

# 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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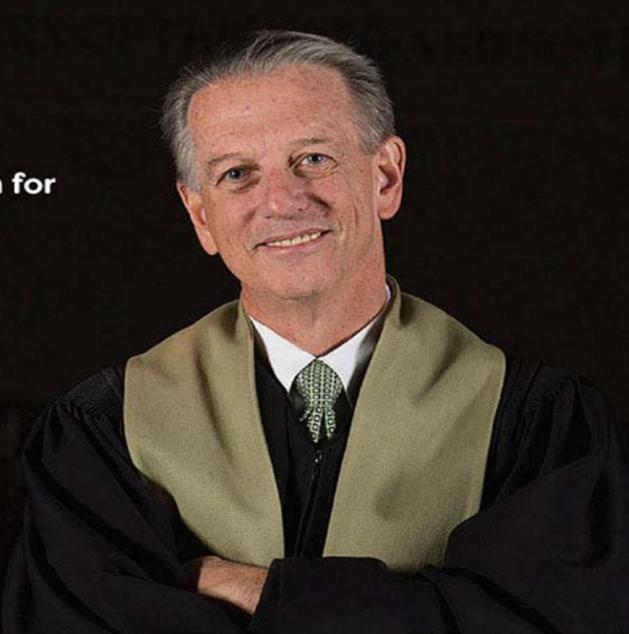
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**A Day of Celebration for**

## JOSEPH OWEN PHELPS

**Senior Pastor of Highland Baptist 1997-2018**



**Final Sunday**  
Sunday, January 21, 2018  
8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 Morning Services

**Afternoon Reception**  
3:00-4:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

**Celebration Service**  
4:30 p.m. Sanctuary

A Legacy Fund has been created to celebrate the achievements and milestones Highland has reached under the leadership and guidance of Senior Pastor, Joe Phelps. Visit [hbclouisville.org](http://hbclouisville.org) to choose **DONATE** followed by Joe Phelps Legacy Fund.

During the Celebration Service, we will offer childcare for infants, toddlers and 2s. We will not be providing care for children during the reception. **If you plan to use childcare during the celebration service, a reservation will be necessary** as spaces are limited and will be provided by caregivers outside of Highland. Contact Renee Purtlebaugh to reserve a space for your infant, toddler, or 2 yr. old child by **Wednesday, January 16.**

*Highland Welcomes...*



**Bryan & Elizabeth Cobban**



**Jonathan Holifield**



**Addison Ingram**

### Quarterly Church Conference Tomorrow Night

Our Quarterly Church Conference will be held tomorrow, January 10, at 6:15 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. The topics for the meeting are listed below. Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

1. Membership report
2. Finance report
3. Ministry Council - new members
4. Ministry Group restructure update
  - a. Missions Vote
  - b. Operations vote
5. Ad Hoc Interim Search Committee update

The Pastoral Interim Committee will bring our recommendation regarding the employment of an interim pastor/preacher and other proposed changes. The congregation will vote on the recommendation in all services on Sunday, January 21. The members of the Pastoral Interim Committee are: Molly Braun, Diane Brewer, Allison Keenan, Chip Miller, John Pacyga, Abby Self, and Roy Fuller, chair.

### Weekend Services Second Sunday after the Epiphany

*In Conclusion: Trust Love*  
Joe Phelps, Proclaimer

Anthem: *Lord God, You Have Called Your Servants*

### Thinking Together...

It suddenly occurs to me that after next week I won't need a Tuesday reminder to write a newsletter column.

After next week, I will no longer have this platform I've had for most of my 42 years of ministry to "think together" with the church about one thing or another.

We've rambled through lots of terrain in these weekly monologues. I've promoted one cause or another. One fund raising effort or another. I've encouraged, prodded, cajoled, begged, and argued. I've witnessed, celebrated, wondered, and wept with you in these weekly word-meetings.

And you have responded faithfully, confidently, wisely.

Writing weekly to the church has been a welcomed task. It is centering and clarifying to have a weekly appointment to sift through words in order to dialogue about God's dream with such a spiritually powerful faith community.

That's what you are, Highland. You are so much more than your pastor, or your staff, or your building, or any of your generous weekly acts of love.

Highland is even more than all of these pieces of our puzzle.

Highland is a holy concoction of

- faith and doubt
- tradition and rebellion
- holiness and humanness
- courage and concern
- ugly cries and irrepressible laughs
- tender and snarky
- humble and self-congratulatory
- prophets and priests—

all mysteriously woven together by Jesus into a *tie*, so to speak, that bind our heart in Christian love.

