

Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1101 Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

A thinking, feeling, healing community of faith

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Commitment Sunday: Our 2018 Money Pledge to Highland's Calling

Compassionate Neighbors, our 2017-18 Faithful Giving theme, names Highland's call to be God's light of compassion to all of God's children.

Doing so requires money to fund our work together. This weekend, every member and friend of Highland Baptist Church is asked to publicly commit in writing a confidential estimate of how much money we intend to give in 2018 to pay for our work. Members were mailed a beautiful brochure which includes a tear-off pledge card. If we missed you or it's lost, you can pledge online at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/yearly-pledge/>. Pledge cards will also be available at the end of each pew. Please bring the filled out card on Sunday as together we make our pledges to God by placing them on the Communion Table.

Members unable to attend are asked to mail their pledges to the Financial Secretary at the church. Our thanks to the Faithful Giving Ministry Group and to Paige Harlow for their work in this season.



Tomorrow, November 8: A Conversation with Joe Phelps

Join us tomorrow night, November 8, for our second facilitated conversation with Joe guided by Jim England in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. This week's conversation will look to the future as Joe shares his hopes and vision for the church. Recordings from both conversations will be available on Sunday, November 12.

Highlights Class Offered This Sunday

If you are a new or prospective member, you will want to attend the upcoming Highlights class this Sunday, November 12, 3:00-6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. This class is part of the process for becoming a member of Highland, and is offered several times a year. Joe Phelps and Nina Maples will lead this class which offers an in-depth look at topics such as how our church is structured, how to join, and how to be involved in ministry at Highland. There will be a light dinner served, and childcare is provided with a reservation. For more information or to make a childcare reservation, contact Nina at nina@hbclouisville.org.

Called Business Meetings, November 29 and December 6

There will be a called business meeting on Wednesday, November 29, at 6:00 p.m., for a discussion on the proposed budget for 2018. The proposed budget was presented at the last Quarterly Church Conference on October 18 by Tony Carney, chair of the Finance Ministry Group. It was announced that questions and amendments would be accepted at the called business meeting at the end of November.

There will be another business meeting on December 6, at 6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall to vote on nominations for the Interim Search Committee.

Please come share in these conversations as we plan for the future of our church. If you would like to join us for dinner on those evenings and do not have a standing reservation, please be sure to contact the church office (451-3735; becky@hbclouisville.org) by 11:00 a.m. on the Tuesday before.

A Note from the Personnel Ministry Group

We are happy to share that we have hired a new **Financial Secretary**. Her name is **Anita House** and she has worked in the same position at Calvary Episcopal Church for the last twelve years and at First Baptist Jeffersontown before that. Anita is married to Homer House and they are the proud parents of five children and grandparents to three. They are members of Bates Memorial Baptist Church. She and Homer stay busy going to their grandkid's soccer, football and basketball games. They also enjoy attending UofL Women's and Men's basketball games as well as UofL softball games. Anita enjoys walking, reading and cooking when there is spare time left. Anita will be training this week. Please be sure to welcome her in the next few weeks.

Walter McWhorter has been hired to serve thirty hours a week as Highland's **Operations Director** and will begin on November 15. Walter has been volunteering for the past few months, so he comes to the job ready to move forward with several projects. Walter will oversee the care and use of the building, he will work with technology needs within the office, and serve as the staff liaison to the Technology Ministry Group. Walter will also be working with the Congregational Safety resource group. Walter has been a member of Highland for over thirty years and he is married to Angela Collins. We are grateful for the skills and enthusiasm Walter brings to the job.

A Note from Nina

Joe recently acknowledged that we have spent a third of our lives working alongside one another in ministry. That is a gift! Joe and I have traveled the road together through family tragedy and grief, celebrated moments of pure joy through the rituals of worship, and shared in the honor of ministering to this beloved community of faith. We have cried together at the bedside of those who are breathing their last breaths. We have grieved and celebrated a life well lived as we have presided at funerals of beloved members. And we have stood together in awe when we have recounted the beauty, strength and love of this community of faith we have been invited to serve.

