

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

Inside This Issue...

- ◆ This Week at Highland
- ◆ Prayer List
- ◆ Financial Report
- ◆ More Church News

1101 Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204
Phone: (502) 451-3735
Fax: (502) 451-3760
Website: www.hbclouisville.org

Nina Maples

nina@hbclouisville.org

SENIOR PASTOR

Jim England

INTERIM PROCLAIMER

jim@hbclouisville.org

Renee Purtlebaugh

renee@hbclouisville.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO
CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Lauren Jones Mayfield

laurenjm@hbclouisville.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO
YOUNG ADULTS AND MISSIONS

Carol Harston

carol@hbclouisville.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
FAITH FORMATION AND
CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Perry Dixon

perry@hbclouisville.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO
YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

Kathy Collier

kathy@hbclouisville.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND
WORSHIP

Austin Echols

austin@hbclouisville.org

ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Fred Bogert

fbogert@hbclouisville.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR TO
FRIDAY CHURCH

Don Burke

PASTOR EMERITUS

Vicki Runnion

vicrun55@gmail.com

DEACON CHAIR

Becki Streif

bstreif@twc.com

MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Deb Ackerson

deb@hbclouisville.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Andria Eadens

andria@hbclouisville.org

PUBLICATIONS/MEMBERSHIP/
OFFICE MANAGER

Linda Campbell

linda@hbclouisville.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Walter McWhorter

walter@hbclouisville.org

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Jerre Bassett

jbassett@hbclouisville.org

FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN

Process of Nominating Pastor Search Committee Begins

We will soon begin the process of nominating persons to serve on the Pastor Search Committee for Highland Baptist Church. We will have nomination forms available on two Sunday mornings, April 15 and 22, as well as the Wednesday and Friday in between. *Due to asking for more information than just a name, we will not take time during the services to complete forms.* There will be two boxes—one in the Commons and one in Fellowship Hall—along with forms, from April 15 through the 22, in which you can place completed forms. You may also take a form home on April 15 and return it later that week or on Sunday, April 22, or mail/bring them to the church office, to arrive no later than Monday, April 23. (*Please put Pastor Search Committee Nomination on the envelope.*) There will also be an option to fill out and submit your form online.

The nomination form asks for information about the skills and qualities of the person being nominated, related to a list of desired qualifications (*see "Qualifications for Pastor Search Committee members" on page 2 of this newsletter*). Those people who are nominated by someone else will be contacted and asked to provide additional information.

The Ad Hoc Committee will select a list of ten candidates whom we believe have the desired qualifications, will share the job description for the committee members with them, and confirm with them that they are willing to serve if elected. We will publish (in the newsletter and on our bulletin board) brief biographical information about each of them prior to the election. In order to involve as many members as possible in electing the Committee members, voting will occur during all worship services for a designated weekend, which will be announced well in advance. The congregation will choose seven of the ten candidates for the committee by written secret ballot, and the other three will form a pool of alternates who could be asked to step in should one of the Committee members have to drop out for some reason before the process is completed. We realize that serving on this committee will require a big commitment of time and energy, over an extended period, but we also recognize the enormous importance of this work for the future of Highland Baptist Church.

Quarterly Church Conference Next Wednesday

Our next Quarterly Church Conference will be next Wednesday April 18, at 6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Topics for the meeting are:

1. Review of Agenda Items
2. Approval of January Minutes
3. Membership and Financial Reports
4. Recommendation for Ordination of Kristie Abney
5. Report from Ministry Council: MG Manuals and Framework
6. Report from Ad Hoc Pastor Search Committee
7. Report from Pastoral Interim Committee
8. Report from CBF Task Force

CBF Task Force Summary Findings

Members: Mary Burks (Chair), Bojangles Blanchard, Steve Brown, Lee Cave, Robert Davis, Perry Dixon, Billy Flood, Alecia Fuller, Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, John Pacyga, Anita Roper, and Kathey Golightly Sanders.

What is the purpose of the Task Force and Highland Baptist Church's present and historic connections with CBF?

