

## 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...

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### Tonight: Congregational Conversation About Interim Season

Please plan to join us for a Congregational Conversation facilitated by the Pastoral Interim Committee tonight, May 30, at 6:15 p.m. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for a time of sharing regarding the ongoing interim season and think together about how the recent retirements of Joe and now Nina have, and will continue to impact our congregation. When the church approved our recommendation in January for the initial phase of our interim, we committed ourselves to a process of evaluation to occur after approximately four months.

Nina's retirement does mean that some additional changes will occur as we move into our next phase. The ministerial staff are sorting out what changes we need to make to ensure that pastoral care and other ministries continue to function and move forward. In the immediate interim, staff, Personnel Ministry Group, and Jim England are working to determine which additional work Jim might assume as we move into the summer season. As some of you may know, Jim is retiring from his work as chaplain, but he is not retiring from his work with Highland. As I stated in January, we should not be surprised if staff and others are seen doing things they have previously not been doing, principally because they need to be done. I also want to continue to challenge all of us to be thinking about ways we can continue to support Highland in our season of change. What would additional involvement at Highland Baptist Church look like for you? I hope that you will be able to join us for this important opportunity to discuss the church we love. If you will be unable to attend the Congregational Conversation, we will also offer an opportunity for you to offer feedback via a digital survey. We will provide a link for that very soon. ~ Roy Fuller

Childcare will be provided for nursery (infants, toddlers, and 2s) and preschool children (3s, 4s, and PreK). Care will also be provided for children in Kindergarten and 1st grades. Parents should transition their children to their classrooms at 6:00 p.m. (as we do for evenings at VBS Camp, please bring a board game and/or a rated G or PG movie to play during this time since the forecast is calling for rain!).

We *maybe* able to expand care for older children, but that determination will be made in the moment based on attendance. 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to bring a board game (think VBS Camp!) and we will create child tables in the back of Fellowship Hall to play games, while adults have conversation around the tables as part of the gathering. Many thanks for your patience as we explored options for our children during this gathering!

### Weekend Services Second Sunday after Pentecost Global Missions Sunday

Celebration of Holy Communion

Psalm 139  
Mark 2:23-3:6

Jason Coker, Proclaimer

Choral Introit: *Take My Life*

### Global Missions Guest Preacher This Sunday

The Rev. Dr. K. Jason Coker is the Coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi and the National Director of Together for Hope, the Rural Development Coalition of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

He came to Mississippi from Wilton Baptist Church, New Haven, Connecticut, where he was the pastor for nearly 9 years, and where he lived since 1998. Coker, however, is originally from the Mississippi Delta. Having escaped the grinding poverty of the Delta, Coker completed his Masters of Art in Religion from Yale Divinity School, and then earned his Ph.D. from Drew University.

His most recent book, *James in Postcolonial Perspective: The Letter as Nativist Discourse*, was published in 2015. Not long after moving to Connecticut for graduate school, he felt compelled to connect the resources in the New York Metro area with the needs in his home region.

With more than fifteen years of groundwork, Coker founded Delta Hands for Hope (DHH) in 2013. Since its incorporation, DHH has become an award winning non-profit and has secured grants from the USDA that provide tens of thousands of meals to children across Mississippi. Much of the philosophy undergirding DHH comes from Coker's previous work along the Uganda/Kenya border where he was in charge of coordinating a child development center for AIDS/HIV orphans. Coker has served on various boards for non-profits in Connecticut and across the country.



### CBF Offering for Global Missions

Every year, Highland participates in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's offering for global missions. The funds collected will join with those from other participating congregations around the country to support the salaries, ministries, and humanitarian aid work of CBF field personnel.

Highland's Global Partnerships Ministry Team invites you to help us meet our 2018 offering goal—\$10,000! Throughout the month of June, we will hear mission moments in worship that will educate us further about how these funds shape love and amplify the voices of those who have been silenced around the world.

Please be generous as you consider how much you might contribute. There are special offering envelopes available, or you can simply write "OGM" or "missions offering" on your check. Thank you in advance for your generosity. We look forward to reporting back to you at the end of the month how we have surpassed our goal!



### "Do. Love. Walk." Mission and Justice with Highland This Sunday

The Mission and Justice Ministry Group enthusiastically invites you to this wonderful event THIS Sunday, June 3. Throughout the morning in the Commons, you will discover a variety of opportunities for ministry beyond the walls of the church. Our eight mission teams (Anti-Racism, Immigration, Habitat for Humanity and other housing solutions, True Colors, Food Justice, Environmental Action, Global Women, and Global Partnerships) will offer interactive and educational displays about our current justice ministries.