There have been many occasions on our journey together where Joe and I will share a knowing glance in worship. A look that says, "Is this not the most holy moment, and are these not the most beautiful people?" It is a sacred glance that says "don't let this one pass by. Notice it, and hold it" (*continued to page 3*)

Weekend Services

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24
Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus and Justice
Joe Phelps, Proclaimer

Anthem:
How Can I Keep from Singing?
Women's Chorus

Thinking Together...

There are lots of holy moments in a pastor's life—baptisms, weddings, dedications, conversations, healings. I'd add to this list: Commitment Sundays.

At one level, Commitment Sunday seems like a numbers game. Church leaders need to know the total amount we pledge together in order to lead wisely. So, they ask us to tell them.

But, as is often the case in the life of faith, Something Else is at work. There's far more going on this Sunday than simply getting a pledge total for our financial leaders.

Believers pledging a part of their hard-earned income ("energy concentrated" Wayne Oates) to the work of Love in their church is a Holy moment.

It happens in this unique way only once a year. We walk to the Table of the Lord, the same path we humbly walk each month as we come to receive the Gifts of Bread and Cup.

Only this time as we walk the humble path our hands aren't empty and open; they hold our individual or family's written and signed intention to give a specific, sacrificial section of our resources to God through Highland.

It is sacred indeed. I hope you can attend (I'm down to 10 weekends to preach!).

Find the pledge card mailed to you (or pledge online at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/yearly-pledge/>). Talk with your family and God about how much you should pledge in 2018. As I said on Sunday: Some struggle to give from very limited resources. Their giving, though beautiful and important, must be balanced by those of us who have ample resources and more. Our blessings are blessed even more when we are generous with them. ~Joe

Highland's Word To Our Community



Letters of Appreciation

Thank you for your prayers and support during my surgery and continuing rehab. Especially to Nina Maples, Jim Shelton, Jim McBee and Kathy Belcher for their visits and for Kathy sharing the CD of the beautiful concert on October 22. ~ *Dick Schnelle*

Dearest Highland Family, I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful reception this past Sunday. The celebration of my 10th year with you was a tangible representation of the love I've come to know in community here. I was truly overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and by your abundant generosity. With love and deepest gratitude, ~ *Austin*

Admiration, appreciation, and THANKS to our amazing Hospitality Ministry Group! We are blessed by and grateful for their creativity, organizational skills, and generosity with time and talents, in preparing not just one but three unique, lovely, and delicious receptions in celebration of Kathy, Renee, and Austin—all within less than two months' time! Y'all are AWESOME!

Sharing Faith in Action, Telling Your Stories

If you have not yet shared a photo and reflection of your family's faith in action effort in the month of October, or even if you are continuing the effort into this season of Thanksgiving, please send those items to renee@hbclouisville.org by November 16. We would love to post these to our presentation board in the Preschool Commons!

Children's Corner

Sorting Soiree, December 4

During the season of Advent, we have an annual tradition of collection non-perishable foods and toys for those in need during the Hanging of the Green service. We'll gather the following day, Monday, December 4, to sort those foods and pack it into baskets, as well as separate and prepare toys for the annual Christmas Shoppe where people shop for gifts at a greatly reduced cost. Make plans now to join us!

Important Dates to Remember!

December 4	Sorting Soiree
December 10	Children's Advent Music Service
June 26-29, 2018	PASSPORTkids!
July 20-22, 2018	Vacation Bible School Camp

In just over a week, our youth and some amazing volunteers will travel to Aldersgate for our annual Fall Youth Retreat. This year, our theme is "I Am!" which comes from the words of God and Jesus in our scriptures. We will learn together what it means to claim that statement for ourselves—to say "I am who I am!" in the image of God, imperfect, but loved fully and freely for being a unique and complicated individual! The task for us as a youth community is how we each own our own uniqueness while finding God in healthy relationship with one another. Our Fall Youth Retreat is one of the most celebrated events in our year. Our theme will be explored in two morning sessions blending scripture and diverse resources. Then, we will create a Saturday night worship service together with an emphasis on art, participatory elements, youth created liturgy and the tradition of senior youth reflections. In between all that is a lot of fellowship, some free time, exploration of the grounds and trails, roaming goats and rare ducks, and much more! We are excited for all the retreat will bring as another step forward doing life together here at Highland. ~ *Perry*