The CBF task force did its work grounded in the mission, vision and value of Highland Baptist Church's radical welcome and inclusion of all. The CBF Task Force was formed to investigate Highland's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) in response to CBF's hiring policies and practices relating to LGBTQ individuals. The scope of the work that the task force has done has been guided by eleven broad questions provided by the Ministry Council. Highland Baptist Church has been a CBF church since its beginning in 1991 and is Highland Baptist Church's primary connection for mission giving.

What is the status of CBF's Hiring Policy and Implementation Procedures?

The former CBF Hiring from 2000 reads: "As Baptist Christians, we believe that the foundation of a Christian sexual ethic is faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman and celibacy in singleness. We also believe in the love and grace of God for all people, both for those who live by this understanding of the biblical standard and those who do not. We treasure the freedom of individual conscience and the autonomy of the local church, and we also believe that congregational leaders should be persons of moral integrity whose lives exemplify the highest standards of Christian conduct and character. Because of this organizational value, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship does not allow for the expenditure of funds for organizations or causes that condone, advocate or affirm homosexual practice. Neither does this CBF organizational value allow for the purposeful hiring of a staff person or the sending of a missionary who is a practicing homosexual." (*continued to page 4*)

April 15: State of Bible Study Report during 9:30 & 11:00 Bible Study

During the fall, I had the great privilege of visiting all 17 of our adult Bible study classes and meeting with our 28 Bible study teachers. I listened to the ways that they described their class, their teachers, their understanding of the communal engagement of scripture, and the manner in which they interact with the Bible. In February, I put all of the poster-papers up in my office and worked to find common themes, shared challenges, and opportunities for growth. I presented my findings to many of our Bible study teachers in February and we met again April 8 to continue discussing ways that our teachers might gather together to support, encourage, and equip one another. This Sunday, April 15, you are invited to Fellowship Hall during your Bible study hour for *The State of Bible Study* where I will share these same findings. It is my hope that this report will invite us to wonder together how God is calling Highland to cultivate safe, welcoming Bible study classes where all are challenged to discover, grow, and serve. All 9:30 Bible study classes are invited to the 9:30 presentation and all 11:00 Bible study classes are invited to the 11:00 presentation. *Not in a Bible study class?* Join us on April 15 to hear more about the different classes, how to get plugged in, and why a Bible study community might be just what you need. ~ Carol Harston

Weekend Services Second Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

Jim England, Proclaimer
Simple and Sacred

Congregational Anthem:
The Day of Resurrection

Prelude by the Children's
Handbell Choir

Highlights Class Offered This Sunday

If you are a new or prospective member, you will want to attend the upcoming Highlights class this Sunday, April 15, 3:00-6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall.

This class is part of the process for becoming a member of Highland and is offered several times a year. Nina Maples will lead this class which offers an in-depth look at topics such as how our church is structured, how to join, and how to be involved in ministry at Highland. There will be a light dinner served, and childcare is provided with a **reservation**.

For more information or to make a childcare reservation, please contact Nina at nina@hbclouisville.org.

Liminal Wonderings ...

In the days after Jesus died and rose, he appeared to the disciples in various places – at the tomb, on the seashore, in a closed room. I try to visualize what his followers must have felt when they realized it was Jesus, risen from the dead. I can imagine I would have been terrified, disoriented, confused, or all the above.

While I don't actually see the risen Christ these days in bodily form, I do recognize God's spirit moving among us and I am filled with awe. When I serve communion, I see the love of Christ in the eyes of those who come with cupped hands, ready to receive the bread of life. I see the risen Christ in the smiles of those who receive tamales in the Commons as a gift of gratitude from Rosi. I experience the hope of eternal life as I pray at the bedside of one ready to meet her Lord.

The spirit of our risen Lord moves among us, and we must keep our eyes open and our hearts attuned to the voice of Love calling us to new life. My prayer is that you might be surprised by the movement of God in and through your life this week.

