

# 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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## Christmas Eve Services

Highland offers two Christmas Eve Services for your family and friends to attend. The candlelight service at 4:00 p.m. includes singing Christmas carols and reading the Christmas story from Luke's gospel. Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers and twos.

The 6:00 p.m. service is based on the centuries-old English tradition known as the Service of Lessons and Carols. It tells the Christmas story through the reading of scriptures, the singing of carols, and the gifts of music by the Sanctuary Choir. A beautiful candlelight ending, bringing the sights and sounds of Christmas, will send you on your way as we mark the birth of Jesus the Christ. Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

**Reminder:** We will have only our 9:30 worship service on December 24, with Bible study classes for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. On December 31, we will have only our 9:30 worship service—no Bible study or Worship Care—so we can all be together in worship.



## Weekend Services The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Luke 1:26-38

*Simple Love*  
Joe Phelps, Proclaimer

Reminder: No 8:30 and 11:00 Services.  
Join us for Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00.

## Holiday Changes to Our Regular Schedule

- **December 6-January 3:** No Wednesday evening activities/suppers.
- **December 24:** 9:30 a.m. worship only. Bible study for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. No 8:30, 11:00 worship. Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00.
- **December 25, 26 & January 1:** Church offices closed.
- **December 26 & January 2:** No newsletter.
- **December 31:** 9:30 worship only. No 8:30, 11:00 worship. No Bible Study. No Worship Care.

## We Need You! What You Need to Know about Highland's End-of-Year Finances

- Through December 18, 2017, expenses have exceeded income by \$125,000.
- Expenses for December are projected at \$40,000.
- Church income for the first three weeks of December is \$60,200.
- To meet estimated actual expenses for 2017, **\$165,000** is needed by 12/31/17.

Please make sure you have given to God's work at Highland as you have intended. All mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 30, 2017. If you prefer to deliver your gift to the church, the office will be open until noon on December 29, or you may drop your gift in the offering plate on December 31. To inquire about your giving year-to-date, contact Anita House at [anita@hbclouisville.org](mailto:anita@hbclouisville.org) or call 451-3735. Thank you for your offerings and may God bless you in this Advent Season.

## Giving Thanks This Christmas Season for Highland Baptist Church



**Christmas Banquet:** With the lights dimmed in Fellowship Hall, the sight of 190 smiling faces seated around 25 beautiful tables warmed the congregation's heart as it prepares for a significant change in 2018. The annual Christmas Banquet provides us the opportunity to extend our hospitality and give generously to draw together our faith family and break bread during this sacred season. So many people made this event possible. We give thanks for Walter McWhorter, Jerre Bassett, Becky Martin, Nina Maples, and all of our support staff; our cooks (Ronnie Gilbert, Geoff Hale, Tyler Swim); our hosts and hostesses (Jennifer Baker, W.D. and Troy Burden, Katie Chapman, Elizabeth Clements, Tanya Cornely, Mary Cooksey, Robert and Cheryl Davis, Lori Foster, Roy and Alecia Fuller, Phillip Garrett, Reece and Sandy Little, Doug Lowry, Becky Martin, Jim and Gloria McBee, Karen Park, Nina Maples, Lauren and Tyler Mayfield, Norma Pendleton, Cheryl Priddy, Kathey Golightly Sanders, Marilyn Sanders, Sharon Sanders, Alison Schureck, Elise, Gene Streible, Linda Tomes, Marilyn and Dave Tucker, Kim Waller, Marilyn Whisler); the Bible study classes who helped take down walls and set up Fellowship Hall (Prodigals, Simple Community, Messengers); and all of our childcare helpers (Brittany Carden, Jenny Falcone, Jillian, Molly Garrett, Carol Hawkins, John Pacyga, Rachel, Alyssa Shippey, Paxton Vaughn).

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## Thinking Together...

Christmas at Highland buoys our hope, celebrates our peace, focuses our joy, and unleashes our love. Highland sings and enacts our unity in Christ and the power of the gospel of love as thoroughly and authentically as any church I've ever known.

Christmas coincides with the end of the calendar year, which corresponds to Highland's financial year. Last week, we needed close to \$200,000 to finish 2017 in the black. After this weekend, our new number is close to **\$165,000** with ten days and two abbreviated Sundays to go.