Youth Corner

Wednesdays

November 8—Faith in Action: the power of social media!
November 15—Film + Theology: Part II
November 22—No Youth Programming: Thanksgiving
November 29—Film + Theology: Part II

Sundays

November 12—Bible Study AM, Girls Groups PM
November 19—No Bible Study: Fall Youth Retreat
November 26—Bible Study AM

Tag: A Benefit Party for Mattingly Edge

This Friday, November 11, Young Adults are heading to the Tim Faulkner Gallery for tunes, art, and games. A silent auction alongside artists demonstrating their craft while inviting attendees to take part will entertain for a good cause. Questions? Contact Steven Carr or learn more about it on the Facebook event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1629456843765396/>.

Young Adult Corner

Sorting Soiree, December 4

The Young Adult and Families with Children Ministry Groups invite families and young adults to our annual sorting soiree. Check the information in the "Children's Corner" at the top of this page for more information.

White Elephant Christmas Party, December 16

Every year, we celebrate the upcoming birth of Jesus with an elaborate white elephant gift exchange. So, start creating, scrounging, and dreaming now for the beauty that you will share this year. The party will be at James and Stacy Fox's home on December 16 at 7:00 p.m. More details coming soon.

Facebook, *Highland Young Adults*

Be sure to like our page to follow our events and join the beauty of our community. <https://www.facebook.com/YoungAdultsHBC/>.

November 9: Libation Theology on Change

Libation Theology provides an informal gathering time to share a meal, nurture communion with the larger faith family, and grow in our understanding of "the worship that is our daily lives." As one person said last month, Libation Theology provides the time to have conversations longer than the 5-minute ones we have in the hallway between worship services.

Join us this Thursday, November 9, for our monthly Libation Theology at 6:30 p.m. This month, we will talk about change as we digest the news about Joe's retirement by sharing how we have individually and communally navigated our way through seasons of change.

We will gather in the loft area at Molly Malone's in St. Matthews (the corner of Shelbyville Road and Breckinridge Lane). Our discussion will be from 7:00 until 8:00. No reservation required. For more information, please contact Carol Harston, Lance Springs or Becki Streif.

Adult Corner

Wednesday Adult Programming in November

As you can read on page 1, Jim England will facilitate a conversation with Joe Phelps this Wednesday *November 8*. We will gather on *November 15* for a conversation guided by Carol Harston for Wednesday night participants to share how Wednesday nights have been a powerful agent of faith formation *and* how we might consider its content, structure, and leadership moving forward. All are encouraged to attend.

We will not meet on *November 22* in honor of Thanksgiving break. *November 29* we will be back for a Called Business Meeting to review the 2018 proposed budget.

What is Friday Church?

Friday Church is a vital and generative nucleus within the Louisville community, where people of all situations and backgrounds can gather in the light of God's transforming love, lifted in prayer, fellowship and song—into lives of hope, faith and healing through the grace of God and the spirit of Jesus.

Friday Church provides a safe, encouraging environment for fellowship, song and prayer, inspired by the Biblical stories of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Friday Church gives people a chance to get to know others from different backgrounds, neighborhoods, etc., by worshipping together.

Friday Church builds a community of faith and prayer that unites us in the light of God's love.

How can you be a part of Friday Church?

Join us every Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Friday Church Corner

Join us!

Christmas Poinsettias

Our Sanctuary will once again be beautifully adorned with red poinsettias this Advent and Christmas. All members are invited to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 in memory/in honor of a family member, friend, or loved one. Please submit payment and information to the church office no later than Sunday, November 26.

Christmas Poinsettias

Given By _____

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____

Please Note:

Articles for the weekly newsletter should be submitted to Andria no later than Monday mornings.

Have you checked out our website lately?

Visit <https://hbclouisville.org> and catch a glimpse into our virtual front door.



