN-V	Jason Robison
W-Y	Jonathan Sipe
DEACONS	Mark Smith



Scholarship Reminder: All HBC scholarship recipients are required to submit college transcripts to reflect Fall 2025 grades to the church office no later than January 20th. Grades must reflect a minimum of a 2.5 GPA before scholarship monies will be released for the Spring Semester 2026.

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T MATT KOEHLER  
A JIMMY GADDIS  
F KATHY HASTY  
F AMY JACKSON  
F ANN SMITH  
F MIKE STRINGFIELD

SENIOR PASTOR  
MINISTER OF YOUTH & EDUCATION  
FACILITIES MANAGER  
NURSERY DIRECTOR  
OFFICE MANAGER  
DIRECTOR - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTOR



Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

## January Nursery Volunteers

Nursery Director – Kathy Hasty – If you are not able to serve on your assigned date then please contact Kathy Hasty.

Sunday January 4:

Bible Study: Kelly Farris

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Kelly Farris, Rick Miller

Evening Worship: Samanthia Norman, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday January 7: Kim and Kathy

Sunday January 11:

Bible Study: Liz Bond

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Phil and Traci Henderson

Evening Worship: Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday January 14: Kim and Carrie

Sunday January 18:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: David Inocencio, Kim Dodson, Linda Bolinger

Evening Worship: Terri Stone, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday January 21: Kim and Kathy

Sunday January 25:

Bible Study: Liz and Lauren

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Lauren Fults, Steve Stone

Evening Worship: Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday January 28: Kim and Kathy

Happy New Year!

Parents, Centri Kid will once again be at Lee University June 8th – 12th. A \$125 deposit is due January 15th. We are registered for 15 spots on a first-come, first-served basis. Once you pay your deposit, your kid(s) will be locked in.

Youth camp is June 22nd – 26th in Birmingham, AL, at Samford University. Deposits of \$100 are due by January 15th. Parents, you can pay deposits for both youth camp and children's camp online through our church's giving page. Be sure to designate it as "Kid's Camp or Youth Camp," and please let me know when you pay so it can be recorded appropriately. Deposits can be paid anytime. If you need financial assistance for camp or are interested in providing financial support for our campers, please let me know. We will also have our Chili Cookoff (Feb. 7th) and Cruise In (Date TBD) fundraisers this year to help with costs. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Men, don't forget that the Men's Bible study begins again on January 4th at 5 pm. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by Pastor Jim's office.

Our annual Chili Cookoff will be on February 7th at 5:30 pm. The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board by my office.



7th Annual HBC Chili Cook-Off

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 7TH  
@5:30PM

Reigning 2x Champ: Tony Rogers

Chili Cook Off Competition will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The competition will consist of the Judges Award and the People's Choice Award.

Sign up to compete for a chance to take home the championship belt!

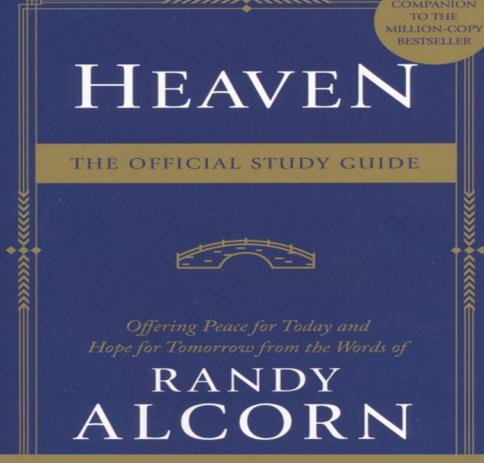
The promotional image for the 7th Annual HBC Chili Cook-Off features a large pot of chili in the foreground. In the background, a man stands holding a championship belt. The text on the right side provides details about the event, including the date (Saturday, February 7th at 5:30 PM), the reigning champion (Tony Rogers), and the competition categories (Judges Award and People's Choice Award). There are also images of championship belts.

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." – William Carey

Looking forward to serving with you in 2026,

Matt Koehler

Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Highlands Highlights
<b>Sound Volunteers – January 2026</b> 12/31/25 & 1/4/26 – Ben Murray 1/7/26 & 1/11/26 – Ben Howell 1/14/26 & 1/18/26 – Ben Murray 1/21/26 & 1/25/26 – Andrew Newton 1/28/26 & 2/1/26 – Ben Murray Wednesday Nights – Janice Davis	<b>Childrens Church – January 2026</b> 1/4/26 – Matt Koehler, Ryan Robison 1/11/26 – Coral Leonard, Jonathan Sipe 1/18/26 – MJ Murray, Joanna Koehler 1/25/26 – Mark Raymond, Ann Smith		1 New Years Day Church Offices Closed	2 Church Offices Closed	3		Counters for January Linda Hawkersmith, Kimber Henry
4 Men's Bible Study 5:00PM  Tribute Quartet 6:00PM	5 Carrie Newton	6	7 Amy Jackson Isaac Lee	8 Bradley Rogers	9 Jennifer Sipe Becky Moffat	10	 HEAVEN THE OFFICIAL STUDY GUIDE Offering Peace for Today and Hope for Tomorrow from the Words of RANDY ALCORN Men's Bible Study: Room 201 Sunday Nights: @ 5 pm Starts: January 4th
11 Deacons Meeting 4:00PM	12	13 Prime Timers 12PM	14 Jimmy Gaddis Gayle McBride	15 Kids Camp and Youth Camp Deposits Due.  Diane Tatum	16 Trey Prince Liz Bond	17 Church Council Meeting 8AM  George Duncan Cesar Villafuerte Doug Ridings	
18  Kylie Prince John Watts	19 Steve Hice	20 Transcripts due for Scholarships.	21 Chesleigh Lee	22 Ryan Robison	23 Elizabeth Warren	24 Katelyn Rogers	 TRIBUTE QUARTET LIVE Highland Baptist Church 808 W Hickory St Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 6:00PM
25	26	27	28 Linda Smith Diane Inocencio	29	30	31 Brad Pearson	Prime Timers Lunch at noon, Jan. 13th 2026

# January

A large, stylized graphic of the year 2026. The digits are composed of various colored geometric shapes, including triangles and rectangles in shades of blue, purple, pink, red, orange, and yellow. The '2' on the left is primarily blue and purple, the '0' is purple and pink, the '2' in the middle is red and orange, and the '6' on the right is orange and yellow. The graphic is set against a white background and has a modern, abstract feel.



Prime Timers  
Lunch at noon,  
Jan. 13th 2026  
Please bring your  
favorite soup,  
salad, and/or  
dessert to share.