~ Nina Maples

Highland's Word To Our Community

ALL ARE INVITED
BY THE MYSTERY
OF A LOVING GOD
SUN 8:30 9:30 & 11 FRI 7

Qualifications for Pastor Search Committee Members:

- Church membership is required.
- Active multi-faceted involvement with Highland Baptist Church—engaged with more than one group or segment of the church (Bible study, mission group, demographic group, deacon, ministry council, etc.).
- Ability to identify questions and concerns to be explored with the church at various points in the search process.
- Familiarity with and commitment to/embodiment of the Vision, Mission, and Core Values of Highland Baptist Church.
- Willingness/ability to commit to meet 2-3 hours weekly as needed, with flexibility in scheduling, potentially for 1-2 years or more.
- Time and willingness to review resumes and other materials between meetings.
- Ability to travel once the committee is ready to hear candidates preach in their own churches (possibly 4-8 weekends, probably not sequential).
- Experience serving on committees (in or outside of Highland Baptist Church).
- Ability to observe strict confidentiality both within and outside of Highland Baptist Church.
- Ability to engage constructively with and respect differences of opinion.
- Gifts of discernment, patience, listening, and faithfulness.

Important Dates to Remember

April 11	2 nd PASSPORT <i>kids!</i> Payment Due
May 2	3 rd and Final Vacation Bible School Camp Payment Due
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

Children's Corner

Youth Led Worship and Youth Ministry Banquet April 29

On Sunday, April 29, Highland's Youth Community will lead the congregation in all three worship services for the morning. From our liturgy and preaching, to greeting and ushering, to music and artwork, our youth will bring all of their unique gifts as we worship God, together. This year, our worship will be guided by the theme, "I Am/Stronger Together." We value celebrating each unique member of our community in the fullness of their being, while also recognizing that it is only by working together that we will achieve a world that is more just and more whole for all people. We hope you will join us in worship for this day! Afterwards, the youth community and families will gather for our annual Youth Ministry Banquet, during which we will celebrate our full year, our volunteers, and our seniors with food and presentations!

Youth Corner

This Wednesday, April 11

6:00-7:15 p.m. in the Youth Suite

This Sunday, April 15

9:30-10:30 a.m. Bible Study in the Youth Suite

3:00-4:30 p.m. Guys Group

Graduation Anyone?

If you plan to graduate this spring, please inform Lauren soon. Include your degree, the school from which you will graduate, your plans for the immediate future, and an RSVP to Graduate Recognition Sunday on May 21.

Young Adult Corner

Know What's Up: Remind

Text @8c328b to the number 81010 to automatically sign-up for text updates and reminders from Lauren about what's coming up in our ministry.

This Wednesday: Cloud of Witnesses

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. Join us for our third "Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-In-Process" tomorrow, April 11, at 6:15 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Jim Hawkins, Todd Metcalf and Janet Whiteley will share their faith journey with our facilitator Bob Cunningham.



This Thursday: 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." Join us this Thursday, April 12, for our monthly Libation Theology at 6:30 p.m., 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 on this month's gathering, contact Carol Harston or Jim Shelton. *April's Topic:* Fake News? During the Easter season, we recall the good news of Jesus' resurrection; it gives us hope, but also raises questions. Each Gospel writer has a different report: Luke says the women who found the tomb empty reported it to the eleven and others, who dismissed it as "an idle tale." Today, many question the reliability of news sources. Where do you go to read or hear news you trust? Only Matthew tells of religious leaders who bribed the guards at the empty tomb to say, "His followers have stolen his body as we slept." Do unbiased news sources exist in 2018? How can we know who is telling the truth? How may we be people of the truth?

This Saturday: Gathering of School Teachers and Administrators

This has been a tumultuous year for teachers. School shootings create an atmosphere of fear. Our president suggests arming teachers. Legislation passes in the middle of the night threatening pensions and destroying trust. For those called to serve as teachers and administrators, what does it look like to walk through the darkest valley and fear no evil?

Our government and politicians are seeking to establish policies. Teaching communities are exploring procedures and action plans. But where can teachers and administrators go to care for their hearts? How might a community of peers from your faith community offer spiritual support, shared sacred space, and encouragement to enable people to continue walking into the doors each day ready to serve in the ministry of teaching?

