



## *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

HIGH PLACES' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 10:30 AM  
THE GROVE THEATER



*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Luke 2: 9-14

## Slow Church

I write this in the hope that we will be grateful to God, who is not about shortcuts that inhibit our ability to grasp who He is and what He is about. When I read *Slow Church, Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus* by Christopher Smith and John Pattison, I had a deep sense “*this is High Places – it is us and it is me*; over 40 years in the making and 25 years since our formal beginnings in March 1990. It has all come about in God’s time and His way.” *Praise!*

Early on, a guiding scripture for our church came from the Book of Joshua, chapters 1 and 2. At the end of a 40 year desert journey of spiritual root building, deepening faith and growing trust in God; Israel sat on the banks of the Jordan River awaiting their abundance in the Promised Land. God had instructed their leader, Joshua, “*Keep your focus on me and what I do. Follow my instructions. Don’t look at what others are saying or doing for your direction.*” Here was a clear Word regarding our High Places church sprout.

So, everything has been done to insure that God alone is guiding our sometimes painful path. The outcome is a group of faithful people who are increasingly tuned in, turned on and responding to the knowledge that God so loved the world that He gave His absolute best: *his son, Jesus.*

Through that gift, God provides the key to restoring to Himself all that is broken in this world, including and especially humanity.

*Slow Church* informs us that God is great. His ways are great. He is patient with us; we who are slow to understand Him and His ways. Growth takes a lot of *dying to self* over time, and increased *living* over time *for the One who established and set creation in motion.*

We are all called to be active participants: to get on board and pursue the passion, vision and mission unique to each person and each faith community. The goal is to positively impact our planet, beginning locally. His way includes an ecology of diversity that enriches and an economy of abundance. High Places is a slow church because that is God’s

way, the way of “*Jesus is Enough.*” He is our *King*; and we are called to follow, faithfully and over the long haul. Thus we sow, reap, multiply and transform the world. So let us reimagine and personalize the High Places Community Church mission, knowing that:

- *Slow Church* – the patient approach is God’s will for us, individually and collectively.
- *The Building* – the real church is living stones; people engaged in the passions, visions and ministries that flow from us.
- *The Church Home* – that God has given us The Grove Theater to serve these ministries and to share with others.

— *Martin*



**2014 High Places Softball Team** ...finishing out a winning season at a local restaurant.





(above) Organizer Mary Hagen and host Bill Scarsbrook making "Feed the People" happen for the Oak Ridge community on Thanksgiving Day; (below) Volunteers stay after High Places' annual "Tired of Turkey" feast to help decorate the Grove Theater lobby, including Melanie Mitchell and two unidentified individuals .



## Feeding the People

Oak Ridge's 4th annual *Feed the People* event was held at the Grove Theater on Thanksgiving day. Over 500 individuals and family members enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings.

*Feed the People* is prepared by the community for the community as a way of thanking God for our many blessings. For individuals and families unable to dine and share fellowship with us at the Theater, volunteers deliver meals to them. Thanks to all who spent hours cooking, serving and cleaning up after this massive community event!

On November 30, "Tired of Turkey" Sunday, High Places enjoyed our own annual feast. But this year the folks who never tire of turkey could enjoy plenty of Thanksgiving leftovers. Other *Feed the People* leftovers were shared among churches and the many volunteers.

### High Places Community Church at the Grove Theater

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# Mountain Movers Fall Festival

On Saturday November 1st, our High Places children's ministry *Mountain Movers* celebrated the season with a day of fun in the lobby of the Grove. The kids enjoyed games, crafts, yummy snacks and other entertainments. The decorations were lively, and kids and adults alike enjoyed the opportunity for fellowship. Many thanks to Kady Marcotte and the volunteers.







## Walking Through the Bible

Sunday, September 7 was Martin's birthday, and this year our founding pastor threw a fun and distinctive party for his church: the *Walk Through the Bible* event.

For those wishing to understand the ancient history of the Bible, this experience provides a refreshing way to capture the story in a nutshell. A large crowd participated in *Walk Through the Bible* discovering how those ancient times fit together in a fun, interactive and memorable way.

Thank you Martin, for sharing your passion for this "big picture" of the Holy Bible as a special gift to us.

