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HIGH TIMES

A Ministry of Highview Christian Fellowship
A Bi-Monthly Publication

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Wise Men Still Seek Him



Wishing you all a
happy and
blessed holiday
season!!!



**Bishop-Designate
Phillip O. Thomas**

Season Greetings to you all and a heart-filled wish of a very joyous Christmas. This is a very special season for our ministry in addition to our celebration of the birth of Christ. I am pleased to announce that with our February 2005 anticipated relocation of ministry from the Highview Park Community, we have been led by the Lord to change our name. Effective immediately our ministry will be known as the Highview Christian Fellowship. God has given us a "Higher View" of our endless potential and possibilities to affect the Kingdom Agenda at a whole new level. By faith we welcome the challenge of this new season of power and prosperity!

I have been blessed over the last 7 years of my life to serve as Pastor of a wonderful group of people such as this congregation has been. But more wonderful than that is the fact that this church has existed in the community of Highview Park/Halls Hill for over 100 years. It has managed to maintain its existence up to the point of my leadership, and many of its current and recent memberships, with limited resources and many challenges. Yet God has faithfully allowed the Gospel to be preached with power and many lives to be affected for His cause. Sitting on a hill at the front of a dead-end street, though hard to find without clear direction, God has allowed us to minister life to those who would find their way to our church's safe haven of hope and power

And the Vision Unfolds...

Effective immediately our ministry will be known as the Highview Christian Fellowship. God has given us a "Higher View" of our endless potential and possibilities to affect the Kingdom Agenda at a whole new level.

as they discover the freshness of a new life in Christ.

In the time that I have served as Pastor to this amazing congregation, I have done my very best to seek God's will for His church and to listen and follow His instructions. I have sought His wisdom and His counsel as well as those to whom God has surrounded me. And in doing so, God has given me the courage now to step out on one of the most challenging faith journeys of my life.

Equally as important, the members have embraced the vision to move forward in faith now. And have, as well, sought the will of God for this ministry and this leadership. They have supported this ministry with their time, gifts and resources. Their faithfulness to the call has been evident by their sacrifice each and every week. Even now as God calls upon each of the members to be stretched further than ever, once again they have risen to the occasion.

Now at this most critical time in the history of our church and our world, God is demanding that we move. We most now move from familiar ground, move from our comfort zone, move from what we've become so accustomed to because others are waiting to be served and loved in the manner in which God has called us to.

Therefore, we are called upon to make room for those who are to come both young and old, with all their differences, needs and issues. Yes we expect challenges as we embrace new lives. Yet we've chosen to look beyond the familiar even though we feel a sense of safety in our familiarity.

Thus the vision unfolds. The vision can tarry no longer. Our current facility has eliminated our

ability to grow any further and has limited our ability to provide world-class ministry with its issues. In a few more weeks we will march forward into our next dimension of ministry with a singleness of purpose and the power of God to do a greater work for the Kingdom. As you very well know, this will require a greater level of sacrifice as God will lead. Remember that the promised land had giants to be defeated. Yet, they were well able to take the land and so are we as we walk by faith and not by sight. If God be for us, who can be against us! Pray for us as we take the city!

The Vision

Highview Christian Fellowship – "Providing a higher view of your possibilities in an awesome God."

As our new mission statement shapes our vision we will continue to build on what we have started over the last 7 years. We will preach the gospel to the lost and disciple them to a richer, fuller life in Christ. The vision remains constant. We will develop a world-class ministry that will meet the ever changing needs of our membership, our community and our world. To promote a society and an atmosphere of wholesome, bible-based worship with emphasis on strengthening the family and ministering to the total man. We will prepare and equip the people of God for proactive evangelism by preaching and teaching without compromise, the life changing word of God, thus allowing God's people to experience abundant life on earth as we prepare to spend eternity with the Lord at His return. We will ultimately rely on God's provision for the vision, His wisdom duly imparted to impact with excellence this ministry and its perpetual growth and expansion of the arms of services we now have in place. Stay faithful for the next dimension of ministry. Our possibilities are truly endless with God. Let's go higher Highview.