We have the money...it's in members' individual bank accounts.

Those who give sacrificially throughout the year cannot give more. Thank you for what you've given to keep us a dynamic faith community.

Some of you intended to give and haven't yet. Don't wait until the weekend to give an offering; go online and do it now! Or mail a check to the church. Or make your offering to God at Sunday's 9:30 Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve morning services.

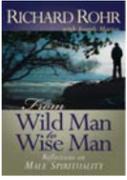
This is one of my final missions as your pastor: To enter 2018 in strong financial shape so Highland can face its future with Spirited courage and creativity.

When each of us gives joyfully and sacrificially, there will be enough money. Just as when someday we each give and receive joyfully, there will be an Abundance.

May the mystery of Christmas awaken us to a new dream. ~Joe

## Highland's Word To Our Community





## Rohr Study Group for Men Begins January 9

"From Wild Man to Wise Man" is a primer for men about masculine spirituality by Father Richard Rohr. The group will be held each Tuesday beginning January 9, 7:30-9:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room. There are twelve spots available. The book can be purchased for about \$13 or less on most online sites ([https://smile.amazon.com/Wild-Man-Wise-Reflections-Spirituality/dp/0867167408/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1513703074&sr=8-1&keywords=Wild+Man+to+Wise+Man](https://smile.amazon.com/Wild-Man-Wise-Reflections-Spirituality/dp/0867167408/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1513703074&sr=8-1&keywords=Wild+Man+to+Wise+Man)). Please contact Phillip Garrett to register for the group.

## Letters from Your Ministers

*This week: Renee*

A few months ago, I searched out and listened very late one night to Joe's interview on the Louisville Public Media radio show, *Five Things*. Word travels quickly about interviews and podcasts that cause us to pause, reflect, think, and this one had been on that fast track of news. With an active toddler in the house, I was perhaps the last one to find the time to listen, and so midnight at the end of a very long day became the appointed hour.

While listening, I heard the spirit of the Joe that I have come to know and love over the past decade, the spirit that we as a community of faith have come to know and love over 20 years of ministry together. In his familiar conversational tones and lilt, I heard his voice tell a vulnerable story of grief and loss that shaped his faith. I sensed the sincerity and genuine care for the people of this world that aligns and guides him as he walks through his days. I felt and resonated again with his deep love for, deep trust in, and deep hope because of God.

There's no doubt that we have all been mutually shaped by this life we have walked together at Highland, and I am grateful for the gift of these days working alongside Joe. I'm grateful for one who has been the voice of challenge to my risk-averse self to remember to risk boldly. I'm grateful for one who challenges my quiet voice to speak up. I'm grateful for one who despite the ugliness of the world most days, still trusts that something good will come of it and constantly reminds us of God's role as that longed for, hope-filled world takes shape.

I imagine retirement to be a sort of culmination of one's life work, where each of the experiences and aches and pains and joys and sorrows all bubble over and shape you into the person you will be as you move forward and are birthed into the next season of life and calling. The experiences and relationships aren't left behind, but instead are carried with you continually—forming and re-forming and forging a Velveteen Rabbit sort of "realness" that defines you in a new way as you launch into an unknown future and beyond. The work doesn't end, the essence of who are doesn't change, but our life together takes a new form.

May it be so for Joe and for Highland as we walk through these sacred and forming days and weeks of ending well together.

## Around Highland...

... The weekly Highland Men Gathering on Fridays at 8:00 a.m., will not meet during the month of December.

... If you have not picked up your 2018 offering envelopes, please do so! They are located in the office workroom (across from the women's restroom on the first floor). As of today, there are 48 boxes and it costs \$3.00/each to mail them out. Thank you!

### Children's Worship to Pause During Christmas and Epiphany

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 Christmas Eve/New Year's Eve worship as a community (December 24 and 31, respectively), as well as January 7 (Communion/Epiphany). Children's Worship will resume on January 14.

Children's Corner

### 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 so that we can be sure to have appropriate supervision for our children by emailing [renee@hbclouisville.org](mailto:renee@hbclouisville.org), ideally the Monday prior to an evening service. If your plans change, it is equally important to let us know if your child will not be attending due to illness or a change in travel plans.

