

# 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*

#### Inside This Issue...

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## Advent Begins This Sunday with Hanging of the Green Service and Reception

Please join us this Sunday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m., for a joyous service as we adorn our sanctuary and prepare our hearts for the Advent season. Music of the season will lead us in the lighting of candles, hanging of greenery, presenting the star-like poinsettia flowers, and adorning our evergreen tree with Chrismons.

It is our custom to bring toys, canned or boxed food items, books, or monetary offerings to the service. The food will go in Christmas baskets that we provide to Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) for neighbors in our zip code. We also need cash donations to purchase gift cards for the perishable items in the HCM baskets.

The toys and books will be sold at an 80% discount to shoppers at our annual Christmas Store. Those invited to the store are friends we met through our former Shelby Park ministry. Please contact a minister if you need an invitation.

Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The Hanging of the Green Service is appropriate for older preschool children (3's, 4's and Pre-K), and we encourage you to have your child attend the service with you. If possible, **RSVP for childcare by today, November 29**, to [renee@hbclouisville.org](mailto:renee@hbclouisville.org).

A delicious reception follows the service in Fellowship Hall. Please see the article below for information on how you can help by bringing savory snacks and desserts.

Thank you for your part in serving Highland during the Advent season!

## Help Needed for Hanging of the Green Reception

The Hospitality Ministry Group is in need of sweet and savory items for the annual Hanging of the Green Reception, which follows the Hanging of the Green Service, this Sunday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m. You are asked to share one of your favorite sweet or savory items such as cookies, sandwiches, chips and dips, hot appetizers and other finger-type foods.

The ministry group is also seeking volunteers to assist with set up prior to the service and clean up afterwards. Volunteers will, of course, be able to attend the service.

If you are interested in donating a food item or volunteering, contact Ronnie Gilbert.

## Called Business Meetings, November 29 and December 6

There will be a called business meeting **tonight, November 29, at 6:00 p.m.**, for a discussion of 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 **next Wednesday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m.**, in Fellowship Hall, to vote on nominations for the Interim Search Committee and on the new Missions ministry group structure.

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](mailto:becky@hbclouisville.org)) by 11:00 a.m. on the Tuesday before.

## 198 Highlanders Commit \$715,045 to 2018 Budget

We are grateful for those who have made pledges of \$715,045 to our Compassionate Neighbors 2018 Budget Commitment process. Last year at the same time, we had 168 pledges at \$641,728.

Commitments (estimates of giving) allow church leaders to wisely anticipate income and budget accordingly. Without commitments they must rely on prior years' giving patterns, which may not follow into the new year.

Thus, we ask ALL Highlanders to estimate giving for the coming year and allow us to include your estimate in our planning by submitting your confidential commitment to the Financial Secretary, Anita House, at [anita@hbclouisville.org](mailto:anita@hbclouisville.org), or online at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/yearly-pledge/>.

## December 16: HCM Christmas Basket Delivery

Every year, our congregation gives abundantly to those in need in our neighborhood through Highlands Community Ministries (HCM). All the canned good and money collected at the Hanging of the Green service will go towards food baskets for our neighbors. Bible study classes will provide gifts for 12 families through HCM. Would you or your family be willing to deliver food and gifts to our neighbors in need? Beginning Sunday, November 26, you can sign up in the Commons. Basket delivery will be Saturday, December 16, 2:30-4:30 (*NOTE: This is a different time than usual, to accommodate the HBC Christmas Shop which is that morning. All baskets will be ready for pick-up at 2:00 p.m.*). For more information, please contact Carol Harston ([carol@hbclouisville.org](mailto:carol@hbclouisville.org)) or Steve Helm.

## Advent Devotions

This year's Advent daily devotionals will come to you where you are—in the form of an email! Images and words, lovingly crafted by Highland's members and ministers, will center you in the mystery of the season of hope, peace, joy, and love. Everyone on Highland's newsletter email list will automatically receive these daily emails. If you are not receiving these daily devotionals and would like to, you can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/Xo6l>.

