

**SUNDAYS IN JANUARY**

**January 6** (8:20 am and 11:00 am)  
a.m. *Christ Comes for All People*  
(Matthew 2:1-12)  
NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

**January 13** (8:20 am, 9:40 am and 11:00 am, 6:00pm)  
a.m. *Questions Jesus Asked*  
p.m. Service of Prayer

**January 20** (8:20 am, 9:40 am and 11:00 am, 6:00pm)  
a.m. *Questions Jesus Asked*  
p.m. Service of Christian Baptism

**January 27** (8:20 am, 9:40 am and 11:00 am)  
a.m. *Questions Jesus Asked*  
p.m. Small Groups

**CHURCH STAFF**

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*Houghton Wesleyan Church*  
*PO Box 127*  
*Houghton NY 14744*

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**C.L.E.W. Speaker**  
**Rev. Joe Boot**  
**January 14-16**

Houghton  
*Highlight*

January 2008

Volume 40, No.8

## Trusting God for the Future

Everyone wants to know what the future holds. Some people spend a great deal of time and money on fortune tellers; others can't get through the day without first checking their horoscope in the morning paper. Other people spend their lives trying to predict the future, both the immediate and the long-term in hopes of making the best financial decision, in hopes of choosing the right career path, in hopes of building the most solid relationships, in hopes of walking the smoothest and most carefree path. Everyone wants to know what the future holds.

But no matter how much money we throw away on people who claim to know the future or on people who claim to predict the future, no one knows what the future holds for any of us. People who barter in the stock market follow trends and study portfolios and read *The Wall Street Journal*, but every investment they make is nothing more than an educated guess. The only exception is insider trading and that tends to lead to an undesirable future of its own! We simply cannot know what's going to happen in the future and that is worrisome to us. The uncertainty of what might lie ahead of us makes us feel insecure and nervous. And as we prepare to turn the page of another calendar year, not knowing what the year may bring is disconcerting to us.

It is into this insecurity that God speaks through the prophet: "*For I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the Lord, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future*" (Jeremiah 29:11). Jesus addresses the issue of our concern about the future in the words that Matthew records: "*Do not worry about your life... Can your worries add a single moment to your life?*" (6:25, 27).

The point of both the prophet and Jesus is the same: don't worry about what you can't know; just trust your Father in heaven to care for you and to do what is best for you. Neither messenger promises that the future will be smooth or carefree. Neither messenger predicts that the future will not hold pain and trouble and difficulty that might tax you. But both messengers are confident that God will be present in the future and His presence brings grace to our struggles, peace in the chaos, comfort for the pain, and strength for whatever we must endure.

As the uncertainty of the new year looms ahead of us, of this we can be sure: none of us can know what it will bring. But of this we can also be sure: whatever it brings, God is with us. So instead of worry and fear and anxiety, may our lives be marked by trust and by confidence in Him who loved us and from whom nothing can separate us, including neither the present nor the future (Romans 8:38). Amen.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Wes*

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR...

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness (Psalm 115:1).*

We had a good fall semester of ministry here at Houghton Wesleyan! Many of you deserve much credit for the time, talent and energy you gave to make ministry happen for the glory of our Lord. I want to highlight those with whom I've had the wonderful privilege of working. Special thanks to the following leaders for their love gifts to the Lord through various ministries this past semester:

### COLLEGE MINISTRIES

**College Ministries Committee:** Charles Bressler, Jane Roeske, Sheri Reynolds, Ann Pearse, Rose Jones, Katherine Cogdill, Kaitlyn Berger

**Koinonia:** Kaylan Reynolds, Joel Brubaker, Marc Smithers, Kate Ambrose, Ryan Johnson, Andy Vogan, Dave Allen, John Buteyn, Jesse Fink, Ben Wendell

**Nursing Home Ministry:** Mindy Swancott

### LOGOS Bible Studies:

**Leaders** – Michael Wrigglesworth, Jennalee DeYoung, Susanna Thomforde-Garner, Katherine Cogdill

**Hosts** – Doug & Judi Mayhle, Meic & Ann Pearse, Bill & Jane Roeske, Bruce & Donna Hess

### SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

**Hosts:** Nathan & Casda Danner, Mike & Amanda Cox, Phil & Sue Brooks, Paul & Margaret Johnson, Doug & Judi Mayhle, Phil & Donnie Stockin, Jason & Naomi Smith

**Leaders:** Steve Pocock, Jon Case, Steve Castor, Warren Woolsey, Doug Mayhle, Terry Paige, Jason & Naomi Smith, Calvin Schierer

Thanks to each of you – and to ALL of our ministry volunteers – for giving sacrificially of your time, talents, and energy to the Lord and His Kingdom. The spring semester looks full of promise as we build on your ministry from this past semester and continue to grow and mature in Christ. You are a blessing!