There will be fun for all ages, yummy local snacks, and the completion of the church-wide quilt that was begun on Earth Day during the "Blessing of Seed and Soil." Visit ready to see where you might join this work of transforming love and justice.

Further, **more tamales** will be available from one of our neighbors. Cash donations are most welcome for this unique opportunity of support. More information is available online at <https://www.facebook.com/events/174619073224247/>

### Pastor Search Committee Members To Be Voted On This Sunday

The following 10 folks will be voted on this Sunday, June 3, by the church to serve on the Pastor Search Committee (7 members, 3 alternates): Kathy Belcher, Noah Cooksey, Bob Cunningham, Michael DeWhatley, Billy Flood, Alecia Fuller, Carolyn King, Alana Maddox, Earl Shelp, Tyler Swim. Biographies and pictures of those nominated can be found on our website at <https://hbclouisville.org/nominated-members-for-pastor-search-committee/>. We submit these names prayerfully to the Church.

~ *The Ad Hoc Committee*: Vicki Rynnion, Ashley Hostetter, Dana Connor-Israel, David Wells, Mary Burks, Tony Dougherty, and Troy Burden.

### Highland Ordains Kristie L. Abney to Ministry This Sunday

This Sunday, June 3, at 6:00 p.m., Highland Baptist Church will ordain Kristie L. Abney to the ministry of the larger church.

When a child of God receives a call to the ministry, they petition the deacon body for affirmation. An ordination council, comprised of ministers and lay leaders, gathers with the individual to assist their discernment.

Once approved, ordination at Highland involves the congregation recognizing and celebrating the call of God on an individual's life to serve the church in a unique way. With this affirmation, the church "sets apart" the new leader to equip the people of God through pastoral care and the pursuit of justice.

Kristie graduated this spring from Louisville Theological Presbyterian Seminary. She and her wife, Jill, will move to Hattiesburg, MS, in July, where Kristie will pursue a career in pastoral counseling or chaplaincy. Kristie has been a member of and leader at Highland since 2007.

Please join us as we, the Church, embrace God's call to Kristie, affirm her discernment, and celebrate her courage.



## Next Wednesday: Church Gathers for Annual Picnic

We celebrate the beginning of summer with our annual Church Picnic next Wednesday, June 6, 5:00-9:00 p.m., at Willow Park. Cost is the same as Wednesday night meals: \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for kids ages 4-12, and \$21 max per household. We will take reservations tonight and this Sunday morning in the Commons. You may also sign up online at <https://hbclouisville.org/2018/05/30/church-picnic/>.

Volunteers are needed to help transport supplies from church to the park, set-up, serve food, cleanup, and return supplies to church. Please contact Carol Harston if you are able to lend a hand!



## Highland Book Club Meets June 10

The Highland Book Club will meet on Sunday, June 10, at 6:00 p.m., in room 103, to discuss *Salvage the Bones: A Novel* by Jesmyn Ward. Everyone is invited!

## True Colors: Join Us for Pride This June

True Colors invites you to celebrate the LGBTQ community and join us for the Kentuckiana Pride Parade on Friday, June 15. We will gather downtown at the start of the parade, dressed in our best Pride attire, at 6:30 p.m., to be ready for the start at 7:00 p.m.

We will also have a Highland booth throughout the Pride Festival and need help with volunteers to staff it as we look to spread our message of God's all inclusive love to the wider community.

True Colors members will continue to have sign ups in the Commons after worship—don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have about joining us for Pride this year!

## Highland's Word To Our Community



## PASSPORTkids! Parent/Chaperone Meeting This Sunday

Our trip to PASSPORTkids! will be here in about five weeks, which means that it is time to begin making preparations for our trip! All children, families and chaperones should plan to join us this Sunday, June 3, at 12:15 p.m., in the Children's Commons. At this meeting, we will also go over departure/arrival times, packings lists, behavior expectations and answer any questions you may have. A notary will also be present to notarize necessary forms. Look for a web link to access all of the camp forms that will be sent via email this week! If you have any questions, or if you cannot attend, please contact Renee to receive the information that you will need to prepare for camp.