## Weekend Services

### The First Sunday in Advent

Mark 13:24-37

*Simple Hope*

Joe Phelps, Proclaimer

Choral Anthem:

*O Come, Divine Messiah*

**Hanging of the Green Service  
6:00 p.m.**



## Thinking Together...

Here's what I want for my birthday, for Christmas, and for a retirement gift from the church: for us to end this year and begin 2018 IN THE BLACK.

That's what I want. More than a party or a plaque or a photograph, this is what I want: for you to help me "end well" by placing Highland on strong financial footing.

This is a big ask. Projections show we need close to \$300,000 to finish the year in the black. This daunting total will require many gifts of all sizes.

Including some really big gifts that only some of us can give.

But some of us can, so I'm asking those who can give more to please do so, even beyond your usual level of giving.

But we don't need just large gifts. We need ALL gifts. And all given with gladness of spirit.

It will be such a morale changer for Highland to enter its next era with courage and confidence. Being financially strong will greatly aid this. A generous offering at this moment in the life of Highland says the members still believe in and remain loyal to our mission: to embody God's love in the unique way that is Highland.

So, to parrot St. Paul: "Make my joy complete." Help me—no—help US finish strong together. ~Joe

## Fall Cleanup Day This Saturday

The Property & Space Ministry Group invites you to help with our Fall Cleanup Day this Saturday, December 2, 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. We have leaves that need to be raked, weeds that need to be pulled, and bushes that need to be trimmed. These happen only with the use of YOUR arms and legs, and the work of your children, friends, and co-members. Bring a rake, a hoe, and pruners, and we'll have bags for collecting debris. We'll meet in the back parking lot at 8:30 a.m. We hope to see you there. Contact Walter McWhorter or Steve Helm for more information.

## This Saturday: Memorial Service for Bill Dinwiddie

A memorial service will be held for Bill Dinwiddie this Saturday, December 2, 2:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.



## 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](mailto:renee@hbclouisville.org) by November 30. 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 Shop where people shop for gifts at a greatly reduced cost. We'll have pizza in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. for those who need to eat prior to the event, and we will begin sorting at 6:00 p.m. To make a reservation for pizza contact Renee at [renee@hbclouisville.org](mailto:renee@hbclouisville.org). Make plans now to join us!

## Children's Worship to Pause During Advent

During the Advent season, Children's Worship will not take place during the 11:00 service. Each week of Advent, we will gather together as a whole community of faith for worship together in this holy season. Children will experience Communion (December 3), Crosses on the Lawn (December 10), the choir/orchestra music program (December 17) and Christmas Eve/New Year's Eve worship as a community (December 24 and 31, respectively). Children's Worship will resume on January 14.

## Worship Care, Bible Study and Childcare During the Advent Season

Classes and care are provided for particular age groups of children during a variety of Advent worship services and special events. Please see the list of services in this week's newsletter to note when Bible study will meet, and when care of varying types is provided. For any service or event outside of the usual Sunday morning rhythm, RSVP by today, November 29 so that we can be sure to have appropriate supervision for our children by emailing [renee@hbclouisville.org](mailto:renee@hbclouisville.org). If your plans change later in the month, it is equally important to let us know if your child will not be attending due to illness or a change in travel plans. Many thanks!

## Important Dates to Remember!

December 4	Sorting Soiree
December 10	Children's Advent Music Service
June 26-29, 2018	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i>
July 20-22, 2018	Vacation Bible School Camp

## Winter Lock-In

Tuesday, December 19, 9:00 p.m.: Arrive at Church

Next Day, 7:00 a.m.: Pick up at Church

The Winter Lock In is a youth favorite to celebrate the end of the semester. It is a night of fun and fellowship designed *by youth, for youth*. A *Sign Up Genius* will be sent out for the help we need (which will be in shifts and clearly defined)! Up to **2 friends** per youth are welcome, but each will need to fill out an HBC Medical form and include an emergency contact number. Lock-Olympics, Underground Church, games, and more—get ready!

