

## SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

**February 3** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Did You Wash Your Hands Before Coming to Church Today?* (Mark 7:1-23)  
p.m. Small Groups

**February 10** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. Missions Convention: (H. C. Wilson)  
p.m. Missions Convention Rally: Children's Choir, Ecuador Youth Team, JoAnne Lyon

**February 17** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Is Your Response to Jesus Extravagant?* (Mark 14:1-11)  
p.m. Small Groups

**February 24** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Do the Demands of Jesus Lead You to Flee or Stay?* (Mark 14:50-52; 15:40-41)  
p.m. Small Groups

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS:** If you are interested in joining the Houghton Wesleyan Church, or interested in knowing more about membership, please contact the church office. We are planning a membership class in February.

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

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Volume 40, No.9

## The World Is Our Parish

*But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*  
(Acts 1:8, New Living Translation)

John Wesley's oft quoted words, *The World Is My Parish*, were intended as an answer to those who were inclined to believe that an upright, proper Anglican clergyman would only preach in the local parish to which he was assigned, or at the very least would only preach in a proper place of worship. When Wesley, however, was turned out of the churches and banned from preaching in many of them, he, albeit reluctantly, took the message of salvation to the people. The world was his parish because he preached to the miners in the fields and to the commoners in the town squares; he preached in homes and in places of business; virtually anywhere people would gather to hear, Wesley preached. Historians estimate that Wesley traveled on horseback or in carriage more than 4,000 miles annually and preached more than 40,000 sermons in his lifetime. Since Wesley's death many people have used his words as a motto for world evangelism.

The Wesleyan Church has a long history of seeing the world as its parish, establishing mission stations in dozens of countries. The missionary emphasis has always been a hallmark of the existence of our denomination. Yet this missionary enterprise was not limited to work in other countries, but in this country, too. Wesleyans spearheaded local advances of the abolition movement and were instrumental in the suffragette cause, recognizing the inescapable connection of evangelism and social justice.

Of course, Wesley's motto that has subsequently been taken up by others is rooted and founded in the words of Jesus. Prior to His ascension back to heaven, Jesus meets with His disciples and admonishes them to wait until the Holy Spirit is poured out upon them. Then, when the Holy Spirit comes, He will empower them to go into all the world—the world at large and the world next door. The rest of Acts is the account of Jesus' words coming to fulfillment through His people.

The call to be world Christians rings in our ears, too. The world is still our parish, the world of places like Sierra Leone and Korea and Ecuador, and the world of Arizona and Allegany County and Houghton. It's all the world to which God calls us.

During our missions convention (February 8-10), we will be reminded once again of Christ's call and of our rich heritage of embodying this call. I hope that you will make time to attend each and every session that you can, because sometimes we forget, sometimes our ears fail to hear, sometimes we just need to be reminded that *the world, here and everywhere, is still our parish.*

In Christ,  
*Pastor Wes*

Houghton  
*Highlight*

February 2008

## From the Assistant Pastor

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. – Philippians 1:3-6*

One of our primary tasks as a congregation is to love and minister to the college students who make our church their home during their time here. We have many students who attend here, and unless we are intentional about reaching out to them many of these students will fail to connect in any sort of meaningful way with the life of our congregation.

One of the most important ways to connect with our students is to pray for them. The College Ministries Committee is setting up a prayer partner ministry between members of our congregation and our college students. Would you be willing to connect with one of our college students as a prayer partner for a semester? Many of our college students would love the opportunity to get to know you and pray for you, and I believe you will find such a mutual prayer connection to be a blessing!

In the next few weeks we will have more details available, as well as opportunities to sign up for this new ministry. Please consider this prayer ministry possibility. It's a simple yet extremely effective way that we as a congregation can serve our college students and allow them to serve us in return, thus helping them connect with the life of our church.

