

Where transformed people are joining the work of God.



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1101 Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

A thinking, feeling, healing community of faith

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The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
~Psalm 19:1

**Lenten Season
Highland Baptist Church**

The Heavens Are Telling © Jan Richardson/janrichardson.com

Report from CBF Taskforce

Last summer, the Ministry Council with the True Colors Ministry Group and Missions' Cohort Ministry Groups appointed a Task Force to examine our relationship to CBF in light of its discriminatory hiring policy. *It is important to note that Highland is in full affirmation of the LGBTQ community and this process only has to do with how the church relates to CBF.* The task force was asked to reflect on the following and bring recommendations to the Ministry Council.

Purpose: To investigate Highland's relationship with CBF in response to CBF's policies and practices relating to LGBT people. The purpose of a task force is to research an issue or question and then present its findings to the entity that formed it, in this case Ministry Council, True Colors, and Global Missions. The task force may bring recommendations for action in its final report, but the task force does not have standing in the church. It may *not* make a motion as a task force. Another standing body, however, may make a motion based on the results of the task force. The task force should bear in mind that its findings and recommendations may require further discernment and planning by the Ministry Council and/or Deacons.

Guiding Questions: The task force's work should address, but not be limited by, the following questions:

- What are all of Highland's connections with CBF?
- What other congregations are in a similar position to Highland on this?
- What are the full range of potential responses to our concerns and what are the potential impacts of each? (continued to page 4)

Highlights from HBC Got Skillz (photos continued on page 4)



**Weekend Services
Third Sunday in Lent**
Psalm 19; John 2:13-22
A Carpenter Remodels the Place
Jim England, Proclaimer
Communion Anthem:
In Peace, in Peace, Through Christ the Door
Wilderness Blessing
Poetry of Jan Richardson

Liminal Wonderings ...

This past week was my one year anniversary at Highland in my role as Associate Pastor to Youth and their Families. There is so much to reflect on and to celebrate that this information-full newsletter cannot contain it. God is creational and relational. Our youth remind me of this each time we are together. God has enough grace and forgiveness for each of us. Resurrection is not far away, but a way of being in this world. Our youth remind me of this, too. As we move through things in church life that are familiar and new, my biggest goal for the year ahead is that we invite more to join in—youth, of course, but especially parents, too. I look forward to a year of invitation and renewal for the journey we each walk, together. I am still figuring out what it means to be an Associate Pastor at Highland. I am constantly seeking improvement in my own personal, spiritual and professional growth. There is much ahead we cannot predict or know. But, with the youth community and with God, there is so much life and so much joy ahead! ~Perry



Candy Donations Needed

Help us fill our Easter eggs and treat bags for the upcoming festival on Sunday, March 25. Donate individually wrapped candy in the bin located outside the Choir Room no later than Wednesday, March 21.

Highland's Word To Our Community

**DISCOVER
GROW
SERVE**
SUN 8:30 9:30 & 11 FRI 7

Cream of the Crop Trip, March 17

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 Saturday, March 17, as we travel to General Butler State Park. We will meet in the church's parking lot at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Billie Johnson by Wednesday, March 14.

Fellowship Hall Wall Crew Volunteers Needed

Our teams that set up and take down the walls in Fellowship Hall each Sunday are in need of more volunteers. The time commitment is about 45 minutes once a month. If you might be willing to serve, please contact Walter McWhorter at walter@hbclouisville.org or at the church during the week at 502-451-3735.

Wednesday Dinner Crew Members Needed

Several additional people are needed for Wednesday evening dinner teams. For the 4th Wednesday Team, we need 1 person for the dessert crew and 1 for the catering setup crew. Both would require coming to church between 4:15 and 4:30. Also, we need a few more people on the clean-up crew sub list. This crew does their work from about 5:45-6:45. Please contact Kathy Belcher with questions or to volunteer.

Summer Camp Registration Is Open

Information about Highland's summer camps for children went out via email last week. Be sure to register for VBS Camp by February 28 and for PASSPORT *kids!* by March 7!

Children's Corner

Final Week to Honor Bible Study Teachers

This week marks the end of February, and so is your final (formal!) opportunity to honor Bible study teachers at Highland. We hope that if you have not already, you will make a special effort to do so this week. Of course, we invite you to honor your beloved teachers year round as well.