So, though this form of weekly dialogue ends, that tie remains strong, unbreakable. ~Joe

### Highland's Word To Our Community



## Children's Worship Returns January 14

After a pause for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Children's Worship returns this Sunday! We will pause again on January 21 so that all can be present for Joe's final Sunday together, and return to our regular pattern on January 28.

Children's Corner

## Advent and Christmastide Volunteer Thanks!

The season of Advent and Christmas fills our calendars with festive times of celebration and gathering, and with that comes care for Highland's youngest ones. A special thanks to each of our Bible study teachers and worship care volunteers who served throughout the season, particularly on Christmas Eve morning. A special thanks also goes to the 21 child caregivers who served during special events like Hanging of the Green, the Children's Advent Program, Christmas Banquet, and Christmas Eve worship services: Molly Braun, Brittany Carden, Niki Clayton, Elizabeth Clements, Holly Cunningham, Tara Davis, Jenny Falcone, Jillian, Molly Garrett, Addison Gray, Carol Hawkins, Allison Keenan, Connie Marrett, John Pacyga, Rachel, Norma Pendleton, Carly Phelps, Terri Phelps, Alyssa Shippey, Tammy Thompson, and Paxton. The Advent and Christmas season would not be possible without the willingness of many to give time and talent to care for, sing with, laugh with and spend time with these young children who are forming their faith journey through each interaction with a caring adult or youth who is an example of God's love to them. We are so grateful for this gift!

## Virtual Book Study for Parents

This spring, we hope to explore the possibility of hosting a virtual book study beginning in February for an hour or so during your lunch hour at work, once every two weeks! If you would be interested in participating, please contact Renee Purtlebaugh by January 23.

## Important Dates to Remember

February	Teacher Appreciation Month
March 25	Easter Festival
June 26-29, 2018	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i>
July 20-22, 2018	Vacation Bible School Camp

## Wednesday Nights Return Tomorrow!

All youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Wednesday Nights, 6:00-7:15 p.m., in the Youth Suite! This Spring, we will creatively engage a variety of relevant subjects in a more relaxed, informal setting. Much of what we do is youth generated, with a blending in of issues that arise from everyday life, timeless questions for people of faith, and much, much more. We still read and talk a bit (as on Sundays), but we also use art, music, film and other mediums to creatively explore different subjects. Among others things this Spring, we will tackle a number of issues the youth have chosen, as well as a unit for Black History Month that will be something you don't want to miss! We hope you will join us, whether you can come regularly or every once in a while—you are always welcome!

Youth Corner

## Bible Study Starts with Belief

Or rather, what it means to believe. Each Sunday morning we gather at 9:30am in the Youth Suite to study the Bible through Highland's progressive identity. Throughout the year, this means that we engage our sacred text, the Bible, and do so in light of a wide range of experiences, questions, social issues and more. It is important, though, to revisit what exactly the Bible is and what it means to believe in it. This month, we are refreshing ourselves on these basic issues before we read scriptures in light of Black History in February. Last Sunday we talked about inspiration and who wrote the Bible. Over the next few, we will see what we think it means to believe in it!

## This Sunday—January 14

Bible Study 9:30 a.m. in Youth Suite  
MS Girls Group 4:00-5:30 p.m.  
HS Girls Group 7:00-8:30 p.m.

## Coming Up!

HBC Got Skillz—Sunday, February 25, at Highlands Community Ministries

## Dreams and Vision

On Saturday, January 20, the Young Adult Ministry Group will gather for a half-day retreat to plan for the year ahead. So, now is the time to make your voice heard and ideas known.

Expect to hear from a member of the Ministry Group in the coming days with an invitation to dialogue about your Dreams and Vision for how Highland's Young Adult Ministry can continue to serve you in meaningful ways. Further, we want to know what opportunities excite you for service and community participation.

Young Adult Corner

## Hymns for the Hymnless

This unique and new worship opportunity will take place in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 28, at 7:00 p.m. A merger of culture, story-telling, sacred text, sacrament, and creative liturgy will bind us in the creative energy of God among the people. Let Lauren know if you have skills, interests, or talents to share.

## Super Bowl LII 2018

Our annual throw-down par-tay will be February 4. More detes coming soon. Whether you like the game, the commercials, the half-time show, or the party snacks, plan to join us!

## A Call for Children's Books

During the month of January, Highland's Anti-Racism Team will be collecting new and gently used books for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade children to be used in a reading program at Portland Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in West Louisville. If you have books your children are no longer using, we would love to have them. You can place them in the bins outside the choir room.

If you would like more information or have interest in volunteering for this new ministry, contact Nancy Goodhue, Missy Smith, or Lauren Jones Mayfield ([laurenjm@hbclouisville.org](mailto:laurenjm@hbclouisville.org)).