This is the recipe for the cookies Pastor Thomas referred to in the article "Tis' The Season To Be Jolly" featured in Dec 2003. They have become a Thomas family tradition. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

Snickerdoodles

3 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
 ½ teaspoon baking soda
 ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
 ½ teaspoon salt
 1 cup butter or margarine
 2 cups sugar
 2 eggs
 ¼ cup milk
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 3 tablespoons sugar
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Oven 375°

Grease a cookie sheet. Stir together flour, soda, cream of tartar, and ½ teaspoon salt. Beat butter for 30 seconds; add the 2 cups sugar and beat till fluffy. Add eggs, milk and vanilla, beat well. Add dry ingredients to beaten mixture, beating till well combined. Form dough into 1-inch balls; roll in a mixture of the 3 tablespoons sugar and the cinnamon. Place balls 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet; flatten slightly with the bottom of a drinking glass. Bake in a 375 ° oven about 8 minutes or till light golden. Makes about 66.

Taste of the Test

Still thinking about getting your GED? On the second Saturday in January 2005, you can make that resolution come true! Our helpful experts here at the Mark will help you to take a small taste of the GED test to see what you're in for.

The actual test (in five separate sections) takes 8 hours over 2 days, but here at Highview we'll have an abbreviated version that will take only 90 minutes.

It's a way to experience a small dose of the real test so you can see what it's like. After everyone gets a "taste," we'll go over all the answers. Also, we'll answer any questions you might have about the entire process.

Set aside a morning to see what it's all about. The test areas include English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Writing skills. All are welcome. No charge.

Saturday morning, Jan 8, 2005 8:30 - 12:00 noon
 1845 Columbus St Arlington, VA

Hosted by:
 Mark of Excellence Youth and Adult Education Program
 For more information about the Mark of Excellence visit our website at:
www.markofexcellence.org or call us at (703) 527-0798.

Turkey Basket Distribution 2004

Trucks from churches throughout the area assemble in the Highview parking lot to pick up Thanksgiving turkey baskets for the needy while the Highview missionaries ministry prepared dinner for the workers



Meet the Missionaries...



Special thanks to Missionary Chairman, Josephine Ramsey for another bountiful year.

165 baskets, 16 turkeys and 20 fruit baskets were distributed!!!!

Also, special thanks to the Missionaries for a donating a refrigerator (\$800 value) to the Mark of Excellence transitional housing program.

From A Singles Perspective

Recently, the women of HPCA shared a weekend of harvest time as we celebrated being "Handpicked for the Harvest." Esther 4:14. The singles conversed openly about being abstinent and remaining faithful to the Lord. We were able to share with one another our dilemmas and our victories of being single and overcoming sexual temptations.

Being a minister of the gospel and a single, I find myself often in conversations challenging my position of abstinence. It is imperative that singles remain faithful in communicating our position of being abstinent or celibate. In my church, on my job, and with those outside the body of Christ, I am challenged both physically and mentally as I choose to live a lifestyle of abstinence. Some people are in belief, some people are in disbelief. However, I am chastened and I am firm about my position of remaining faithful to the Lord.

We (as singles) are Livin' our lives like its Golden! Here are the words by Jill Scott on her New CD track 3 as the singles Handpicked for Harvest went away with a new song!!

"I'm taking my freedom/Pulling it off the shelf /Putting it on my chain/Wearing it on my neck/ I'm taking my freedom/Putting it in my car/Wherever I choose to go/It will take me far/I'm livin my life like it's Golden/I'm takin my own freedom/Putting it in my song/Singing loud and strong/Grooving all day long/I'm taking my freedom/Putting it in my stroll/I'll be high steppin' yall/Lettin the joy unfold/I'm holdin on to my freedom/Can't take it from me/I was born into it/it comes naturally/I'm strumming my own freedom/Playing the God in me/Representing His Glory/Hope He's proud of me/I'm Livin My Life like it's Golden!!!"

Freedom in Jesus, I have decided whether the summer ends or begins, I'm going to serve the Lord with gladness (**Psalms 100:2**). I have decided that my present situation is not going to dictate my future. I am going to live my life as Christ has ordained. I am no longer going to be bound by the residue of what people think about me being single, how long I will be single, when I will get married. I am going to live my life like it is Golden. Truly, my life is Golden.

So, as we concluded our evening in prayer we decided that we are going to work on our HAFF by, Humbling ourselves, (**1 Peter 5:6**) having A good name (**Proverbs 22:1**), and Fleeing from our enemy (**1 Corinthians 6:18**).

SOUND THE ALARM!!!

The season called summer is nearly to the end,

I have not encountered the prospect of a new friend.

The nights are long and the days go untended, with thoughts of pleasures going unattended.

The walks in the park,

The picnics, the rain, and the thought of holding hands

Are still estranged.

You don't know my agony,

You can only hear,

My feelings of defeat,

As I sound the alarm, the alarm

That I'm still here

I still have desires,

I still have fire!!!!

Written by Min. DL James



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'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be The Day!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and this sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

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