Children's Corner

## Picnics on the Playground Begin June 14

As a way to stay connected through the summer months, families with children are invited to gather on the church playground for picnics through the summer! We will gather on the following Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: June 13, June 20, June 27; July 11, July 18, July 25. Bring a picnic lunch for your family (no peanuts/tree nuts please!), sunscreen, and a blanket or chairs to sit on. Children will have the opportunity to play with one another, while adults have time to fellowship. Bring a friend and join us for a time of fun and fellowship! An RSVP is not necessary, but please note that if it is raining, we will not gather.

## Important Dates to Remember!

- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| June 14    | Picnic on the Playground   |
| June 26-29 | PASSPORTkids!              |
| July 20-22 | Vacation Bible School Camp |

Our youth community has concluded regular Wednesday programming for summer, but a lot is still going on! We have begun a series on prayer in Bible study called "Our Daily Bread" (from the Highland Baptist Church youth community publishing house) and will continue in Bible study throughout the summer. Today, trip participants will receive information packets about our two summer trips, Passport in NC, June 17-23, and our mission trip to Washington, DC, June 30-July 7. Even though we are shifting into our summer rhythms, life with the youth continues to be vibrant and energized!

Youth Corner

## Theology on Tap, June 7

The next in our series of Who Are You? David Bannister and Steven Carr will lead the conversation about "Who are you at Church?" We meet at 6:00 p.m. at Baxter's 942. (That's also the address.) Conversation begins at 6:30 p.m. All young adults are welcome to join us.

Young Adult Corner

## Hymns for the Hymnless, Save the Date

Our next service will be Sunday, June 24, at 7:00 p.m. If you'd like to help us plan the service, we will gather after the church picnic on Wednesday, June 6. Contact Lauren to join the fun.

## June 14: 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 on Thursday, June 14, 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.



## PRIDE

Join us next Sunday, June 10, for our first-ever PRIDE worship service. *Wear bright colors to worship!* We will celebrate the work of our True Colors (LGBTQ) Mission Team by commissioning all of you who plan to march with the church in the Louisville Pride Parade on Friday, June 15. Look for more information at the Do. Love. Walk. event, and sign up to help host our Pride booth on June 16.



Missions Corner

## Highland Leadership Gathers

In response to requests from our ministerial staff and to meet the need for close coordination between our primary ministry groups required during our interim season, chairs and co-chairs of Ministry Council, Personnel, Deacons, Finance and Pastoral Interim Committee met on Friday, May 25.

We spent time naming the many issues we are grappling with as a church in this interim season, touching base about our feelings and how we might best respond to these changes, as well as what we are hearing from the congregation regarding these changes. We served as a collective sounding board for each other, offering feedback, suggestions, and support for the primary lay leaders and ministers. We have been doing this type of "check in" via email but believed it was important to meet together.

Perhaps our only conclusion from our gathering was that we feel it important to continue to stay in regular contact for the foreseeable future. To that end, we plan to gather on a monthly basis and will invite the chair of the soon-to-be-elected Pastor Search Committee to join us.

For transparency purposes, know that this group is in frequent communication and will meet regularly as part of our effort to ensure that important needs are met and to ensure necessary coordination between our various leadership groups.

As a historical note, this type of "body" is not without precedent at Highland. For several years prior to the creation of Ministry Council, our ministers, chair and vice-chair of deacons and chair and vice-chair of the Ministry Planning Team would meet regularly for feedback and to direct issues toward the bodies designated to deal with those issues. ~ Roy Fuller

Interim Update Corner



## This Week at Highland

### Tuesday, May 29

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

### Wednesday, May 30

Fellowship Supper (FH) ..... 5:20-6 p.m.  
Children's Activities ..... 6-7:15 p.m.  
Congregational Conversation (FH) ..... 6:15 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room) ..... 7:15-8:15 p.m.

### Thursday, May 31

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

### Friday, June 1

Wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary) ..... 5 p.m.  
Friday Church (Sanctuary) ..... 7-7:45 p.m.  
Narcotics Anonymous (FH) ..... 8 p.m.

### Saturday, June 2

Habitat House Work Day (Off-site) ..... 8:30 a.m.  
Wedding (Sanctuary) ..... 5 p.m.

### Sunday, June 3

Worship ..... 8:30 a.m.  
"Do. Love. Walk." Event (Commons) ..... 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Bible Study ..... 11 a.m.  
VBS Camp Parents (Children's Commons) ..... 12 p.m.  
True Colors MT (FS) ..... 12:30 p.m.  
Ordination of Kristie Abney (Sanctuary) ..... 6 p.m.