Gratefully His and Yours,

*Pastor Todd*

## Community Page

**All-church Come and Go Baby Shower  
for Doug and Krista Roorbach  
January 6, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
in the church Community Room  
Doug and Krista are registered at Babies R Us  
(online registry # 68342981)  
Hosts are Debbie Shea, Eileen Swanson,  
Ruth Boon and Andrea Boon.**



**Save February 8--10  
for  
Reaching the Nations Across Generations  
the Annual Mission Conference  
at Houghton Wesleyan Church**

**For Peter W. Roeske Snowplowing Services call 567-8632**

**Beginning January 8,  
PLAYGROUP  
continues to meet  
Tuesday Mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Stay-at-home Moms and Dads are welcome to join us with your kids  
for fun and fellowship.  
Invite a friend.  
Any questions, call Faith Roeske, 567-8632.**

**CALL TOM MACHAMER FOR YOUR SNOWPLOWINGNEEDS:  
(716) 498-5100. Many years of experience**

## Houghton Area Senior Citizens

January 4, 9:00 a.m. Senior Citizens Coffee Hour at Subway.

January 10, 12:15 p.m.

### Pot Luck Luncheon at the Church

#### Program at 1:00 p.m.: The Organ Grinder

The story behind Houghton Church's new organ by James Louder, the organ builder.

Please bring your table service and a dish to pass designated by the initial of your last

name: A-F, Salad      G-O, Dessert      P-Z, Casserole.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE PROGRAM BEGINNING AT 1 P.M.

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE WEEK, which begins January 20th, is a week Christians of all denominations have chosen to affirm that human life is of inestimable worth and significance in all its dimensions, including the unborn, the aged, the widowed, the mentally handicapped, the unattractive, the physically challenged and every other condition in which humanness is expressed from conception to the grave. In this regard, we join with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we reflect on the value of God-given life and the importance of sharing this truth with others, through both words and deeds.

Sanctity of Human Life Week is observed in January to mark the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions to legalize abortion. Since then, the scope of the issue has broadened as stem cell research, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, chemical and partial-birth abortion, cloning, xenotransplantation, artificial intelligence and cybernetics have become part of the discussion.

To learn more about these crucial issues and how we as Christians can respond, consider exploring the excellent books and DVDs on various topics in bioethics in our church library, including the new DVD "In the Womb" by National Geographic, or investigate these online resources: **The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity:** [www.cbhd.org](http://www.cbhd.org) ; **Heartlink:** [www.heartlink.org/hottopics/index.cfm](http://www.heartlink.org/hottopics/index.cfm) ; [www.thinkaboutit.com](http://www.thinkaboutit.com) ; **Focus On the Family:** [www.family.org/socialissues/](http://www.family.org/socialissues/) **Sanctity** and **The Center for Bioethics and Culture:** [www.thecbc.org](http://www.thecbc.org) .

## ...Youth News

Check out the Youth Web Page [www.hwchurch.org/Youth.htm](http://www.hwchurch.org/Youth.htm) for permissions slips!

January 9<sup>th</sup> **Staff Only!** Staff planning night! 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. We will eat together, pray together, and plan for the upcoming semester!

"Proverbs: Uncommon Sense!"... continues in January! Join us on Wednesday evenings:

16<sup>th</sup> Youth Group - Jr. High 6:30 - 8:00; Sr. High 7:30 – 9:00

23<sup>rd</sup> Youth Group - Jr. High 6:30 - 8:00; Sr. High 7:30 – 9:00

30<sup>th</sup> Youth Group - Jr. High 6:30 - 8:00; Sr. High 7:30 – 9:00

### Other Events!!

- Prayer Breakfast Tuesday mornings Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 AM in the community room!
- Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup> – **Sunday School teachers** meeting during the Sunday School Hour on the third floor of the Chamberlain Academic building!
- Youth Committee Meeting - 7p.m. – Monday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> in Room 105 at the church.