One way that you might choose to participate in this appreciation month is to make a donation to help us complete our *Building Love* capital campaign in honor of a beloved Bible study teacher, past or present. Please contact Deb Ackerson in the church office to make that designated donation by contacting deb@hbclouisville.org.

You may want to consider other ways to show your appreciation for our children's teachers. For example, your family might choose to make homemade cards for your child's teachers, write a song or a poem or create a piece of beautiful artwork. Use your imagination as you think on how to honor the teachers in our midst as our month of appreciation comes to a close.



Easter Festival, March 25

WHAT: Crafts, games and egg hunt!
WHERE: Highland!
WHEN: Sunday, March 25, 3:00-5:00 p.m., rain or shine
COST: \$5 per child, \$10 max per family
WHO: Birth through 5th grade children and their families
RSVP: By Wednesday, March 21 (Email renee@hbclouisville.org)

Join us for this annual celebration on the front lawn, playground, first and second floor that includes games, crafts, egg hunt, fellowship and fun for all ages. Volunteers are needed to lead activity stations and candy donations are needed as well. Look for a sign in the large bin outside the Choir Room for candy drop-off.

Important Dates to Remember

February	Teacher Appreciation Month
February 28	Vacation Bible School Camp Registration Deadline
March 7	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i> Registration Deadline
March 25	Easter Festival, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
May 12	Family Service Projects + Dinner, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
June 26-29	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i>
July 20-22	Vacation Bible School Camp

Hymns for the Hymnless, March 4

Join us for this worshipful lament of gun violence. We have already had 18 school shootings this year, and as protests build, we must confess that prayer is not enough to end this epidemic. Did you know that the Center for Disease Control is legally not able to research this public health crisis?

In this moment of worship, we will explore the intense range of emotions that scripture offers for crying out in the wilderness. Pop music juxtaposed with hymnary, and personal story undergirded by sacred text invites us to consider the audacity of hope and holy anger.

Meet us in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. Here is the Facebook event link <https://www.facebook.com/events/358422687991801/>.

Theology on Tap, March 8

We will continue our three-part series on the Trinity. Carol will guide discussion about the Redeemer in March, and Nina will point the way to the Sustainer in April. ****Note the date change for March only—this is the second Thursday of the month, not the first. Here is the Facebook group link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/130904047593409/>.

Young Adult Corner

Wednesday Night Adult Programming

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.

March 8: 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." Libation Theology provides the time to have conversations longer than the 5-minute ones we have in the hallway between worship services. Join us on Thursday, March 8, 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.

MARCH TOPIC: In the wake of the recent news, we are reeling with the revelation of the dangerous situation our young people are living in on a daily basis. How might adults encourage and strengthen young people in our community of faith and beyond? Perry Dixon will join the conversation as we seek how we might join the work of God, creating a community of support for the most challenging days.



Around Highland ...

... The Highland Book Club will meet this Sunday, March 4, 6:00 p.m., in room 103, to discuss *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson. Everyone is invited!

... Perry Dixon and Carol Harston will attend CBF Youth Ministry Network's "Oasis Retreat" at Montreat Retreat Center in North Carolina this week. Carol attends her last CBFYMN retreat as she rotates off the board. Perry will begin serving as Membership Coordinator for CBFYMN this month.

A Note of Thanks

Friends,

Many thanks for the cards, calls and well-wishes during my recent recovery from a broken arm. With God's grace, I am healing well and will be back to full strength in the near future.

Peace and love, ~ Sue Rowe

Please Note:

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



**This Week
at Highland**

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

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.
 Adult Class—Developing Faith (FS) 6:10-7:10 p.m.
 Adult Class—The Cross & the Lynching Tree (FH) 6:10-7:10 p.m.
 Adult Class—Wholeness in Body and Spirit (Commons) 6:10-7:10 p.m.
 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 1

Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 7 p.m.

Friday, March 2

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

Sunday, March 4

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.
 Adult Ministries MG (FH Stage) 12 p.m.
 Worship MG (103) 12 p.m.
 Habitat for Humanity Team (Youth Commons) 12:30 p.m.
 Orchestra rehearsal (Sanctuary) 12:30 p.m.
 True Colors MG (Commons) 12:30 p.m.
 Adult Handbells rehearsal (200) 2-3 p.m.
 Highland Book Club (103) 6 p.m.
 Hymns for the Hymnless (FH) 7 p.m.