Highland's teachers and administrators (whether retired, employed, or training to teach) are invited to Carol Harston's home this Saturday, April 14, 9:30-11:00 a.m. for an informal conversation about how, as followers of Jesus, they can faithfully follow their vocational call.

Report from Ministry Council Report

The Ministry Council met on Monday, April 2 and the following items were discussed:

- The CBF Task Force presented their recommendations that include the creation of a one-page summary of the Illumination Project and the findings of the Task Force, as well as facilitating two Listening Sessions with the congregation.
- The Personnel Ministry Group has requested the formation of a Task Force to research various models of Ministerial Leadership that could be a fit for Highland Baptist Church. This work will occur in conjunction with the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Pastoral Search.
- An update on the Ministry Group manuals and framework was provided. Work continues on these and an update will be provided at the next Quarterly Church Conference on April 18.
- Reports were received from Deacons, the Finance Ministry Group, and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Pastoral Search.

Church Business Corner

Around Highland...

... The Highland Book Club will meet on Sunday, April 29, at 6:00 p.m., in room 103, to discuss *Rolling Thunder and Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor. Everyone is invited!

... Cheryl Davis is a vital member of Highland's Worship Ministry Group despite the fact that her name was not listed with other ministry group names in last week's *Easter Gratitude* article!

... April 26-29 is the annual gathering for the Alliance of Baptists in Dayton, Ohio. The theme for the gathering is *Earth: Beloved Community*. <https://allianceofbaptists.org/calendar/event/annual-gathering-2018-dayton-ohio>

Please Note:

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

Have you checked out our website lately?

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



This Week at Highland

Tuesday, April 10

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) 5:30 p.m.
 Finance MG (103) 6 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11

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—Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from
 Saints-In-Progress (Sanctuary).....6:10-7:10 p.m.
 Set-up for Yard Sale (FH)..... 7:10 p.m.
 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)7:15-8:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 12

Set-up for Yard Sale (FH) 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Habitat "Raise the Roof" (Off-site) 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Cream of the Crop Trip (Off-site).....9:30 a.m.
 Libation Theology (Off-site)..... 6:30 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (Sanctuary) 7 p.m.

Friday, April 13

Set-up for Yard Sale (FH) 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Friday Church (Sanctuary) 7-7:45 p.m.
 Narcotics Anonymous (Sanctuary)..... 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 14

MensWork Breakfast (FS) 8:30 a.m.
 Annual Jean Janes Yard Sale (FH) 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Gathering for Teachers and Administrators
 (Off-site)9:30-11:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 15

Worship 8:30 a.m.
 CBF Task Force Listening Session (Youth Suite) 8:30 a.m.
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
 Mission and Justice NTL Touch Base (101) 10:30 a.m.
 Worship 11 a.m.
 Bible Study 11 a.m.
 CBF Task Force Listening Session (Youth Suite) ... 12 p.m.
 Orchestra rehearsal (Sanctuary) 12:30 p.m.
 Children's Bible Study Teacher Check-In
 (Children's Commons) 12:30 p.m.
 Habitat for Humanity and Other Housing
 Solutions Team (Youth Suite)..... 12:30 p.m.
 Families with Children MG (201) 12:30 p.m.
 Highlights Class (FH) 3-6 p.m.
 CBF/Morocco Team (103) 6 p.m.

Monday, April 16

Young Adult MG (FS) 5:30 p.m.
 Youth MG (Youth Suite) 6 p.m.
 Food Justice Team (FH Stage) 7 p.m.
 Deacons (Commons) 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17

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

Upcoming Events at Highland

April 12 Libation Theology
 April 14 Annual Jean Janes Yard Sale
 April 15 CBF Task Force Listening Sessions;
 State of Bible Study; Highlights Class
 April 18 Quarterly Church Conference
 April 21 State of Food
 April 29 Youth Led Worship; Youth Banquet;
 Choral Evensong

Wednesday Night Menus

April 11

Chicken in Mushroom Sauce
 White Rice
 Green Beans/Sautéed Carrots
 Cobb Salad
 Rolls
 Dessert