### Calling all Jedi!

*Fillmore and Houghton Wesleyan Church Youth Groups will combine on Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> for a Star Wars movie Night extravaganza! This event will begin at 6:30 pm and go until Sat. the 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. We will watch **all six Star Wars episodes** in chronological order! (This is not the order in which they were released!) Bring your favorite overstuffed lounge, or bean bag chair, blanket and teddy bear to the Houghton Wesleyan church gym. The cost is \$2 and a two liter bottle of your favorite soda if you can bring one! Wear your best Star wars costume and enjoy a fun evening of great flicks, Lightsaber demonstrations, "Wookie warbling," Star Wars trivia, and much, much more*





**EPIPHANY:** Epiphany, January 6, is a day of great joy for all Christians. It completes the twelve days of Christmas; more important, this is the festival of the manifestation of God's Word made flesh. The central images of the Magi bearing gifts suggest the three races of humanity coming to worship the Christ. A second manifestation was the baptism of Jesus. A third manifestation was the wedding feast at Cana when Jesus first revealed his power. The season of Epiphany continues until Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. The emphasis of Epiphany is on the revealing nature of God, his desire for all people to know his nature and power—the character of his being. The color is green which is a sign of life. The trees green out in the spring to reveal that the trees are still alive. The grass also turns green revealing the life that has been hidden during the winter.

**CLEW SERVICES (January 14-16):** Rev. Joe Boot, the Director of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries in Canada, is an evangelist, apologist, and educator. He is known for his clear communication of the Christian faith in a way that makes sense of the human experience—especially for those who are skeptical or unfamiliar with the Bible. He lives in Toronto with his wife Jenny and daughter Naomi. If you would be interested in hosting Rev. Joe Boot for a meal during CLEW, please contact Pastor Todd (567-2264).

**SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE:** After a lengthy process of investigating the needs of our sanctuary, the sound system is completed. We are working to address the sanctuary speakers, attempting to balance aesthetics and sound quality. Thank you for your generosity that has enabled us to upgrade this important element of our sanctuary gatherings.

**ORGAN UPDATE:** Mr. Louder, and our local people who are assisting him, are continuing to work on the organ. He has been back in Montreal for the holidays, but has been working on the organ there. He returns the first full week of January. We continue to explore and apply for foundation grants that will subsidize the organ costs. We appreciate your prayers for these applications and for all who are working on the organ.

**SUNDAY SERVICE RECORDINGS:** The weekly Sunday morning worship services are available on cassette tape, CD and mp3. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of a worship service or of a particular sermon or sermons, please contact the church office (567-2264).

What does it mean to love? A delightful book in the church library's junior fiction section, entitled *Raphael and the Noble Task* by Catherine Salton, wrestles with this age-old question. Raphael is a carved statue, part lion and part eagle with the head of a dragon, gracing the main entrance to an ancient cathedral in medieval France. He has a loving but lonely heart. After seeking advice from other statues and effigies he comes to believe he is unhappy because he has no noble task. When a desperate, young widow leaves her baby in the cathedral's foundling box below Raphael's perch he at last thinks he has found his purpose, though he doubts his worthiness to accomplish such an assignment. This is a wonderful read-aloud book for the whole family that also has beautiful pen and ink illustrations. Check out *Raphael and the Noble Task*, or any of the other books on display around the library for the month of February.

*He believed (as some people still do even though they are much older and ought to know better) that the things he wanted were the most important things in the world."*

Catherine Salton, *Raphael and the Noble Task*, 22



National Geographic produced *In the Womb*, a DVD added to our library collection to celebrate the Sanctity of Life.

### Alan & Cheri Shea - HCJB and TEN3

Alan has started work at HCJB Global's Technology Center (formerly HCJB Engineering Center) in Elkhart, IN. He is helping out in a number of areas, including backup network administration, creating reports for the inventory & parts management system, and shortly, working with the Digital Radio Mondiale "content server". Right now he is finishing up documentation for the ELWA Generator Control System. Cheri will be starting work with TEN3 (formerly SIM-TEC) in the next few weeks, writing curriculum and other things. She will probably commute with Alan a couple of days each week to work over the internet from HCJB as well as from home.

