

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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Children Travel to PASSPORT kids!

This morning, 13 children and 5 chaperones left for a week of PASSPORT kids! Camp at Maryville College in Maryville, TN. This year, the camp theme *Enough* will facilitate our encounter with God as we remember together that *God is enough* for whatever comes our way. We'll think about how God created each of us and so *we are enough*. We will also discuss how God's plan is that *there is enough* for everyone; and how as followers of Christ we can use our voices to say, *"Enough already!"* when we see injustice and inequity in the world. Please pray for us as we travel, as we experience camp together and as we grow together as a group. Of special note this year: Renee Kenley Purtlebaugh had the privilege of writing the Bible study curriculum resource for 2018 PASSPORT kids! camps!



**Weekend Services
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Mark 5:21-43
Daughter
Jim England, Proclaimer
Celebration of Holy Communion
Anthem: *Come, Ye Disconsolate*

Liminal Wonderings...

Some not so random thoughts keep rolling around in my brain. One is a children's song taught to me long ago. One line goes, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world."

I remember verses we memorized; verses that now feel like seeds bursting through the ground seeking light. "When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?... As you did it to the least of these, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:31ff)

I remember a scene from Matthew in which Jesus talks about true greatness and beckons a child to their midst. He said, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me." (Matthew 18:5) The passage continues with a harsh word for anyone who causes a little one to "sin". The passage does not mention what color the child was.

I know immigration is a complex issue. I believe solutions begin in simple compassion and a desire to love all. Living in fear does not help us. Thinking that begins in a theology of scarcity leads us astray. Let the solutions be based in truth and compassion. ~Jim England

Youth Return from Passport Youth Camp

This past week, 40 youth and 8 adult leaders from Highland traveled to Greensboro, NC, for a week of camp with Passport and CBF churches from around the country. Our youth experienced a full camp schedule guided by the theme of "Enough," being reminded that God is enough and that they are enough through Bible study, celebrations, art, music, athletics and other activities, a party each night, and invaluable time together as a church in the mundane (meals and in between time) and the sacred (our nightly church group devotions). Our youth love one another in ways that we all might learn from—fully, recklessly and deeply. Those who prefer order to justice will continue to find our youth to be troublemakers—12 of our youth stood together in directly and nonviolently confronting hateful, homophobic speech from peers outside of our group (which targeted our youth and the LGBTQ community amidst a Bible study, of all places). Needless to say, they bravely took the verse of the day (on Jesus flipping tables),



and Paxton Vaughn's transformative homily on faith-based activism the night before, as we should all hope they would. It was a privilege to live out our Youth Led Worship reminder that we are stronger together. But, confronting injustice is organic to our group and could not take away from the beauty of a week finding God together through the camp schedule and our own time together. To cap things off, we tore up the US National Whitewater Center on the way into a 10-hour bus ride back. We will all be catching up on sleep this week, but as we say in the youth suite: **Worth it.**



2018 CBF Global Mission Offering

Rejoice and be glad as together we have met our goal for our annual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Offerings for Global Missions. As of Monday, the total is \$10,551. These offerings directly support our beloved CBF field personnel (domestic and international), who, through our love offerings, transform the lives of God's beloved around the world. Of course, anything above our goal is God's love overflowing. The Global Partnerships Ministry Team thanks each and all of you for your generous, big hearts!

Truly, the Vision of Highland Baptist Church is met in this endeavor: *We dream of being an engaging, vibrant Christian church, where transformed people are joining the work of God, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant.* Praise be to God!

(Contributions may be made throughout the year by designating as "CBF Global Missions").



HBC Goal: \$10,000
Given to date: \$10,551

A Word from Joe

Greetings from retirement! Today marks five months into this new life and I miss your faces, your stories, and the sacred work of Love we shared for decades. I follow news of Highland with gratitude for your continued work for gospel justice, just as I knew you would.