*(left) "Walk Through the Bible" proves to be a journey popular with High Places adults, youth & children alike.*

## Oktoberfest

On Sunday, October 5, High Places people shined a light on the change of seasons in a smashing celebration at the Grove. Our church family enjoyed a meal of special Oktoberfest dishes, followed by a crackerjack concert by our friends, *The Ridge City Ramblers*.

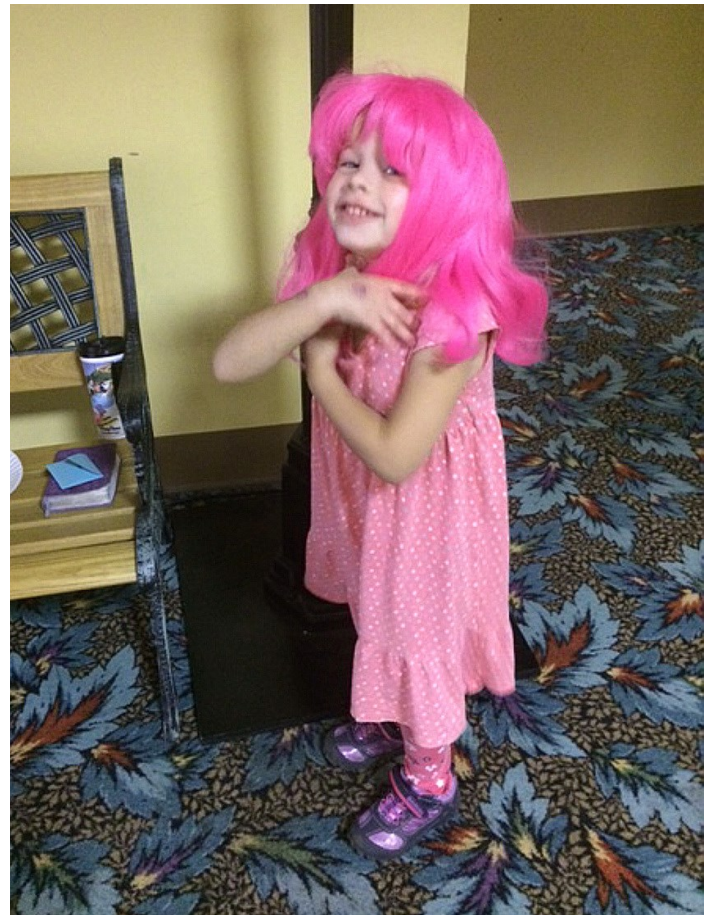
*(right) Steve Reddick and Tom Beehan offer some of East Tennessee's best roots music at High Places' Oktoberfest."*





## The Perfect Gift

(right) New parents Don & Regina Fleischer's daughter Janet & husband Daniel Sims welcoming their daughter Emma Beth Sims on August 13; (below left) missionaries and parents Tasha & Kevin Spann and their daughter Adah welcoming their son and brother Solomon Enoch Anthony Spann on November 11. (below right) Samantha Jackson getting her groove on in her signature color. Praise God for Children!



## Praise & Prayer for 2014

### Welcomed to the World

Kimber Kuhaida  
Emma Sims  
Olive Marie (*Danny & Nancy  
Guy's granddaughter*)  
Solomon Spann  
Lakelee Crider  
Sawyer Sutton  
Eleanor Bahlmann (*Doug &  
Suzie Holub's granddaughter*)

Valerie Kuhaida  
Helen Christine Lynch  
Zeb Martin  
Will McKamey  
Elizabeth Menendian  
Teresa Milora  
Lynn Mitchell  
John Monday  
Myra Carolyn Monger  
Brayden Pearson  
Gina Perry  
Bruce Poston  
Robert Riggs  
Patricia Shultz  
Samm Seifert's grandmother  
Edna and Elmer Smith  
Kenny Smith  
Linda Smith  
Steven Sotloff  
Steve Speelman's mom  
Helen Sue Standifer  
Sherry Waddell  
Margie Wadlington  
Crystal West

### Entered into Eternal Life

Carol Buck  
John Casey  
Mary Cole  
Nick Cutcliff's mom  
Marissa Daniels, age 2  
Elise & Enoch Einwechter  
James Foley  
Charles Frisk  
Leslie Gardner  
Anthony Hampton, age 2  
Tammy Hannah  
Jake Jennings

## UPCOMING AT HIGH PLACES

Sunday December 14 • Christmas Program

Sunday December 28 • No formal gathering

Sunday January 10 • "State of the Church"