April 18

Salisbury Steak
 Mashed Potatoes
 Vegetable Medley
 Pear, Walnuts &
 Blue Cheese
 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

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Kathy Belcher (C), Becky Smith

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Kristie Abney, Nathan Marrs (C),
 Vicki Runnion, Tyler Swim (G)

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

David Bannister, Bruce Carroll (C),
 Jim McBee, Susan Pierce (G)

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Bill Martin, Kim Shippey (C),
 Ginny Sims (G), David Wells

Eastertide Prayer

Author of Life,
 We see the essence of you
 in Christ's suffering and miracles.
 We hear your Spirit in the wisdom behind the questions
 Jesus asked and in the voice that whispered, "Be still".
 We touch your Being now through a child's hand in ours;
 through quiet meditation.
 We thank you for revealing this life to us
 through a person - Jesus,
 and through the splendor of Spring.
 Teach us to rise again with the grass
 and with every determined daffodil.
 Infuse this *wild and inclusive Easter life*
 into our routines, our reactions, our reasons.
 Let it set off a bell in our hearts
 that reverberates throughout the year.
 How we long to know the joy of this true connection with you,
 our Life Giver who designs all things by love with love and for love.
 Amen. ~ Sally Evans

Annual Jean Janes Yard Sale This Saturday

The Annual Jean Janes Women's Mission Group Yard Sale will be held this Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall.



Please Note: Items in the lost and found cabinet and dishes that have been left in the kitchen will be donated to the yard sale if not picked up by tomorrow, April 11.

Tamale Deliciousness

Dear Church, your generosity continues to reflect the abundance of God's goodness. Last Sunday we enjoyed 200 tamales and shared with the cook \$665, a full month's rent. What a wonderful gift to share and receive so fully. The even better news, she will return with more tamales on Sunday, May 6. Once more, we invite you to come hungry and give donations liberally.



Missions Corner

Earth Day Sunday, April 22

I once heard a story of a person who photographed a hungry child looking in the window of a bread shop. He was asked what he did afterwards and he said he only took a photograph. One of the things I love about Highland Baptist Church is that we get involved. ~Alana Maddox

The Food Justice Team and the Environmental Action Team invite you to get involved this Earth Day:

- Friday and Sunday services will focus on environmental and food justice themes.
- Select a gift item from the giving tree located in the church lobby. You will be invited to donate time, money or items for local community gardens including those at Americana Community Center Gardens, Louisville Area Cooperative Economics (LACE) the group launching the Louisville Food Coop), Common Earth Gardens (farming for refugee communities), and St. Matthews Area Ministries.
- Attending the "Blessing of the Seed and Soil" after the 11:00am Sunday service. We will have booths for children, a space for gardeners to share plants and seeds, and space for all of us to celebrate the earth that God shares with us.
- Visit the information booths in the church lobby throughout the month of April to explore more ways to engage food justice work in our city.



HCM's Dare to Care Food Pantry Seeks Volunteers

Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) is seeking adults who would like to interact with the Highlands community in serving the needs of those who experience food insecurity. HCM's Dare to Care Food Pantry is located at their Main Campus (1228 E. Breckenridge St.). Help is needed during the following times: Monday 10:00 a.m.-noon; Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-noon; Wednesday 4:00-6:00 p.m.; Thursday 10:00 a.m.-noon. To volunteer, please contact Assistance Director, Danah Smith, at 502-451-3695 x213.

Grawemeyer Lecture Tonight, 7:00 p.m.

The anti-racism team sponsored a Wednesday evening class last session on the Grawemeyer Religion Award recipient, James Cone's, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. This award is one of five given annually (others are in the field of music, education, psychology, and world order), each celebrating a new idea in their respective fields.

Rev. Dr. JoAnne Marie Terrell, M.Div. (1990), M.Phil. (1994), Ph.D. (1997), Associate Professor of Theology, Ethics, and the Arts at Chicago Theological Seminary and a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will lecture on Dr. Cone and his work at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, this evening, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. The lecture is open to the public and part of the larger Grawemeyer presentations offered in conjunction with the University of Louisville.