### Monday, June 4

Ministry Council (103) ..... 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 5

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

## Upcoming Events at Highland

May 30 Congregational Conversation  
June 3 Vote on Pastor Search Committee Members; Global Missions Month Begins; Do.Walk.Love. Event; Kristie Abney Ordination Service  
June 6 Church-wide Picnic at Willow Park  
June 7 Theology on Tap  
June 10 PRIDE Worship Service  
June 14 Libation Theology  
June 15-16 Annual Pride Festival and Parade  
June 24 Hymns for the Hymnless  
June 26-29 PASSPORT kids/Camp

## Wednesday Night Menu

### May 30—Cook-out

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs  
Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions  
Fries  
Slaw  
Watermelon  
Dessert



Adults: \$7; Children ages 4-12: \$3.50; Max per family: \$21

**Reminder:** If you have a reservation you are responsible to pay for it. Cancellations must be made *no later than 11:00 a.m. the Tuesday before your reservation.* You may also contact the church office to make your reservations/cancellations.

## This Week's Deacons (Communion)

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

Becky Holloman (C), Mike McFall, Becky Smith

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

Kristie Abney, Tony Dougherty (G), Vicki Runnion (C), Tyler Swim

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

Mary Burks, Libby Cunningham, Michael DeWhatley, Allison French (G), Jim McBee, Mike McFall

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

Kathy Belcher, John Foster (G), Becky Holloman, Lewis Miller, Kim Shippey (C), David Tucker, David Wells

## Cream of the Crop Upcoming Trips

We hope you will join those of retirement age and older for our upcoming trips!

**June 14** – Join us for a day trip to Farnsley-Moremen Landing, followed by lunch at Mike Linnig's. We will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. and take the mini-bus to our destination. Upon arrival at the landing, there will be two options of participation. Those who wish to take a 40-45 minute tour may do so, beginning at 10:30. The cost will be \$4. Those who do not wish to take the tour can enjoy a serene view of farmland that has remained untouched for over 100 years from rocking chairs. Following the tour and enjoying the scenery, we will travel to Mike Linnig's for lunch.

RSVP to Gloria McBee by Sunday, June 10. If you would like to only join the group for lunch at Mike Linnig's, please note that when you make your reservation. Hope to see you there!

**July 18** – Join us for a lunch cruise on the Mary Miller Riverboat on the Ohio River. We'll gather at the church at 10:45 a.m. and take the mini-bus downtown. Boarding time on the Mary Miller Riverboat is 11:30 a.m., and the sailing time is noon. The cost for the lunch cruise is \$30 per person. RSVP to Joanne Taheri by Tuesday, July 10. We hope you can join us!

## Worship Through the Year

The beauty of Highland's stained glass windows now extend into the Sanctuary with the side banners for the longest season of the liturgical year: *Ordinary Time*. Green, a sign of hope, replaces the colorful white, gold, and red from Eastertide and Pentecost. In the Ordinary Season of the Church, the scriptures instruct us how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives—ordinary days. May you find God's presence and Spirit in the ordinary—come to church each Sunday, study the scriptures, surround yourself with your faith community, listen anew to God's word, sing the songs of faith, and discover the joy in the ordinary. ~ *Kathy Collier*



## Liminal Wonderings ...

When I write this column, I think I should be insightful and/or inspirational or at least sound intelligent. Yet, I recall the advice of a PhD psychologist and Buddhist who told me, "Don't should on yourself." So, for now, I give up my shoulds long enough to tell you what I see.

I see many of you working hard in your leadership roles. You come to meetings prepared. Yet, you are open to questions and opinions that are not your own. The gift of listening to each other affirms and values the other person.

I see many of you employing your talents to bring an orchestra to life or to make handbells ring. I have no idea how much effort has gone into developing your talents. I do know the beauty stirred in me by your gifts.

I see kind deeds and hear kind words. The reception for Honor Deacons reminds all of us of how others have served Christ for a long time in this place and have helped shape it into the sacred place that it is.

Every Sunday and Wednesday, I hear laughter in the conversation in the hall and the classes. When I retired from my hospice chaplain work, my chaplain colleagues gave me a book entitled, *I Heard God Laughing* by Hafiz. I think I hear God laughing in our halls and meetings.