They are thankful for all your prayers and support for their 8 week stay in Liberia this Summer. The extra two weeks was necessary in order for Alan to help bring the Generator Synchronization project to a useful conclusion. Cheri taught a Vacation Enrichment Program ("summer school") class in elementary science and worked with Lisa Kejr a little bit doing teacher training. She also spent many, many hours developing (writing) elementary curriculum in Bible, science, and social studies (at least 200 pages' worth!). They are talking about doing a short trip back in early 2008 to followup on the work they both helped with this summer, please keep this in your prayers, as they want to go, but only if it is God's timing for the trip.

## OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

A wonderful way to start the New Year would be to read, watch or listen to some of the great resources in our church library. Here are some encouraging things authors of books in the library have to say about the future:

- ◆ The best of all is, God is with us. *John Wesley*
- ◆ Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.  
*Martin Luther*
- ◆ Go through the day rejoicing, for thou art no desolate wanderer, but a beloved child, watched over, cared for, supplied, and defended by thy Lord. *Charles H. Spurgeon*
- ◆ God manages perfectly, day and night, year in and year out, the movements of the stars, the wheeling of the planets, the staggering coordination of events that goes on the molecular level in order to hold things together. There is no doubt that He can manage the timing of my days and weeks. *Elisabeth Elliot*
- ◆ How often I'm troubled about something that looms ahead, wondering how I am to cope when the time comes. Why do I not bring it at once to the Lord, who stands ready with the next grace for the next things? *Elisabeth Elliot*
- ◆ Leave the past to the mercy of God, and the present to the love of God, and the future to the benevolence of God. *Saint Augustine of Hippo*
- ◆ Never dwell on the morrow. Remember that it is God's, not thine. The heaviest part of sorrow often is to look forward to it. The Lord will provide. *E.B. Pusey*
- ◆ The one thing that keeps us from the possibility of worrying is bringing God in as the greatest factor in all our calculations. *Oswald Chambers*
- ◆ To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, we do not know what a day may bring forth. *Oswald Chambers*
- ◆ To pry into what may happen tomorrow is a difficult and painful exercise which saps the strength and uses up the time given us today. Once we give ourselves up to God, shall we attempt to get hold of what can never belong to us—tomorrow? Our lives are His, our times in His hand, He is lord over what will happen, never mind what may happen. *Elisabeth Elliot*
- ◆ We are never safe, but we have plenty of fun, and some ecstasy. *C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain*
- ◆ What God may hereafter require of you, you must not give yourself the least trouble about. Everything He gives you to do, you must do as well as you can, and that is the best possible preparation for what He may want you to do next. If people would but do what they have to do, they would always find themselves ready for what came next. *George MacDonald*

Stop by the library anytime the church is open to check out books, videos, DVDs, and CDs. Don't forget the library has an excellent reference section, a large-print book section, and a growing collection of recorded books.

*She spoke of joy in good times, and patience in hard,  
and of hope even in the bleakest hours of all.*

**Catherine Salton**, *Raphael and The Noble Task*, 41

## Thank You

The Pastoral Staff would like to thank you for your generosity and gratitude to each of us this Christmas season. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and appreciation we felt through the monetary Christmas gift, your personal acts of kindness, and through your spoken words. We feel privileged to be a part of the godly tradition of the Houghton Wesleyan Church and to participate in ministry with you. We look forward to the year ahead and all that God has planned for you and for us.

### BIRTHS

Congratulations to Chris and Noelle Winkens (and grandparents Al and Sylvia Gurley) at the birth of their daughter, Julia Elizabeth, on December 5. She was 6 lbs 2 oz. Congratulations to Eli and Linda Knapp (and grandparents, Paul and Debbie Shea) on the birth of their son, Ezra James born December 5. Ezra weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz.