CBF Kentucky Spring Gathering, April 20-21

All are invited to attend this annual event. Members of the CBF Morocco Team will attend as well as any of you who have interest. It will take place at St. Stephen Church, 757 Woodland Drive, Radcliff, KY.

For more information about the program and speakers visit www.cbfky.org. Please note, there are a variety of events, childcare options, and meals that require separate reservations.

Call Congress Today

The anti-racism team invites you to use the information in this graphic to oppose HB169, known as the "gang bill," which would dramatically change the definition of a criminal gang. Visit <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/whoswho/email.htm> to read an opinion piece that will tell you more about it and why it is so problematic.

While the legislature is in recess and the governor is reviewing the bills, we can still call. The session will reconvene on April 13 and 14 to override vetoes and pass any final legislation.



Letters of Appreciation

Many thanks to all of you who have wished me well on my 90th birthday through cards, phone calls, visits, and flowers. I am so blessed to have such a loving church family. ~ Phoebe Delamarter

For all of the many expressions of sympathy that we have received over the past weeks following my father's death, we are grateful. Your love and support has, and will continue, to sustain us through this journey. Thank you. ~ Lauren Blackwell and Diane Brewer

Weekly Financial Report April 1, 2018 (13 weeks)

	Weekly Requirement	Receipts This Week	YTD Requirements	YTD Receipts	YTD Over/Under
Contributions	\$24,392.21	\$15,651.00	\$264,938.65	\$253,093.73	(\$11,844.92)
Other Income	\$1,034.14	\$655.11	\$13,443.70	\$14,430.56	\$986.86
Total	\$25,426.35	\$16,306.11	\$278,382.35	\$267,524.29	(\$10,858.06)



2015 Building Renovation Project

Contributed this week	\$95.00	Loan Balance	\$61,468.00
-----------------------	---------	--------------	-------------

Deacon News

Two related events will be discussed and voted on at our upcoming Quarterly Church Conference on April 18.

First, the deacon body and an ordination council are unanimous in recommending that the church ordain Kristie Abney to ministry. Kristie began attending Highland Baptist Church in the fall of 2006 and joined Highland the following year. Although she was baptized Catholic at the age of nine, she wanted to be baptized again at Highland in 2009, to mark her renewed and transformed relationship with God. She has served the Highland Baptist Church community in various capacities, including: as a Pastoral Intern in field education (2012-13 academic year); serving as co-chair of the Senior Adults Ministry Group; co-teaching the "Catch-All" Bible study class; serving as the chair of the Spiritual Formation Ministry Group; serving as co-facilitator for Wednesday night programming classes including "Spiritual Dimensions of Grief and Loss," and "Supporting Loved Ones Through the End of Life;" planning and facilitating Taizé and Advent worship services; and providing Sunday morning worship care to toddlers through four year olds. In her role as a deacon, she currently serves as a member of the pastoral care team. She has a BSN in nursing and works currently with Hosparus. She expects to graduate with her Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in May 2018.

Kristie responded to the ordination council's question about "why now?" by talking about her love for Highland and her desire to be ordained specifically by this congregation. That influences the timing of the ordination, because she will be moving out of Louisville to join her spouse, Jill Abney, in Mississippi this summer, where Jill is a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. They hope to be able to relocate back to Louisville and Highland in the not terribly distant future, and we hope for that as well.

Meanwhile, Kristie's move means that she will be unable to complete the last year of her current deacon term. In accordance with the Highland Baptist Church bylaws (IV.5.B.4), the Deacon Nominating Committee met and identified a person who has been previously ordained as a deacon that we recommend the church approve to complete the last fifteen months of Kristie's term, to begin June 1. That person is Jill Ligon Davis.

Jill works as a speech therapist at Frazier rehab. She has been a member of Highland for about ten years. She has served one previous term as a deacon at Highland, several years ago, and was on the pastoral care team at that time. She co-teaches the Simple Community Bible study class, is active with the Missions and Justice Ministry Group, and has served in numerous other capacities.