I see opportunities for kindness and love everywhere. I see you acting with kindness and love everywhere. In an interim time and beyond, I cannot imagine all we may discuss or vote on. My hope for myself is that I will use all my opportunities to speak and vote in such a way that each one of you will know you are loved. ~ *Jim England*

## In Everything There is a Season, Even When Change Is Hard by Roy Fuller

In his sermon recently, Jim England said that change is hard. As chair of your Pastoral Interim Committee, I would like to offer some thoughts on this time of change in the life of Highland Baptist Church. First, Jim is correct (of course), change is hard! Harder for some than for others because the same change can and does have very different impacts upon different people.

Highland is in its 125<sup>th</sup> year of existence—longer than any of us have been alive. I am grateful for those generations which have gone before and whose wisdom and faithful stewardship have provided us with spaces and resources that shape us still. Highland has been through many changes in its long history—many ministers have served, many transitions have occurred, theological and denomination changes, cultural and social changes, etc. We have weathered all these changes and challenges, not perfectly, but we are stronger as a result.

More recently, we are experiencing the retirement of two long-serving, beloved ministers. Joe retired in January 2018, and Nina this past Sunday. Together they represent decades of Christian ministry with us. As Jim also said, they were like "Mom and Dad". While a church is like a family in many ways, in other ways it is not. Typically, parents do not "retire," even as their roles change over time.

In January, I said that we need time to learn what it feels like to be Highland without Joe—let me add, now we need to learn what it feels like to be Highland without Joe and Nina. Grief, anxiety and concern are all normal, yet like change, they are hard. Let us continue to care for each other as we find a new way forward. Our retired ministers (and their spouses) are going through many changes as well—as they grow into a new way of relating to this faith community, which they still will connect with, even as they will be absent from us for a season.

Similar to family, in some ways a church is like a business, in other ways it is not. In business, when the director or CEO steps down, someone immediately takes their place. In this way, a church is different. In January, we put in place an initial interim structure. With Nina's retirement, that structure will change. Our talented, experienced ministry staff, our Personnel Ministry Group, Ministry Council, and other lay leadership are working to make sure that the duties and functions we expect in our faith community will continue. And since this is a column about change, know that our ministerial staff is experiencing these changes more directly than most all of us. Most all our ministers have over a decade or more of ministerial experience. For their experience and wisdom, I give thanks.

One final point about time. I believe the last two interim periods when we were without a pastor were both approximately 2 years in length. Nobody can know or predict how long this interim period might last, think in terms of 18 months to 2 years for our current interim. If it is quicker, we will celebrate, and when we connect with whomever we might call, we will celebrate. Regardless of how long, there will be celebrating!

We don't have all the answers yet, but we will get there. I take comfort in the words of the author of Ecclesiastes:

*For everything there is a season, and time for every matter under heaven ...*

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh;*

*A time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;*

*A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*A time to seek, and a time to lose;*

*A time to keep, and a time to throw away....*

*A time to keep silence, and a time to speak... (and most importantly)*

*A time to love.*

## Prayer for the End of School by Perry Dixon

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of learning and we know how sacred of a privilege it is to have the opportunity to be educated. We give thanks for the ways in which students of every age are challenged to grow in the pursuit of knowledge, but also that being a student means more. We give thanks for the teachers called to walk alongside students helping them to grow in character, experience, wisdom, relationships, and self understanding. Even as we value education as sacred gift, and recognize the importance of academic pursuits, we know that neither students nor their teachers are merely the sum of test grades or achievements. We celebrate academic success with great joy. But, we remember that the value of each student and each teacher is that You have created them and love them more deeply than any of us might ever imagine. In the turn towards summer, full of transition, stress, chaos and hope, we ask that you draw near to each student and each teacher to remind them that you are with them in each and every moment along the journey. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Weekly Financial Report May 20, 2018 (20 weeks)

	Weekly Requirement	Receipts This Week	YTD Requirements	YTD Receipts	YTD Over/Under
Contributions	\$20,477.93	\$21,185.30	\$423,941.28	\$406,669.43	(\$17,271.85)
Other Income	\$1,034.13	\$1,478.00	\$20,682.65	\$25,026.59	\$4,343.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,512.06</b>	<b>\$22,663.30</b>	<b>\$444,623.93</b>	<b>\$431,696.02</b>	<b>(\$12,927.91)</b>



### 2015 Building Renovation Project

Contributed this week	\$685.00	Loan Balance	\$46,618.00
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*Highlights from the Honor Deacon Reception*



*Highlights from the Handbells & Orchestra Spring Concert*