In His Love,  
*Pastor Todd*  
Assistant Pastor

## Community Page

### Free Tax Preparation sponsored by Houghton College

In cooperation with the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)

- Tax preparation services for Federal and New York State tax returns focusing on taxpayers with income of \$40,000 or less
- Available every **Tuesday from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** (except 2/26 & 3/25) and **Saturday February 16**, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Chamberlain Center – Room 122
- Make an appointment by emailing Jonathan Mindrebo at [Jonathan.Mindrebo@houghton.edu](mailto:Jonathan.Mindrebo@houghton.edu) or calling the Houghton College Events line at 567-9210 on Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please bring:

- Proof of identity
- Copies of all W2, 1098, 1099 forms
- Social Security numbers for all individuals on your tax return
- Banking information if you want your tax refund direct deposited
- 2006 Tax return if possible

### Wooden Bowls For Sale

Please Turn in to the BOWLING ALLEY, *Where One Good Turn Follows Another*  
Olson Clark, Craftsman  
By Appointment: 585-567-2301  
9906 Luckey Drive, Apt. 2, Houghton NY

### CHURCH STAFF

Church phone number: (585) 567-2264

Wes Oden, *Senior Pastor*, 567-2024, [woden@hwchurch.org](mailto:woden@hwchurch.org)  
Todd Leach, *Assistant Pastor*, 567-8288, [tleach@hwchurch.org](mailto:tleach@hwchurch.org)  
Jon Cole, *Youth Pastor*, 307-9950, [jcole@hwchurch.org](mailto:jcole@hwchurch.org)  
Cindy Oden, *Discipleship Pastor*, 567-2024, [coden@hwchurch.org](mailto:coden@hwchurch.org)  
Amanda Cox, *Worship Director*, 567-4870, [acox@hwchurch.org](mailto:acox@hwchurch.org)  
Laurie Smalley, *Volunteer Pastor for Outreach*, 567-8302, [lsmalley@hwchurch.org](mailto:lsmalley@hwchurch.org)

Church Website: [www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)

## Houghton Area Senior Citizens:

February 1, 9:00 a.m. Senior Citizens Coffee Hour at Subway

February 14, 12:15 p.m. Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Program by Ron Andrews, Short Tract's Wildlife Artist--Art Show

### FOOD GUIDE FOR POTLUCK DINNER

Please bring your table service and the dish designated by the initial of your last name:

A-F, Dessert      G-O, Casserole      P-Z, Salad

### "SEW-ERS"

If anyone is interested in making surgical masks or hats for Africa, patterns are available. Contact Beth Beardsley (567-8117)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your love and encouragement to our family over the 10+ years we have called Houghton home. We will dearly miss you all - especially our former "3rd grade Sunday School kids"! Thanks for your prayers during our continuing transition. We thought you might like to have our address and phone numbers:

Jeff & Janine Spear  
PO Box 813  
Mt. Vernon, OH 43060

Jeff: 740-507-9180  
Scott: 585-567-2108

Janine: 740-507-9178  
Rachel: 585-797-8140

Blessings to all,  
Jeff & Janine Spear and family

Dear Houghton Church Family,

We deeply appreciate your kind words of sympathy and encouragement as we have grieved the loss of Darlene's father while celebrating his life of faithful service to our Saviour. Thank you for upholding us with your prayers and your friendship.

Darlene and Charles Bressler

## ...Youth News

"Proverbs: Uncommon Sense!" ... Finishes in February! Join us on Wednesday evenings:  
6<sup>th</sup> - "Into Focus!"      Jr. High 6:30 - 8:00 / Sr. High 7:30 - 9:00

13<sup>th</sup> - "Don't Be Silly!"      Jr. High 6:30 - 8:00 / Sr. High 7:30 - 9:00

20<sup>th</sup> - O'Dea's Tubing Trip... District-wide event... see info below!

27<sup>th</sup> - Mel Gibson's - "The Passion of the Christ" - Discussion to follow!  
6:30 - 9:30pm Combined group!  
**Permission slip is mandatory for this event!**  
Parents and other adults are encouraged to join us!

### Event info:

Prayer Breakfast Tuesday mornings Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 a.m. in the Community room!  
Youth Committee Meeting - 7 p.m. - Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in Room 105 at the church.