Monday, March 5

Ministry Council (103) 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6

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

Upcoming Events at Highland

- March 4 Highland Book Club; Hymns for the Hymnless
- March 8 Libation Theology
- March 9-10 Annual Women's Retreat
- March 10 MensWork Breakfast
- March 25 Palm Sunday; Easter Festival
- March 28 Holy Week Service
- March 29 Maundy Thursday Service
- March 30 Tenebrae Service
- April 1 Easter Sunday
- April 4 No Evening Activities/Supper
- April 11 Quarterly Church Conference
- April 12 Libation Theology
- April 14 Annual Jean Janes Yard Sale
- April 21 State of Food

Wednesday Night Menus

February 28

Fizzy Chicken
 Orzo Pasta
 French Green Beans
 Oriental Salad
 Rolls
 Dessert

March 7

Pulled Pork on Buns
 Hash Brown Casserole
 Baked Beans
 7 Layer Salad
 Slaw
 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.

Lenten Prayer

Living and loving Lord,

We come before you in this Lenten season with heavy and anxious hearts. We struggle in the darkness, wondering why our children and teachers aren't safe in their schools. We're battling hopelessness as to what we can do in the face of a world that seems riddled with division, strife, and violence, rather than working towards love, acceptance, and resurrection. Thank you for pouring out your Spirit on all people, especially those who have taken their suffering and channeled it to leadership, empathy and prophecy. Let us live out their visions and raise our Easter voices in support of their dreams.

We thank you for this beloved community, where we can be seen as persons, not people. We thank you for creating a sacred unity that enlivens us, rather than a uniformity that confines us. Thank you for your Spirit, which is closer to us than our next breath and wraps us tightly to each other, continuing to hold us even beyond the reach of the grave. Let that same Spirit make us brave. Amen. ~Michael DeWhatley



CBF/Morocco Mission Team

Our church partners with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of KY to support migrant work in Morocco. The Protestant Church of Morocco and our friend, Karen Thomas Smith, diligently minister to those seeking refuge from dangerous and war-torn realities in sub-saran Africa.

Highland's connections to this work has taken many different routes throughout our years of partnership. We invite you to consider and dream with us about how our desire to offer hospitality, community, and safety to those in Morocco might manifest for us here at church in the coming season of global mission work.

If you would like to learn more, please reach out to the Morocco Team Leader, Terri Connolly. Here is a photo of a few individuals in the church committed to the vibrancy and important of this ministry, Roy Fuller, Marilyn Sanders, Gerald and Bonnye Swim, and Terri Connolly. Sharing photos is one way the group communicates with those in Morocco.



**Missions
Corner**



Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Yesterday evening, our church hosted about 50 folks from several churches and organizations around town for the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ICIJ). Carolyn King serves on their leadership team, and many from Highland are engaged in the work. The group heard personal narratives from those on the front lines of immigrant support, as well as fundraising opportunities for La Casita Center.

We will journey to Frankfort with ICIJ next Wednesday, March 7, for Immigrant and Refugee Day at the Capitol. The rally begins in the rotunda at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Kate Dittmeier Holm if you plan to join us!

Advocacy Training at KRM

In order to prepare for the Immigrant and Refugee day of lobbying, which will take place throughout the morning on March 7, KY Refugee Ministries is hosting a training this Thursday, March 1, at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Anti-Racism Team Update

We invite you to join us in prayer as we have our kick-off celebration of a new ministry venture with Portland Memorial Missionary Baptist Church—an afterschool reading club. Our initial gathering will be next Tuesday, March 6. As we secure details and the relationship building continues, the team will invite congregants, Bible study classes, ministry groups, etc., to travel to Portland Memorial with us.

HCM 2018 Lenten Lunch Series

Join Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) for the Lenten Lunch Series, a simple lunch of soup and bread, served by HCM member congregations with a short devotion for the Lenten Season, Thursdays, noon-1:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Dynamic Duos". For more information, visit <http://www.hcmlouisville.org>.