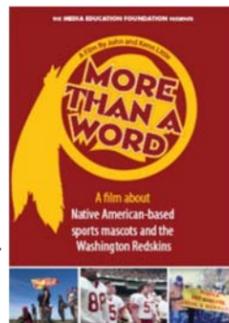
Missions Corner

## More Than a Word, Documentary

Highland's Parents for Progress Bible Study and the Anti-Racism Team will host a screening of *More Than a Word* (2017) on Thursday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m. Directed by John and Kenn Little (Standing Rock Sioux), *More Than a Word* takes a deeper look at the issues surrounding the derogatory naming of the Washington Redskins football team.

Scholars, activists, and sports fans share their perspectives on the use of racist imagery in American society, touching on the long history of Native American cultural appropriation. Alessandra Link, a church attendee, member of the Bible Study, and a scholar specializing in Indigenous histories, will lead a discussion after the screening.

Alessandra recently wrote a post on a history blog about the Indigenous names of Louisville's city parks. It deals with some of the same themes addressed in the film: <https://erstwhileblog.com/2017/12/06/whats-in-a-name-louisvilles-city-parks-as-sites-of-learning/>.





## This Week at Highland

### Tuesday, January 9

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Richard Rohr Book Study for Men (FS) ..... 7-9 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 7:30-11 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 10

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.  
 Quarterly Church Conference (FH) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room) ..... 7:15-8:15 p.m.

### Thursday, January 11

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

### Friday, January 12

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

### Saturday, January 13

MensWork Breakfast (FS) ..... 8:30 a.m.

### Sunday, January 14

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.  
 New Members MG (103) ..... 12 p.m.  
 Families with Children MG (201) ..... 12:30 p.m.  
 Food Justice Team (Commons) ..... 2 p.m.  
 Food, A.R.T., and Sustainability Groups (FH) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Deacon Training (FH) ..... 3:30 p.m.  
 Deacon Ordination/Installation (Sanctuary) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Highland Book Club (Off-site) ..... 7 p.m.

### Monday, January 15

MLK Community Reading (FS) ..... 2 p.m.  
 Young Adult MG (FS) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Youth MG (Youth Suite) ..... 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, January 16

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

## Upcoming Events at Highland

January 10	Quarterly Church Conference
January 11	Libation Theology
January 13	MensWork Breakfast
January 15	Church Offices Closed
January 21	Reception/Celebration for Joe Phelps
January 26-27	Leadership Summit
February	Teacher Appreciation Month
February 1	Theology on Tap
February 4	Highlights Class
February 10	MensWork Breakfast
February 14	Ash Wednesday Service
February 25	HBC Got Skillz

## Wednesday Night Menus

### January 10

Chicken Fajitas  
 Mexican Rice  
 Refried Beans  
 Southwest Caesar Salad  
 Chips and Salsa  
 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

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

Kathy Belcher (C), Becky Smith

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

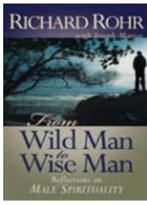
Kristie Abney (G), Vicki Runnion,  
 Gene Streible (C), Tyler Swim

### Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Libby Cunningham, Michael DeWhatley,  
 Bill Martin (G), Susan Pierce (C)

### Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Cheryl Davis (C), Sharon Sanders,  
 Kim Shippey, Ginny Sims (G)



## Tuesday Night Rohr Study Group for Men

"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 tonight, 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. Please contact Phillip Garrett to register for the group.



## Fifth Friday Fellowship Supper a Success

The Friday Church Ministry Group would like to say thank you to all those that contributed to make the Fifth Friday Fellowship Dinner a huge success! God's love was abundant!



## January 11: Libation Theology

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, January 11, for our monthly Libation Theology at 6:30 p.m. We will gather in the loft area at Molly Malone's in St. Matthews (the corner of Shelbyville Road and Breckinridge Lane). No reservation required. For more information, please contact Carol Harston, Lance Springs or Becki Streif.



## Wednesday Night Adult Programming

### January 17: "Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-In-Process"

Highland's sanctuary is filled with saints—the ones in the stained-glass windows who have completed the race *and* the ones in the pews who are still in process. When we assume saints to be perfect people, we miss the truth they have to share. Saints are the ones who wonder if God is up to something and step out in humility and boldness to share their glimpses of the divine. Story-telling by these "Saints-in-Process" makes God visible for the church.

For four Wednesdays (January 17, March 21, April 18, May 16) this winter and spring, we will gather in the sanctuary for "Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-In-Process" where three individuals will share their faith journey guided by our facilitator, Bob Cunningham. Join us Wednesday, **January 17**, to hear from Reece Little, Terri Phelps, and Vicki Runnion.