Depending on grade, youth will be asked to bring snacks and enough energy to spark a phenomenal time together!

Youth Corner

## Mentor Groups

December 3—NO Mentor Groups

December 10—All Girls Group Christmas Party 7:00-8:30 p.m., Guys Group Outing in afternoon!

We have had a meaningful, life giving fall together in mentor groups! Our groups have been consistent in meeting and shaping their own identities with much to build on in the spring. To cap our fall, we will have two celebrations. MS and HS Girls will gather for a Christmas Party and white elephant gift exchange all together, while the Guys Group will embark on an outing in search of laser tag, an arcade, or something of that caliber. Both of these will take place on **December 10** and details will come this Sunday!

## Advent Season

**Bible Study** will *continue* through December, but **Mentor Groups** will break until January after December 10. **Wednesday Nights** will break after December 6 until January as well!

This Sunday: Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Suite.

## Sorting Soiree, This Monday, December 4

The Young Adult and Families with Children Ministry Groups invite families and young adults to our annual sorting soiree. We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. for pizza and then move to the Sanctuary where the sorting palooza begins. It's super fun. If you haven't been before, come this year and enjoy. Young Adults will also prepare exam care packages for all college and graduate school people.

Young Adult Corner

## Theology on Tap, Tuesday, December 7

Randi Skaggs, Moth Story Teller and host of The Double-Edge Sword, will join us for the conclusion of our three-month series on the theology of storytelling. We gather at 6:00 p.m. and begin the conversation at 6:30 at Molly Malone's on Baxter Avenue. Don't miss it!

## White Elephant Christmas Party, Saturday, 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 on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1816453465313357/>).

This Advent, we are invited to filter out competing voices so as to hear God's good news in its simplicity. God's coming into the world can feel anything but simple. It can seem both complicated *and* trivialized. It can feel overblown *and* reduced. But simple it is, for God's good news is available for all people. God's good news is a gift to be received, rather than a truth to be earned.

We begin our Advent season with *HOPE*. Simply put: Hope is the insistence that tomorrow is more than a repeat of yesterday. In his classic *Prophetic Imagination*, Walter Brueggemann writes that hope "is an absurdity too embarrassing to speak about, for it flies in the face of all those claims we have been told are facts." If we strip away our assumptions, the scripture we read this season will shake the ground on which you stand. Hope of God's presence in the world is powerful enough to jolt us out of our complacency and boldly direct our eyes towards tomorrow.

Isaiah cries out, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence" (Isaiah 64:1). When have you last expressed to God your great desire for God's presence to quake the ground? When have you last spoken aloud your yearning for God's coming in such a way that opens your eyes to see its happening? How do you direct your watching, waiting, and wanting towards God's revelation in our midst?

We pause our Wednesday night adult classes this week (November 29) and next week (December 6) in order to hold two business meetings about Highland's future. We come to these gatherings as people of a *simple hope*—hope in a future that holds more possibility than constraints. Our simple hope reminds us that the details of congregational life matter. How do we desire God to quake the ground in 2018? How are we preparing as if it is so? Join us Wednesday as we plan for God's tomorrow.





## This Week at Highland

### Tuesday, November 28

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Highlights Dessert (Off-site) ..... 7 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 10 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 29

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

### Thursday, November 30

Cream of the Crop Trip (Off-site) ..... 4 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 7 p.m.

### Friday, December 1

Highland Men Gathering (FS) ..... 8 a.m.  
 Friday Church (Sanctuary) ..... 7-7:45 p.m.  
 Narcotics Anonymous (FH) ..... 8 p.m.

### Saturday, December 2

Fall Clean-up Day (HBC Grounds) ..... 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 Worship MG Work Day (HBC Building) ..... 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
 Memorial Service for Bill Dinwiddie (Sanctuary) ..... 2 p.m.

### Sunday, December 3

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.  
 Orchestra rehearsal (Sanctuary) ..... 12:30 p.m.  
 True Colors MG (Commons) ..... 12:30 p.m.  
 Hanging of the Green Service (Sanctuary) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Hanging of the Green Reception (FH) ..... 7 p.m.