### O'Dea's Tubing Trip! February 20, 2008!

We will leave from the church at 3:50pm, and return at approx. 10:15 pm.  
Cost: \$15 - This price includes pizza, soda, hot chocolate, cookies, transportation and lift ticket!  
Call Pastor Jon for additional information and permission slip! 585 - 307 - 9950

### Ecuador 08 important dates in February:

9<sup>th</sup> - Moving for Ecuador! 1-3 p.m. in the HC PEC  
10<sup>th</sup> - E08 Training 4 p.m.; Presentation in Sunday evening church service!  
17<sup>th</sup> - Ecuador 08 Dinner Fundraiser! Right after church! Look for details in this issue of the "Highlights"! All church members welcome!

Please pray for our team as we prepare to serve the Lord in Ecuador!

Check out the Youth Webpage at <http://www.hwchurch.org/Youth.htm> for more info and permissions slips!

## BUDGET SURPLUS ALLOCATION

At the Annual Meeting last May, the congregation asked the Elders to make the final decision about how to allocate the year-end budget surplus. The Elders, waiting until the sound system project costs were more definite, have decided to allocate the surplus funds using the same formula as originally proposed at the Annual Meeting, which will be as follows:

Partners at Home (10%)	\$ 4,123.30
Partners Beyond (10%)	\$ 4,123.30
Trustee Projects (30%)	\$ 12,369.90
Sound System Project (50%)	<u>\$20,616.50</u>
Total Surplus	\$41,233.00

## 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

### CROSS CHALLENGE

Try playing a seek-and-find game during the week. The objective is to find as many crosses hidden in everyday life as possible. Think telephone poles, signposts, seams on a basketball and tons more. The goal is to make the game a habit, so families are continuously looking for crosses - and constantly reminded of Jesus. Then share your findings at dinner each evening.

Scripture:

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people: then you won’t become weary and give up.” Hebrews 12:2-3

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 February are available in the church and Christian Education foyers for those who would like them.

## TRUSTEE UPDATES

- The Trustees had an Anderson Water Treatment System installed to clean and remove hardness from all water coming into the church from the municipal system.
- The Trustees ordered an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the Houghton church.
- The Trustees have also worked to install a new sanctuary sound system. We are very pleased with the sound quality of the system. The Trustees are, however, working to make the speakers more aesthetically pleasing. Thank you for your support of this project and your patience as we work to complete it.

## LIBRARY CORNER

February brings thoughts of patriotic holidays and Valentine’s Day! Along this line, for children there are *some oldies but goodies*: *From Sea to Shining Sea* by Lucille Hein, and *Celebrating Patriotic Holidays*, books to share with the whole family.

For Valentine’s Day we would suggest a look back at two books: *Valentine Bear* by Eve Bunling and *Winnie the Pooh’s Valentine* by Bruce Talkington.

We have been richly blessed with new DVDs for children. One that has a patriotic theme is *The Journey of the One and Only Declaration of Independence* by Judith St. George. *Shiloh* and *Shiloh Season* are 2 DVDs based on Phyllis Reynolds Naylor’s Newberry Award winning books about a big-hearted little beagle. (It’s right up there with a 3 hankie movie.) Check the DVD shelves for many other new good ones.

Francine Rivers fans will enjoy *The Prince, The Warrior, the Priest and the Prophet* in her new series.

Other new adult fiction include: *Sweet Caroline* by Stephen Bly, *Daughter of Twin Oaks* by Lauraine Snelling and *Every Little Thing About You* by Lori Wick.

Recently Dr. Emmett visited the Kamakwie Secondary School in Sierra Leone to deliver a gift of pens and pencils from Dr. Princell and Houghton College students. The principal expressed his gratitude and showed him the school’s completely empty library as a result of the war ravages. We left him two old classics that we were reading. The Library Committee has decided to undertake a project of sending books for the Kamakwie School library. If you have old classics to share with these secondary students who read English, the Library Committee would be happy to receive them.

Also, if you would be interested in helping to defray the cost of shipping, we would be happy to get them on their way to a new life in West Africa.



## “A Day With Kay”



This special District women’s event will be held at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church on Saturday, March 15, 2008, from 9:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m.