This Week at Highland

Tuesday, November 7

Emma Leachman Women's Group (103) 4 p.m.
 Hope for a Brighter Day (FH, Stage) 5:30 p.m.
 G.R.O.W. #1 (103) 6 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8

Fellowship Supper (FH) 5:20-6 p.m.
 Children's Activities 6-7:15 p.m.
 Youth Group (Youth Suite) 6-7:15 p.m.
 Conversation with Joe Phelps (FH) 6:15-7:15 p.m.
 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:15-8:45 p.m.

Thursday, November 9

Senior Adult MG (103) 11 a.m.
 Libation Theology (Off-site) 6:30 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 7 p.m.

Friday, November 10

Men's Small Group (122) 7 a.m.
 Highland Men Gathering (FS) 8 a.m.
 Wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary) 3:30 p.m.
 Friday Church (Sanctuary) 7-7:45 p.m.
 Narcotics Anonymous (FH) 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 11

MensWork Breakfast (FS) 8:30 a.m.
 Wedding (Sanctuary) 5:30 p.m.
 Transgender Women's Group (FS) 6 p.m.

Sunday, November 12

Worship 8:30 a.m.
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 11 a.m.
 Bible Study 11 a.m.
 Families with Children MG (201) 12:30-2 p.m.
 Adult Handbell rehearsal (200) 2-3 p.m.
 Highlights Class (FH) 3-6 p.m.
 Middle School Mentor Group (Off-site) 4-6 p.m.

Monday, November 13

Finance MG (103) 6 p.m.
 Anti-Racism Team (Commons) 6 p.m.
 Jean Janes Women's Group (FH) 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH, Stage) 5:30 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Upcoming Events at Highland

November 8	A Conversation with Joe Phelps
November 9	Libation Theology
November 11	MensWork Breakfast
November 12	Commitment Sunday #1; Highlights Class
November 16	Redlining Conversation
November 17-19	Youth Fall Retreat
November 19	Commitment Sunday #2; Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 22	No Evening Activities/Supper
November 23	Thanksgiving Service and Breakfast

Wednesday Night Menus

November 8

Roasted Turkey w/Gravy
 Sweet Potato Soufflé
 Southern Style Green Beans
 Fall Harvest Salad
 Yeast Rolls
 Dessert

November 15

Pork Tenderloin
 w/ Mustard Sauce
 Scalloped Potatoes
 Steamed Vegetable Medley
 Spinach, Apple Salad
 Rolls
 Dessert

Adults: \$7; Children ages 4-12: \$3.50; Max per family: \$21

Reminder: If you have a reservation you are responsible to pay for it. Cancellations must be made *no later than 11:00 a.m. the Tuesday before your reservation.* You may also contact the church office to make your reservations/cancellations.

Around Highland...

... 2018 offering envelope boxes are set out alphabetically in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Commons. Please pick yours up this week!

This Week's Deacons

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Becky Smith

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Allison French, Vicki Rynnion (C),
 Gene Streible (G), Tyler Swim

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

David Bannister, Libby Cunningham,
 Michael DeWhatley (G), Becky Holloman (C)

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Kathy Belcher (C), Cheryl Davis,
 John Foster (G), David Tucker

Ministry Council Report

Highland Baptist Church Ministry Council met Monday evening, November 6, for several hours. The Ministry Council began working on recognition plans for Joe's upcoming retirement. The Ministry Council, in accordance with the by-laws, mobilized the ad-hoc committee (chair of deacons, three members of the personnel committee and three members of the deacon body) who will be seeking nominations for the interim search committee. Nominations for the interim search committee can be emailed to interimsearchnominations@hbclouisville.org. A special called business meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, where the church will vote on the nominations for the interim search committee. Although nominations can be submitted up until it is time to vote, the ad-hoc committee is respectfully requesting nominations be sent before November 21.

Here is the excerpt from the by-laws regarding the Ad-Hoc Committee and Interim Search Committee:
 "The pastor selection committee will be made up of seven members elected by the church. Members of this committee will be recommended by the congregation to, and subsequently nominated by, an ad hoc committee made up of the chair of deacons. Three members of the personnel committee, and three members of the deacon body. A separate seven-member Pastoral interim committee will be elected by the same means and will be charged with securing an interim pastor and/or supply preachers until a permanent pastor is employed. An interim pastor must be approved by the church."