### Monday, December 4

Senior Adult Sorting Soiree (Sanctuary) ..... 9-11 a.m.  
 Sorting Soiree (FH/Sanctuary/Commons) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Ministry Council (103) ..... 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 5

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

## Upcoming Events at Highland

November 29	Called Business Meeting
November 30	Cream of the Crop Trip
December 2	Fall Clean-up Day; Memorial Service for Bill Dinwiddie
December 3	First Sunday in Advent; Vote on 2018 Budget; Hanging of the Green Service
December 4	Sorting Soiree
December 6	Called Business Meeting
December 7	Theology on Tap

## Wednesday Night Menus

### November 29

Chicken Tetrastini  
 Southern Style Green Beans  
 Vegetable Salad  
 Harvest Cobb Salad  
 Yeast Rolls  
 Dessert

### December 6

Baked Chicken  
 Roasted Vegetable Medley  
 Fruit Salad  
 Pear, Pomegranate, and Spinach 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.

## This Week's Deacons (Communion)

### Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Kristie Abney (C), Mary Burks, Becky Smith

### Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Tony Dougherty, Allison French (G), Nathan Marrs, Vicki Runnion (C)

### Sunday, 9:30 a.m. (stations)

David Bannister (G), Mary Burks, Bruce Carroll (C), Libby Cunningham, Cheryl Davis, Michael DeWhatley, Becky Holloman, Jim McBee, Susan Pierce

### Sunday, 11:00 a.m. (stations)

Kathy Belcher, Bruce Carroll, Cheryl Davis, Holly Harris, Sharon Sanders, Kim Shippey (C), David Tucker, David Wells

### Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

Kathy Belcher, Mary Burks, Tony Dougherty, Allison French, Becky Holloman, Lewis Miller, Susan Pierce, Kim Shippey (C), Becky Smith (G), Tyler Swim

## Letters from Your Ministers

*This week: Lauren*

Joe Phelps. It's a name with bravado, metaphorically speaking. I first encountered the reverb of this name while sitting at my desk in my former pastorate about two years ago. The ringing church phone revealed "Joseph O. Phelps" on the caller ID. While the church administrator answered and thank goodness it took a moment since she and Joe are friends, I texted Tyler with shaky fingers, "Joe Phelps is calling me!"

The second encounter with the name also included a caller ID alert, this time on my cell phone to share the wonderful news that I got the job here at Highland.

I wonder if we passed the microphone around during worship or throughout the many weekday meetings if the airwaves could handle the inundation of stories about Joe's impact. Not just the vibrato of his name of course, but his presence. His commitments. His strident passion for God's love coupled with his devotion to building relational bridges. His unapologetic evangelism for Gospel living. His writings. His sermons. His care, and well, his love of the *Big Lebowski* and Diet Coke.

Joe, your enthusiasm for Jesus will live on in this congregation, perhaps in the many ways that your name will continue to bring joy. It is a joy that connects folks from all walks, particularly those of us who share a mutual passion for ministry—no matter how long or short the paths cross. I'm so glad ours did here at Highland.

## Alternative Christmas Cards On Sale Now

Please take advantage of this wonderful Christmas gift opportunity. This is Highland's 11<sup>th</sup> year to offer this ministry, and organizations around town look forward to partnering with us now. This year, Highland's mission community offers the following cards:

- Rosie and her children are a family housed in sanctuary through St. William's Catholic Church, since her husband was detained by ICE. A \$15 Alternative Christmas Card will contribute to funds to provide groceries for the family. Last week, we raised nearly \$700 for her. Thank you for your generosity!
- Americana Community Center: Bridging the gap from surviving to thriving for Louisville's refugee population through a variety of endeavors. \$10 cards will provide seeds and tools to the youth garden club, \$20 will sponsor a child's after school program for one week, and \$35 will provide a scholarship to an individual who needs help with a bill, a student applying to college, or one who needs assistance with medication.
- Books and Breakfast Louisville: A monthly space held to discuss social issues affecting the community in a unique way. It encourages and promotes reading among black children and adults. \$10 cards will buy a young adult novel or child's board book. \$20 will purchase non-fiction and socio-political books for adults.