### MISSION COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY

The Houghton Wesleyan Church Missions Committee is looking for a volunteer to serve as Communications Secretary. This person is responsible to:

- Receive communication via e-mail and US mail from our missionaries and passing on urgent needs and requests to church leaders and Missions Committee members.
- Prepare the Missionary Mailbag from news received from our supported missionaries
- Prepare the Family in Ministry article for the weekly Sunday bulletin.
- Submit the Missions article to the church office for monthly publication in the Highlights

This is a great way to become involved in the lives of our supported missionaries around the world and also with our local ministries right here in Allegany County and Western New York. If you have a desire to serve our church and become involved in this way, please contact the Church Office at 567-2264.



Thank you to those who decorated the church for Christmas:  
Bruce Brenneman, Grace Taylor, Cindy Lu Taylor, Roselyn Danner,  
Margaret Wynn, Joyce Fisher, and Jack Wolfer

### DEATHS

**Please pray for those in our church family who have lost a loved one recently:**

Darlene Bressler at the death of her father; Bill Doezema at the death of his sister Andrea; and Michael Dell at the death of his father.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES IN JANUARY:

Due to the holidays, our children's ministries (AWANA Puggles & Cubbies, Pioneer Girls, and Boys' AWANA Club) will NOT meet on January 2. They will resume their regular schedule on Wednesday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. Thank you.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2ND SEMESTER:

- Pioneer Girls - we have openings for teachers and assistant teachers in our 1st and 4th grade classes. Please contact Sharon Hibbard 365-8236 for more information.
- Children's Church - we have openings for teachers and assistant teachers in the 8:20 and 11:00 church services. Please contact Barb Rangel 567-2838, Elaine Tooley, Karry Beardsley 567-4631, or Bitsy Mayhle 567-8241.

Thank you for prayerfully considering these ministry opportunities.

## FAMILY TIES TO FAITH

*"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds...teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up, write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Deuteronomy 11:18*

Beginning this month and throughout this coming year, every month in the Highlights we will include a resource for families to use at home to "help weave faith in their everyday lives and build God-honoring habits." These ideas, from the November/December issue of Children's Ministry Magazine, are designed to help families and children focus on faith during the week. We hope you will use these ideas throughout the coming year and let us know how they work with your family.

## POSTER JOURNALS

Create a poster journal for each family with the following categories:

~"Thank you, God, for..."

~"Help me, God, with..."

~"God, please bless..."

Families can hang the poster journals in a central place so all family members can write on them throughout the week. On the weekend, family members may talk about the entries on their poster journals, celebrating and thanking God for the good things while praying for God's help with difficult situations or needs they may have.

Scripture: *"O Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord." Psalm 139:1-4*

Included in this month's *Highlights* is the first week of the month's

## RAISING UP SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS NEWSLETTER

The rest of the newsletters for the January are available in the church and Christian Education foyer for those who would like them. The following are ideas for how to use the newsletter.

*Raising Up Spiritual Champions Newsletters* will help you guide your children to become more like Christ. Display a newsletter on your refrigerator or bulletin board. Choose activities and questions for quick discussion as they fit within your lifestyle. Glance at a segment and use it during a teachable moment.

- **Questions to Go:** Ask questions during mealtimes, in the car, at bedtime or any time to get children thinking and to help you know where your children are in their development and understanding.
- **Verse to Chew on:** Read the Bible and talk about the theme-related Bible verse a few minutes in the morning, after supper or before bed.
- **Character Builder:** Help your children become more like Christ in their everyday activities and relationships. A preschool adaptation is included if you have young ones.
- **Connect Your Children to God:** Help your children know what God is like as you guide them in developing a personal relationship with Him.
- **Family Fun:** Integrate fun times into your daily life with these proven ideas for developing a close family.
- **Easy Bonus Activity:** Take a few extra minutes, if you'd like, for one more activity to expand the week's theme. A preschool option is also included.

We pray that God will use these tools to richly bless your families in this new year. The Discipleship Ministry Leaders and the Discipleship Ministry Committee



**Wesleyan Kids For Missions meets again January 20 at 9:40 for grades 1-5. We will study the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Don't forget to bring your offering toward helping spread the Gospel there.**

## Christmas Eve Offering:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Christmas Eve Offering. This year we received \$ 3,557.94 which will be divided between assisting Jerrett and Deb Roy in purchasing a vehicle for their ministry in Papua New Guinea and ministering through the church Benevolent Fund.