Respectfully submitted, ~ *Becki Streif*, Vice Chair of Ministry Council

Church Business Corner

Mission Ministry Group Redesign Q&A, Sunday, November 19

Join us in the Commons at 12:15 p.m. if you have questions, ideas, or consideration for the proposed restructuring of our mission work here at Highland. We will give thanks for our past and current missional endeavors, the leadership who has shaped the way for our congregation to think beyond its walls, while also giving thanks for the opportunity to evolve as our work continues.

Redlining Rescheduled, November 16

The Anti-Racism team asks you to join us for this important community-wide dialogue next Thursday at 5:30 p.m. You can read more about the event, RSVP, and invite others through the Facebook event page. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1914427272213992/>.

Jeana Dunlap, director of the Office of Redevelopment Strategies for Louisville Metro Government, will present using an interactive story map that explores how redlining in the past continues to impact Louisville neighborhoods today.



The Christmas Store, December 16

Highland's Community Missions Ministry Group is excited to once again serve our community through The Christmas Store at Highland! For the past four years, this store has served as a wonderful way to build relationships through shopping for Christmas presents with families we have met through a variety of local ministries.

Each year, you generously donate new books and toys, which constitutes the merchandise in our Christmas Store. Parents shop from a variety of items and buy their gifts at an 80% discount. Each year, the store is staffed with a small group of volunteers, so the shoppers can have a true Christmas shopping experience. They select gifts themselves with their individual children in mind.

The store offers gifts for children from birth to age 18. Here are some favorites to get your shopping started: action figures, Matchbox cars, sports equipment, dolls of all skin hues, makeup and nail polish kits, shaving kit, craft kits, electronics, bedding, YA fiction (*Harry Potter*, *Hunger Games*, and *The Percy Jackson Series*), picture books, and children's novels that represent a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and anything featuring a popular character (last year, paw patrol items were a huge hit!). Star Wars is also a must. For ideas, visit https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/MY4WZK6LR8PP/ref=cm_sw_su_w.

We will collect donations during worship at the Hanging of the Green Service on December 3. Please consider using your home or work place as a collection point for toys, and then bring them with you to the service.

If you would like to donate but are unable to attend the Hanging of the Green service, you can place donations in the bins outside of the choir room during the week of December 3. Please join us in giving from our abundance to be the light of Christ in our community this holiday season!

A Note from Nina (continued from page 1)

in your heart." It is a knowing glance that comes after years of expressing this to one another out loud, and is now understood with a smile and a nod. I hold these memories close to my heart for they give me strength for the journey ahead.

I will always be grateful for my brother in Christ who has encouraged me through the years to be more of a minister and leader than I ever thought or imagined I could be. His love and belief in me have helped me grow to be the minister I am today, and I will always be grateful for his trust and support. There will be a void when Joe retires, but his legacy and life will live on at Highland. While I will grieve, I will also rejoice in what has been, and what will be. You are a people of strong faith, and you love one another and God. We will move forward as the Spirit guides us to new ministry, and new ways of doing church together. God is still working in our midst and will continue to surprise us, and call us to deeper faith and ministry. I look forward to the journey ahead with great hope.

P.S. I am still working full time. I never did make it to part time, but there will be an opportunity for that in the future. I am honored to help and provide support in this time of transition. I am still pursuing my classes for Spiritual Direction and will complete those in the near future. That has not been put on hold.

2017 Advent Season at Highland Baptist Church

Four weekend worship services through the Advent and Christmas season—Fridays, 7:00 p.m. and on Sundays, 8:30, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m., unless noted below. In addition to weekly worship, special services through Advent include:

- December 3—Hanging of the Green Service, 6:00 p.m.
- December 10—Children's Choirs Advent Service, 6:00 p.m.
- December 17—Christmas Program & Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- December 24—The Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. morning worship.
- December 24—Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- December 31—The First Sunday after Christmas, 9:30 a.m. morning worship.