Please shop generously and often (!!!) at the Alternative Christmas Card display in the commons beginning this Sunday and continuing throughout Advent.

## The Christmas Store, Saturday, 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](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 this Sunday, 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!

## Habitat for Humanity

You raised \$2,000 with our offering at the Thanksgiving Day worship service for our annual participation in and contribution to the Baptist Habitat House. We join with other area churches every spring for construction and celebration.

## Robert Davis Travels to Morocco—A Reflection

In mid-November, I was fortunate to represent the CBFKY at the annual Synod of the Eglise Evangelique au Maroc (EEAM), our partners in Morocco. The EEAM celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the installation of 4 recent graduates of the Al Mowafaqa Institute in Rabat as pastors. This celebration meeting was possible due to those who laid the foundation and sustained the church through the years.

The annual Synod had all the markings of a church business meeting and lasted three days—including a 14-hour session. The Synod members' passion for the work of the church is overwhelming. Their work impacts not only on the individuals who are ministered to but also those who lead. One thing that I encounter every visit is their desire to bring hope to those who are "the least of these" looking for a better life. Hope for the future... hope for children... hope for peace and stability. The church works diligently to provide that hope through the work that it undertakes day in and day out.

As part of the celebration of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church, a member of the Casablanca church, Gerard Salzman who is in his eighties and has been a member of the church his entire life shared the following story:

"The elderly lady makes her way to the church in Fez every Sunday. After entering the building she goes to the piano and begins playing the hymns. She plays them loudly and for an hour. What is so unique about this is that she generally plays in an empty church. You see, the church was down to 2 - 3 members. Her reason, if the church had no activity and had the appearance of being abandoned, the government could close the church and take possession of the building. This one individual kept the church alive, - she hoped for the future. Today, this same congregation is thriving as a vibrant and growing, overflowing congregation. One person's hope, faith, and perseverance paid off."

Thanks to the support of congregations and individuals throughout Kentucky we are able to play a part in the work of Hope for not only today but for the future.



## Security at the Church

As part of the increasing need for security in and around our building during the work week, we have begun locking all exterior doors whenever there are no scheduled activities. The normal schedule is as follows:

- \* Monday - doors open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., locked at 2:00 p.m.
- \* Tuesday - doors open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., locked at 2:00 p.m.
- \* Wednesday - doors open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. When there are no evening activities/supper, doors will be locked at 2:00 p.m.
- \* Thursday - doors open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., locked at 2:00 p.m.
- \* Friday - doors locked all day

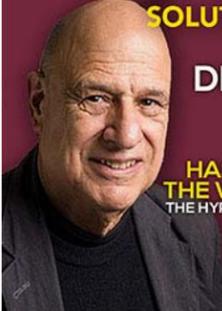
To access the building during times when the doors are locked, please use either the front Educational Building door or the rear Fellowship Hall door and request entry via the black keypad by pressing the "bell" button (circled in green in this picture). Someone in the office will let you into the building.



SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY PRESENTS

# THE WEST LOUISVILLE FORUM

SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN AMERICA



**DECEMBER 6, 2017**  
AT 12 NOON

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:  
**HAS TRUMP MADE A CHUMP OF THE WHITE EVANGELICAL CHURCH: THE HYPOCRISY OF WHITE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**DR. TONY CAMPOLO**  
Professor Emeritus, Eastern University

LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT FREDERICK'S

Eventbrite ST. STEPHEN FAMILY LIFE CENTER 1508 WEST KENTUCKY STREET LOUISVILLE, KY 40210

## Cream of the Crop Christmas Luncheon, December 12

Cream of the Crop is a group, retirement age and above, that gathers monthly. Our activities range from pot-lucks to trips to local places of interest.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday, December 12, for lunch at Buck's Restaurant (425 West Ormsby) at noon. We will meet in the church's back parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and carpool to the restaurant. You may also meet us there! RSVP to Sue Rowe by Saturday, December 9. Please be sure to indicate your driving preference when you make your reservation.