Date	Location
March 1	Highlands Community Campus (home of HCM), 1228 E Breckenridge St.
March 8	Strathmoor Presbyterian Church, 2201 Hawthorne Ave.
March 15	Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, 1722 Bardstown Rd.
March 22	St. Paul United Methodist Church, 2000 Douglass Blvd.

Weekly Financial Report February 18, 2018 (7 weeks)

	Weekly Requirement	Receipts This Week	YTD Requirements	YTD Receipts	YTD Over/Under
Contributions	\$19,421.68	\$23,077.39	\$139,921.12	\$151,226.81	\$11,305.69
Other Income	\$1,034.13	\$859.94	\$7,238.91	\$6,482.80	(\$756.11)
Total	\$20,455.81	\$23,937.33	\$147,160.03	\$157,709.61	\$10,549.58



2015 Building Renovation Project

Contributed this week \$195.00 Loan Balance \$71,938.00

Easter Lilies

This Easter, we will once again adorn our Sanctuary with beautiful Easter lilies. If you would like to purchase a lily, fill out the form below and return it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate with \$15 no later than Sunday, March 25.

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

in memory / honor / appreciation of: (circle one) _____

Report from CBF Taskforce *(continued from page 1)*

- How can we reflect our Mission, Vision, and Core Values in this work?
- What other Baptist affiliations are available to Highland? How do they compare? Can we affiliate with more than one?
- What is the current status of the Illumination project?
- What impact and influence does Highland currently have on and through CBF?
- Where does our money (budgeted and additional offerings) to CBF go and how is it used?
- How broad and deep is concern for this issue at HBC?
- How is our consistency on this issue? In other words, are we involved with and affiliated with other organizations that have a similar stance on LGBT issues?
- How will continued financial giving to CBF, in light of the hiring policy, effect HBC LGBT members' and their allies' ability to continue giving to the church?

The CBF Task Force met last Tuesday night after taking a break in the fall to await the decision of CBF's Governing Board upon the completion of the Illumination Project (IP). The Task Force has assessed the following to be the case after faithful dialogue and discernment:

- The Illumination Project was a multi-year effort to examine the stance of CBF congregations on LGBTQ inclusion. The IP also examined a hiring policy held by CBF's national office since 2000 that was discriminatory against the LGBTQ community. Upon the completion of the IP's work, the Governing Board voted to change the hiring policy to no longer include any discriminatory language. However, the IP also recommended an "Implementation Procedure" that is clearly discriminatory against the LGBTQ community. The hiring policy is policy and was voted on as such, while the discriminatory Implementation Procedure is a recommendation that was received from the IP by the Governing Board and not voted on. This means that the Implementation Procedure is up to the discretion of the national CBF staff which is different from the hiring policy.
- CBF does not dictate or require anything about a local congregation's stance on LGBTQ inclusion. Highland fully affirms the call of all LGBTQ siblings to ministry. In summary, CBF's hiring policy is now accompanied by a discriminatory Implementation Procedure that could be used to prevent LGBTQ persons from having access to jobs with CBF's own ministry workforce.

In light of this assessment, the Task Force will give a more detailed report to Ministry Council this Monday, March 5, plan listening sessions to hear from all in our congregation who want to make their voices known on these issues and recommend a Congregational Conversation around these issues to the Ministry Council. The Task Force was chaired by Jim England who has stepped down due to his current role as Interim Pastor. Mary Burks is now chair; members include Bojangles Blanchard, Alecia Fuller, Steve Brown, Lee Cave, Anita Roper, Robert Davis, Billy Flood, Kathey Golightly Sanders, and John Pacyga. The Task Force members are available for conversation at any time and covet your prayers.

SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY PRESENTS
THE WEST LOUISVILLE FORUM
SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN AMERICA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7TH @ 12 NOON
TOPIC: "THE BURDEN: A LOOK AT THE CONTINUED IMPACT OF BLACK ENSLAVEMENT IN AMERICA TODAY"
GUEST SPEAKER: ROCHELLE RILEY, AUTHOR "THE BURDEN: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ENDURING IMPACT OF SLAVERY"
ST. STEPHEN FAMILY LIFE CENTER - 1508 WEST KENTUCKY STREET LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40210
FREE REGISTRATION ONLINE AT [Eventbrite](#)
SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY

Highlights from HBC Got Skillz