### Important Dates to Remember!

June 26-29, 2018 PASSPORT *kids!*  
July 20-22, 2018 Vacation Bible School Camp

After a remarkable fall in community with one another, we are taking a break from Wednesday programming and Mentor Groups! Once the Spring begins, we will be off and running before you know it, with HBC Got Skillz on February 25 at Highlands Community Ministries, Middle School Missions Madness in March, Youth Led Worship and Banquet, and meetings about our summer trips to DC and Greensboro, too! Hopefully, you and your family will enjoy a Christmas season of peace and joy—it is good to pause for rest after all we have done so far and before all we have ahead! ~ Perry

Youth Corner

#### Sundays in December

December 24—No Bible Study, No Mentor Groups  
December 31—No Bible Study, No Mentor Groups

#### Wednesdays in December

December 20—No Programming  
December 27—No Programming

Get Ready for **HBC Got Skillz**—February 25

The church is preparing to rest over the next few weeks as the calendar year winds down and Christmas reaches its culmination in the birth of Christ. Our adult **Bible Studies** will return from their hiatus on Sunday, January 7, and our **Wednesday Night** gatherings resume Wednesday, January 10, with a Quarterly Church Conference. **Libation Theology** returns Thursday, January 11, 6:30 p.m., at Molly Malone's in St. Matthews. A full preview of topics and dates of our Wednesday night classes from January-May will be featured in our January 9 newsletter. We hope that *you* will make it a News Years resolution to join us in 2018 as we journey together, being transformed by God's Love and joining the work of God to create a world where justice and love are abundant!



### Fifth Friday Fellowship Supper December 29

Please join us next Friday, December 29, at 6:30 p.m., for the Friday Church Fifth Friday Fellowship Dinner!

We will be serving a variety of soups, breads and desserts. Dinner will be followed by singing along to great music and hearing an inspirational message!

Also, if you would like help with dinner, we are always in need of people to prepare soups and desserts. Please contact Debbie Lemmon if you would like to volunteer.



Friday Church Corner

### Quarterly Church Conference January 10

The Ministry Council would like to remind all church members the next Quarterly Church Conference (QCC) is Wednesday, January 10, at 6:00 p.m. The QCC will be providing a membership report, a finance report, an update to the Ministry Group restructure plan and asking the church to vote on changes as well as an informational update from the Interim Search Committee. The Ministry Council invites and encourages all church members to attend this important work of the church.

Church Business Corner

# This Week at Highland

## Tuesday, December 19

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Youth Lock-in begins ..... 9 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 10 p.m.

## Wednesday, December 20

No Evening Activities/Supper  
 Youth Lock-in ends ..... 7 a.m.

## Thursday, December 21

Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 7 p.m.

## Friday, December 22

Friday Church (Sanctuary) ..... 7-7:45 p.m.  
 Narcotics Anonymous (FH) ..... 8 p.m.

## Sunday, December 24

Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Bible Study for Infants, Toddlers, Pre-K ..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Candlelight Service (Sanctuary) ..... 4 p.m.  
 Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary) ..... 6 p.m.

## Monday, December 25

Church Offices Closed

## Tuesday, December 26

Church Offices Closed  
 Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 10 p.m.

## Wednesday, December 27

No Evening Activities/Supper

## Thursday, December 28

HBC Bookends (103) ..... 2 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 7 p.m.

## Friday, December 29

Friday Church Fifth Friday Fellowship Supper  
 (Commons and Sanctuary) ..... 6:30-7:45 p.m.  
 Narcotics Anonymous (FH) ..... 8 p.m.

## Sunday, December 31

Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.

## Monday, January 1

Church Offices Closed

## Tuesday, January 2

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.

## Wednesday, January 3

No Evening Activities/Supper

## Thursday, January 4

Theology on Tap (Off-site) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 7 p.m.

## Friday, January 5

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

## Saturday, January 6

Sanctuary Choir Epiphany Party (Off-site) ..... 6:30 p.m.

## Sunday, January 7

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.  
 Worship MG (103) ..... 12 p.m.  
 True Colors MG (Commons) ..... 12:30 p.m.  
 Young Adult Hymns for the Hymnless (Sanctuary) . 7 p.m.