## December 17: Highland Celebrates Season with Annual Christmas Banquet

Christmas is a time to pause our mundane rhythms and gather together in gratitude for our church family and celebration of the good news of God's birth among us. One of Highland's celebratory traditions is the special meal shared and holiday entertainment enjoyed at our annual Christmas Banquet. It is a church-wide effort as the meal is prepared for, served, and hosted by people within the congregation. After our meal, we travel to the sanctuary where we enjoy hearing University of Louisville Cardinal Singers in the sanctuary. Children (kindergarten through second grade) gather in the Children's area for their own fun evening of pizza, activities, and holiday fun. Infants and preschoolers gather for their own time together in the nursery. The annual Christmas banquet is scheduled for Sunday, **December 17, 6:00 p.m.**, in Fellowship Hall.



### Lending a Hand: Volunteer

There are many small ways that you can help make our banquet a wonderful evening. Please go to our Banquet Volunteer List (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4aafa72ca1fa7-christmas>) to sign-up to lend a hand.

### Preparing a Place: Host a Table

One of the most special parts of our Christmas Banquet is the personal hospitality offered by our hosts and hostesses. Would you be willing to help host a table? We will need 25 people to agree to bring dishes, glasses, silverware, and a centerpiece for a table of eight. Hosts and hostesses can invite friends and family to join them at their table, or guests will be assigned. Our hosts and hostesses transform our Fellowship Hall into a beautiful and warm place for all to enjoy the joy of the season. To volunteer, please contact Carol Harston ([carol@hbclouisville.org](mailto:carol@hbclouisville.org)).

### Making Room: Reserve Your Seat

We want to ensure that everyone has a seat at the banquet, so we require reservations and payment in advance. We will begin taking reservations Wednesday, November 29. One can sign up on Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Cost of the meal is \$8 per adult, \$3 per child in grades K-2; and a cap of \$25 for families. Please include in your reservation any children in grades K-2 who would like to participate upstairs in children's ministry or any preschoolers who will be in the nursery. For questions, please contact Carol Harston ([carol@hbclouisville.org](mailto:carol@hbclouisville.org)).

## Around Highland...

... Many thanks to Chet and Phyllis Watson for the beautiful Thanksgiving Day decorations for our service last Thursday.

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

... (pictured below) G.A.V. - God's Anointed Voices - join the Friday Church band to bring some uplifting music.



## Highlights from the Thanksgiving Service and Breakfast



## 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. In addition to weekly worship, special services through Advent include:

### December 3 Hanging of the Green Service, 6:00 p.m.

A joyful service of music and drama as we decorate for the Advent season. Toys, food, and monetary donations accepted for Highlands Community Ministries and Highland Baptist Christmas Shop. A Sweet and Savory reception follows. *Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and twos.*

### December 10 Peace Sunday, 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Services

The Second Sunday of Advent is our time to remember those who have been killed in our city by acts of violence. Names are read and crosses are placed on the front lawn.

### December 10 Children's Choirs Advent Service, 6:00 p.m.

Christmas through the eyes of children is always a wonderful thing! Enjoy singing and scripture from all of Highland's graded choir program—3 year olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The Children's Handbell Choir will also perform. *Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and twos.*

### December 17 Music of the Advent and Christmas Season

Highland's Sanctuary Choir and Orchestral Ensemble will present Vivaldi's *Gloria* in the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. The 8:30 service will not be held this Sunday.