International Bible teacher and five-time Gold Medallion winning author Kay Arthur founded Precept Ministries International with her husband Jack in 1970 with the vision to establish people in God’s Word. Today God is using Precept Ministries to reach more than 140 countries with inductive Bible studies translated into more than 65 languages. Kay is also the teacher and host of Precepts for Life, a radio and television program which reaches a worldwide viewing audience of over 94 million, teaching them how to

discover Truth for themselves.

For more information, please contact the District Office at 716-646-0282. Please register by March 1st. Child care is NOT available. Lunch will be on your own.

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center in the lower foyer of the church. Cost: \$25 advanced tickets or \$30 at the door.

## CHURCH SERVICES ON THE RADIO

We have reconnected the low-watt transmitter enabling us to broadcast our services once again. Unfortunately, because of FCC regulations that limit the size of the transmitter, the coverage radius is limited to Houghton and areas just outside of Houghton village limits. A radio with a digital tuner and an antenna will give the best reception. You can access all of our Sunday morning services at **89.9 FM**.

## CHURCH SERVICES ON THE INTERNET

Thanks to Nathan and Clayton Danner, our Sunday sermons are now available online. You may access them on iTunes ([www.iTunes.com](http://www.iTunes.com)). Most weeks the iTunes podcast is available by late Sunday afternoon. Sermons are posted on the church website ([www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)) by 10 a.m. on Monday. The sermons are also available for reproduction in CD or mp3 format, which may be ordered through the church office. Please let us know if you have any trouble accessing the services.

## Ecuaador ‘08 Fiesta Feast February 17, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



*Cuáker, Ceviche, Patacones, Arroz con Menestra y Carne Asada...* What do these foods have in common? Ecuador and You! Don’t miss your opportunity to experience foods like these... right here in Houghton! Support the Ecuador 08 missions team by coming to the donation dinner on Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup> in the church community room. Enter a tropical paradise, feast on authentic Ecuadorian cuisine, and enjoy fun and fellowship! The meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Reservations are requested. Watch the bulletin for further details in the next couple of weeks!

Congratulations to **Doug and Krista Roorbach** at the birth of **Joy Katherine** on January 26, 6 p.m. at Jones Memorial Hospital. Joy weighed 8 lbs. 0 oz. and was 20 1/4” long. We also congratulate brothers **Jeff, Andrew, and David**.

Congratulations and blessings to **Alison Young, Nic and Hilary Gunning** on their baptism January 20. We rejoice with them in this significant moment in their lives.

We offer our condolences to **Eileen and Paul DeBoer** and their family at the death of Eileen’s father, to **Kristina and Mark LaCelle-Peterson** and their family at the death of Kristina’s mother, to **Daryl and Gudy Stevenson** and their family at the death of Daryl’s mother, to **Deb and Eric Alcott** and their family at the death of Deb’s mother, and to the family of **Beulah Basney** following her death.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES IN FEBRUARY

Our children’s ministries (AWANA Puggles & Cubbies, Pioneer Girls, and Boys’ AWANA Club) will meet on February 6th and 13th. These ministries will NOT meet on Wednesday, February 20th or on Wednesday, February 27th, due to the mid-winter recess and the college break. We will resume our regular schedule on Wednesday, March 5th. Thank you.

## WKFM NEWS

- ◆ Our annual Mission Conference is just about here! WKFM will meet FEBRUARY 10 at 9:40 and is privileged to hear from the Eleuthera Team. Offering for missions will be collected as usual.
- ◆ In the evening rally of the Conference on February 10, we as a group will sing two songs, so do try to sit toward with your child. Going over the words to the songs on the sheet sent home earlier would be helpful.
- ◆ Let’s communicate the excitement and importance of missions both near and far to our children!