## Monday, January 8

Anti-Racism Team (101) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Finance MG (103) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Ministry Council (Commons) ..... 6 p.m.

## Tuesday, January 9

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Richard Rohr Book Study (FS) ..... 7-9 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 10 p.m.

## This Week's Deacons

### Friday, 12/22, 7:00 p.m.

Becky Holloman, Mike McFall (C)

### Sunday, 12/24, 9:30 a.m.

David Bannister (C), Bill Martin,  
 Lewis Miller (G), Vicki Runnion

### Sunday, 12/24, 4:00 p.m.

David Bannister (C), Tony Dougherty (G)

### Sunday, 12/24, 6:00 p.m.

Bruce Carroll, Mike McFall (G),  
 Kim Shippey (C), David Wells

## Next Week's Deacons

### Friday, 12/29, 7:00 p.m.

Bill Martin (C), Becky Smith

### Sunday, 12/31, 9:30 a.m.

Allison French (G), Nathan Marrs,  
 Lewis Miller, Vicki Runnion (C)

## Giving Thanks This Christmas Season for Highland Baptist Church *(continued from page 1)*

**HCM Christmas Baskets:** Nearly every weekday over the past month, Steve Helm would make his way into my office with a new report—contacts made, plans firmed up, spreadsheets reviewed, food arranged, boxes set up, and volunteers gathered. I would share updates on our Bible Study classes' generosity and we would discuss the plans for the great tradition of delivering our Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) Christmas Baskets. For the past month, Steve gave his volunteer time to ensure that Highland was ready to share good tidings, food, and gifts for our neighbors in need. His dedication to this endeavor was a gift in and of itself, as he served as the link between the gifts gathered and their HCM recipients. Indeed, our 17 Bible study classes embody the gospel call for generosity and compassion every year by shopping for these neighbors. Classes gather money, shop for requested items, wrap presents, and deliver them to the church office as an act of love. We give thanks for all those who made our HCM Christmas Baskets possible—Steve Helm, JoAnne Taheri, Robbie and Margaret Merrick, and all of our Bible Study Classes.

The best Christmas traditions are those that invite us to embody God's love in acts of sacrificial love. May the memories of this season bless our year ahead! ~ Carol



## Highland's Christmas Shop

A resounding THANK YOU! to all who contributed gifts and books, cookies and snacks, volunteer hours, promotional materials—including the fabulous video, as well as prayer and warm energy for this annual holiday ministry. We welcomed 30 families to the shop, which means we provided gifts for 102 children! *Friends, what a spectacular offering!* Further, we collected over \$1,000 to purchase toys and other needs for the shop next year.

The unsold toys were donated to Kentucky Refugee Ministries' holiday festival and the Survivors of Torture Recovery Center. Please offer joy and thanksgiving to the team leaders:

Allison Keenan, Jill Ligon Davis, Elizabeth Howell Boldt, and Justin Boldt.

*"This event always reminds me of human's desire to multiply love. This is not only clear by interacting with the shoppers but in the little acts that make this event possible. From the guys who stayed after the NA meeting on Friday and helped us set-up tables, to the fat that as Jill, Elizabeth, and I were looking for volunteers and currying favors to make this thing happen, we didn't hear a single 'no.' It makes me so happy to see individual gifts of baking, hospitality, conversation, decoration, language, humor, child-whispering, accounting, and the elusive gift of being able to wrap non-rectangular packages being combined in such a beautiful way. Thank you all so much for your time, energy, and general awesomeness." ~ Allison Keenan*

## Alternative Christmas Cards

Church, your support this year is unprecedented. We raised \$3,455 for our gift card recipients. May your generosity spark joy and love for those receiving these thoughtful gifts that truly pay it forward. You have empowered a migrant family, supported reading and community development among Louisville's African American community, replenished Americana's Community Garden with seeds and new tools, and sponsored refugee children in their after-school studies and programming at Americana. On behalf of the Justice, Global, and Community Missions Ministry Group and the Anti-Racism Team hear this full-throated, "Thank You!"

- Groceries for Rosie = \$1,900, equates to several months' worth of food for her family, including ingredients to make and sell her tamales from home.
- Books and Breakfast Louisville = \$555, at least 35 books.
- Americana Community Center = \$970.