### December 17 Christmas Program & Banquet 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a delicious holiday dinner at beautiful tables decorated by Highland members. A holiday concert by the University of Louisville Cardinal Singers will follow the dinner. Reservations and payment are required in advance. *Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Children, ages K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade will have pizza and activities planned especially for them.*

### December 24 The Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. morning worship.

Please join us for one service on Christmas Eve morning. *Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers. Bible Study Classes will be held for preschoolers. Children, youth, and adults will attend worship.*

### December 24 Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 p.m.

We gather to sing carols of Christmas and hear the reading of the Christmas story as we wonder at the coming of the Christ Child. *Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and twos.*

### December 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.

The centuries-old English tradition of *Lessons and Carols* tells the Christmas story through scripture, carols, and music by Highland's Sanctuary Choir. A candlelight ending send you on your way to mark the birth of Jesus, the Christ. *Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.*

### December 31 The First Sunday after Christmas, 9:30 a.m.

Please join us for one service on New Year Eve's morning. *Childcare is not provided for this service so we can all be together in worship.*

*Alternative gift cards can be purchased throughout the Advent season in the Commons following all Sunday services to benefit Americana Community Center, Books and Breakfast Louisville, and a family currently living in sanctuary through St. Williams Catholic Church.*

## Budget Information

	2017 Annual Budget	2018 Proposed Budget	2017-18 Budget \$ Difference	2017-18 Budget % Difference	2017 Projected Actual
<b>INCOME</b>					
Pledged Contributions	799,838	750,617	(49,221)	-6%	670,640
Non Pledged Contributions	421,664	374,608	(47,056)	-11%	353,799
Loose Contributions	12,397	10,000	(2,397)	-19%	10,996
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>1,233,899</b>	<b>1,135,225</b>	<b>(98,674)</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>1,035,435</b>
Endowment Income	475	475	—	0%	488
Interest Income	384	300	(84)	-22%	295
Wedding Income	900	3,600	2,700	300%	900
Amazon/Kroger Income	—	900	900		912
Building Rental Income	20,400	24,000	3,600	18%	25,226
Wednesday Night Supper Income	12,400	24,500	12,100	98%	16,814
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>34,559</b>	<b>53,775</b>	<b>19,216</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>44,634</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,268,458</b>	<b>1,189,000</b>	<b>(79,458)</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>1,080,069</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Preschool/Children's Ministry	27,600	30,915	3,315	12%	20,859
Youth Ministry	32,470	32,470	—	0%	18,619
Young Adult Ministry	13,900	13,900	—	0%	13,029
Adult Ministry	5,750	7,500	1,750	30%	5,052
Seniors Ministry	3,100	3,100	—	0%	3,005
Hospitality Ministry	2,300	2,300	—	0%	1,674
Food & Beverage Ministry	12,744	24,500	11,756	92%	15,534
Outreach Ministry	9,500	8,000	(1,500)	-16%	5,946
New Members Ministry	600	475	(125)	-21%	371
Deacons Ministry	700	700	—	0%	711
Pastoral Care Ministry	1,900	1,200	(700)	-37%	1,171
Leadership Training/Support Ministry	4,550	3,700	(850)	-19%	2,809
Vision 20/20	5,850	3,500	(2,350)	-40%	5,781
Wedding Ministry	600	100	(500)	-83%	—
Worship Ministry	4,300	4,200	(100)	-2%	4,014
Friday Church Ministry	400	500	100	25%	349
Music Ministry	15,250	15,250	—	0%	16,721
Missions Ministry	126,846	113,523	(13,323)	-11%	114,345
Other Missions/Denominational	13,000	11,600	(1,400)	-11%	9,950
Facilities Ministry	124,900	127,000	2,100	2%	124,259
Finance Ministry	3,993	6,065	2,072	52%	6,308
Technology Ministry	27,484	27,300	(184)	-1%	24,613
Faithful Giving Ministry	1,350	1,250	(100)	-7%	1,300
Office Support Ministry	35,540	35,540	—	0%	28,119
Building Love Debt Services	51,966	51,966	—	0%	51,964
Personnel Ministry	741,865	745,000	3,135	0%	717,639
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,268,458</b>	<b>1,271,554</b>	<b>3,096</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,194,143</b>
<b>INCOME MINUS EXPENSES</b>		<b>(82,554)</b>			<b>(114,074)</b>