## **AWANA PUGGLES & CUBBIES**

Awana Puggles and Cubbies meets on Wednesday nights at 6:30 in the Christian Education Building. Puggles and Cubbies is comprised of 40 children ages 2-5 who joyfully and excitedly meet with their teachers each week to learn about Christ. We are blessed with a great group of teachers, all Houghton College students, who engage the children's minds with Bible stories, singing, crafts, and games. Some of the children shared their favorite things about Awana: "being with friends"-Emma, "playing" - William, "blocks" - Mason, "Coloring" - Lydia, and "learning about Jesus" - Jacob. When asked what they had learned about God one young boy said "I learned that Jesus came out as a baby" - Eli. Not only do the kids like coming to Puggles and Cubbies, occasionally they don't want to leave. One very young child was so happy to be at Puggles he cried when it was time to go! If you have any questions feel free to stop by on Wednesday night and see what Puggles and Cubbies is all about. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Sarah Lingenfelter or Faith Roeske.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday School and Children's Church in February and March

Sunday School: Due to the upcoming college breaks, we have some ministry opportunities in our children's Sunday School classes at various age levels on Sundays, February 24, March 2, and March 30th. For more information, please contact Robin Pawling (567-8496), Betsy Webb (567-4619), or Cindy Oden (567-2264).

Children's Church: We also have several ministry opportunities in Children's Church at the 8:20 and 11:00 services on Sundays, February 24, March 2, and March 30th. We have openings for volunteers in Children's Church on Easter Sunday, March 23rd, at our 10:00 service. For more information, please contact Barb Rangel (567-2838), Elaine Tooley, Bitsy Mayhle (567-8241), Karry Beardsley (567-4631), or Cindy Oden (567-2264).

Please consider involving yourself in the these short-term ministries to our children. Thank you!

## **DEVOTIONAL CLASSICS WINTER TERM**

For the winter term, the adult Sunday School class in Devotional Classics will be reading and discussing Christopher Hall's book, Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers.

Newcomers of all ages are welcome, whether or not they own or have completed the readings. There is always something to be learned by listening or participating. Books are available for about \$12 at the College Book Store.

For further information, contact Steve or Carol Castor at 468-2265.

## **PARTNERS AT HOME**

### **Allegheny Hope Literacy Mentors and Lending Library**

In February 2000, Allegheny Hope began as a project of World Hope in Allegheny County. By creating a pool of dependable workers, Allegheny Hope desired to attract businesses to our area.

This year Lisa Lee, Director of Literacy Volunteers of Allegheny County, spoke with our Board of Directors about a critical need to KEEP businesses in Allegheny County. Individuals applying for work at Dresser Rand in Wellsville are required to pass tests confirming that they can read and do math on an 11th grade level. Several Allegheny Hope mentors began adding literacy training to their skills and encouraged churches to promote literacy. At that time, LVAC had a waiting list of over forty people who desired to upgrade literacy skills to get better jobs. Eight of the 16 Literacy Volunteers who graduated in September were from local churches. A recently acquired computer is being refurbished for GED practice.

Allegheny Hope has also developed a lending library of resources for local churches. Several Crown Financial Workshops and Bible Studies are available and a recent addition, "When God's People Pray," offers 6 sessions of teaching and testimony on prayer by Jim Cymbala. February celebrates eight years of Houghton church's generous support of transformational mentoring to bring hope to the marginalized in our area.

2nd annual event to benefit the Houghton Church Food Pantry

### **BAKE-OFF & AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 6-8 P.M.**

in the Houghton College Campus Center

Live Music Free Food Samples

**DONATIONS ARE WELCOME IN THE CAMPUS CENTER BY 5:45 P.M. THAT DAY.**

## **PARTNERS BEYOND**

### **Wesleyan Native American Ministries, South Dakota and Arizona**

As you consider where to go on summer vacation this year with your family, why not consider Vacation With A Purpose (VWAP), a short-term work program at one of the many Wesleyan Native American ministry sites?? They can always use volunteers to put their God-given skills to use serving in a cross-cultural mission setting. Districts, local churches, youth groups, families, and even individuals can make up a VWAP work team. Most teams come for a week, but they try to be flexible with schedules. Vacation Bible Schools are also used by work teams to impact the children of the communities or reservations. If you have carpentry, electrical, plumbing, or other skills and are interested in participating in this program, please contact WNAM at (605) 343-9054, or email them at wnam@wnam.org.