Kristie Abney



Jill Ligon Davis

CBF Task Force Summary Findings *(continued from page 1)*

It is clear that the new Hiring Policy no longer includes any discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in regards to employment and per Suzii Paynter, CBF Executive Coordinator, this is the ONLY policy CBF now has. The CBF Governing Board voted on and approved this new policy and it is fully active as of the unanimous vote on February 9, 2018. The new Hiring Policy removed all language regarding sexuality and reads: "Because of our compelling mission and vision, CBF will employ only individuals who profess Jesus Christ as Lord, are committed to living out the Great Commandment and Great Commission, and who affirm the principles that have shaped our unique Baptist heritage. Preference in hiring will be given to applicants who are active members in good standing of CBF churches as well as those who have demonstrated an active participation and contribution to the missions, ministries or other initiatives of the Fellowship and its partners. CBF employees are expected to have the highest moral character, displaying professionalism and a commitment to the highest ethical standards."

The Governing Board also received a 43-page Implementation Procedure along with the new Hiring Policy. On page 21 of the document, it states that: "The implementation procedure recognizes that the CBF will consider human sexuality as one factor among many for some positions, including field personnel, those who supervise field personnel and certain ministry/missions leadership positions at CBF Global in Decatur.... Among other qualifying factors, CBF will employ persons for leadership positions in ministry who exhibit the ideals set forth in the hiring policy, have gifts appropriate to the particular position and **who practice a traditional Christian sexual ethic of celibacy in singleness or faithfulness in marriage between a woman and a man.**" http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/final_report_protected?e=1254077/S8247583.

The new policy and implementation procedure are incongruent. The implementation statement is discriminatory against married LGBTQ+ applicants for ministry positions within CBF with exceptions for chaplains, as well as scholarships for LGBTQ+ seminary students. The Implementation Procedure was not part of the Hiring Policy that was voted on and approved. Suzii Paynter reported that the Implementation Procedure was submitted as a recommendation. It is not policy. Suzie gave permission to share with the church her intention as Executive Coordinator to follow the non-discriminatory approved hiring policy for ministry leadership positions, including married LGBTQ+ folk.

For viewing original documents, interviews with the Illumination Project Committee members and Suzii Paynter, and pastoral responses from Highland Baptist Church and other churches, visit https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fdagwzmqQOFl_HBoM832zM8f3oyWukOSmPpzF22VFco/edit?usp=sharing.

When are the Listening Sessions?

- This Sunday, April 15—8:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the Youth Suite
- Next Wednesday, April 18—6:45 p.m. on the stage in Fellowship Hall (following the Quarterly Church Conference)

What are we listening for in our sessions?

After reading the TF Report and supporting documents, what clarifying questions do you have regarding our understanding of the policy vs. implementation policy?

1. What are your thoughts and feelings regarding CBF's policy and procedure?
2. How would (and how is) our continued participation in CBF affecting our members?
3. How can Highland Baptist Church's mission, vision and core values inform this discussion?
4. What is the best way of leading toward change for the CBF?
 - a. Is Highland Baptist Church called to work for inclusive change through staying engaged as a prophetic voice within CBF?
 - b. Is Highland Baptist Church called to leave CBF as a witness to our convictions regarding the respect and inclusion of all persons as fit for service in CBF?
5. Anything else?

Highlights from the Church Grounds Work Day



Property Work Day Thanks

On Saturday, March 31, 19 people worked to spruce up the grounds around the church. We spent the morning raking leaves, cleaning up the parking lot, spreading mulch, and getting the property around the church ready for the Spring season. Many thanks to the following for their hard work: Carolyn Cornell, Bob Cunningham, Bruce Carroll, Michael French, Lynn Womack, Aaron Watkins, David French, Mark Golightly Sanders, Bob Belcher, Buddy Lee, Robin Ramsay, Bill Campbell, Rob Cosby, Tom Ketterman, Naomi, Dean, and Elliot Sipe, Steve Helm, and Walter McWhorter.