### Winter Term: January 24, January 31, February 7

**No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice** (*Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell*): LPTS Professor of Theology Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell released *No Innocent Bystanders* this past fall as an invitation to help ally groups to understand what they can accomplish, what they can't, and what kind of humility and clarity is required to tell the difference. In partnership with Highland's Anti-Racism Team, Dr. Craigo-Snell will teach this 3-week course to help us explore how we work for justice not only with God but with our marginalized neighbors as well.

**The Worship that Is Our Very Lives** (*Carol Harston*): In *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*, James K. A. Smith writes, "We are what we love, and our loves is shaped, primed, and aimed by liturgical practices that take hold of our gut and aim our heart to certain ends." Every Sunday, Joe has sent us forth from worship with the same benediction: "We end this form of worship to begin the worship that is our very lives." Highland's mission as articulated in Vision 20/20 is to "boldly live out" this worship. What might that mean in our individual lives, our communal life, and our witness? Inspired by *Desiring the Kingdom*, Carol Harston will teach this 3-week course that explores how we might better understand our communal weekly worship *and* our daily worship as a training of our hearts to love God.

### Lenten Term: February 28, March 7, March 14

**Developing Faith** (*Renee Purtlebaugh*): The life of a child is constantly changing and evolving, which means that the parent's life is the same. Renee will explore child development in order to share previews of what is to come on this crazy adventure of raising God's people. What is next—in faith, in life, and beyond?

**The Cross & the Lynching Tree** (*Dr. Tyler Mayfield*): James Cone will receive the 2018 Grawemeyer Award in April from the University of Louisville and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary for this work, which unites the first-century cross with the twentieth-century lynching tree. Resident LPTS professor Dr. Tyler Mayfield writes of Cone, "By connecting the suffering of Jesus to the suffering of black men and women, he provokes us to ponder death, terror, and ultimately liberation." In this Lenten season, let us approach the cross through a new lens that might convict, challenge, and change us come Easter morning.

**Wholeness in Body and Spirit** (*Terry Casey*): Health is more than our physical temperature, movement of joints, and hospital assessments. Dr. G. Scott Morris, the founder of the Church Health Center in Memphis, America's largest faith-based clinic for the uninsured, has written *Health Care You Can Live With* which leads the church to be equipped to care for both the physical and spiritual aspects for our life. New to Highland, Terry Casey is a nurse practitioner who has experience in parish nursing programs, will call us towards a grander vision of wholeness.

### Spring Term: April 25, May 2, May 9

**Contemplative Prayer** (*Teacher TBA*): While religious institutions argue over doctrine, politicians fight for power, and companies vie for our consumption, we seek to follow the Way of Love. This Way of Love requires an active life—one that is lived amongst a world in need *and* one that is lived amongst the silence in solitude. Thomas Merton writes that contemplative prayer for the urban dwellers feeds the "need for a certain interior silence and discipline simply to keep themselves together, to maintain their human and Christian identity and their spiritual freedom." Amidst busy Wednesday nights, how might we learn and practice contemplative prayer that restores, prepares, and sends us forth?

**Introduction to the Enneagram** (*Nina Maples*): Many people around Highland are talking about numbers, types, and wings, and you may be wondering... what is this "Enneagram" and how do I understand why it keeps coming up? Nina Maples, our resident Enneagram expert, will lead an introductory course to help people new to the Enneagram to learn the different types, understand its purpose, and become intrigued with this ancient tool for personal, spiritual, and communal growth.

**Youth Parents** (*Perry Dixon*): This will be a space for all parents to gather to share wisdom, resources, experiences, hardship and joy in an authentic space. Through this intentional gathering, we will be reminded that we do not parent on an island, though life certainly feels like that sometimes. Instead, our hope and goal is to be in this together!

## Special Wednesday Dates

January 10: Quarterly Church Conference (*Fellowship Hall*)  
 February 14: Ash Wednesday Service (*Sanctuary*)  
 February 21: Choral Concert by *Coro Vocati* (*Sanctuary*)  
 March 28: Holy Week Service (*Sanctuary*)  
 April 4: No dinner or programming due to Spring Break  
 April 11: Quarterly Church Conference (*Fellowship Hall*)  
 May 23: Handbell and Orchestra Concert (*Sanctuary*)

## Around Highland ...

... The Highland Men Gathering on Friday mornings has been canceled until further notice.  
 ... Congratulations to Rachel and Lautaro Mansilla on the birth of their baby.  
 ... The Highland Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 28, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Pat Ramsey, to discuss *An Irish Country Doctor* by Patrick Taylor. Everyone is invited!  
 ... 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 39 boxes and it costs \$3.00/each to mail them out. Thank you!