It is a delight to see many of you around town and to have a chance to catch up. But since some of our paths don't cross, a note seems in order.

I am doing very well—happy, rested, healthy, grateful. My schedule is often that I have nothing to do when I arise, but by the end of the day only half of the work is done! I find my daily work, or it finds me. It changes daily. I play in the dirt around the yard; I fix things; I help friends who need something I can do; I ponder things; I read; I meet neighbors; I talk to friends and to several young pastors. Terri and I have and will travel to see family and take time to see the world as we come and go. We take the backroads a lot.

One gift of retirement is that life's pace is slower, more humane. There is space to experience how diverse, beautiful and interwoven everything is.

(continued to page 3)

Reflection from the CBF General Assembly

Friends and allies, I wanted to give you a brief report from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly held this past week in Dallas. As some of you know, Nathan Russell and I are co-leading the creation of the Affirming Network within CBF that will be an official gathering spot for LGBTQ ministers and their straight allies. During this year's assembly, we held the kick-off breakfast for the network and after a great deal of planning, coordinating and prayer, I can say it was a huge success!

As LGBTQ folk and their allies work to rid the CBF of the homophobic Implementation Plan that was "accepted" along with the new hiring policy but not voted on by the Governing Board, the inception of the Affirming Network took place. Understanding that change is often most effective from the inside out, I and other committed LGBTQ ministers and allies within CBF will now have our own network to advocate on issues that matter to us, most urgent being the eradication of the remaining homophobia that exists within the denominational body.

With all of this on our minds, Nathan and I opened the doors as 140 people took their seats for the historic kick-off breakfast. While the room could only hold 140 seats, there were many people who stood along the walls just to be present for the first LGBTQ-led official event at a CBF General Assembly. Straight ministers sat and listened to LGBTQ ministers share their testimonies and their hopes for change within CBF. In the 27 years of CBF's history, this had never happened. It was so monumental but at the same time extremely personal for me. Of all I've done and been part of to bring about change and equality for LGBTQ folk, this was the most spiritually significant by far.

If you are asking yourself how you and Highland Baptist can be part of this exciting and hopeful work, please consider designating funds for True Colors Ministry and/or the Affirming Network. As you might imagine, budgets for LGBTQ ministries and networks in Baptist life is very limited. To grow and bring about lasting change, we need financial help from people and organizations that value LGBTQ inclusion and affirmation. Highland Baptist is the beacon in the storm for so many LGBTQ adults and youth in the CBF and I'm so very grateful to you for being doers of the word and not only hearers. ~ Rev. Bojangles Blanchard

Joe Phelps Legacy Fund Supports Building Love

Highland gives gratitude to all those who gave to the **Joe Phelps Legacy Fund**, a fund designated by Joe to help pay down the Building Love outstanding debt. Your contributions of \$6,845 have made a powerful difference in our anticipated loan payoff schedule. Contributions to the Legacy Fund are still being accepted.

~Faithful Giving Ministry Group

Highland's Word To Our Community



Please Note:

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

Picnics on the Playground Continue June 27

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, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: June 27, July 11, July 18, and 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! A RSVP is not necessary, but please note that if it is raining, we will not gather.

Children's Corner

Important Dates to Remember

June 26-29 PASSPORTkids!
 June 27 Picnic on the Playground
 July 20-22 Vacation Bible School Camp

Highland Community Ministries—Summer Food Drive

Our congregation is participating in HCM's Summer Food Drive. Dare to Care gets depleted during the summer due to higher demand, which creates shortages in the local food pantries by the time school starts. We will provide cans of tuna fish. Please leave them in the wooden bins outside the choir room. You will also find collection barrels inside the Highlands Kroger and ValuMarket in the Mid-City Mall.



Medicines for Migrants in Morocco

We will collect, year-round, over the counter medications (ibuprofen and acetaminophen) for our ministry to refugees in Morocco. Such simple commodities for us are difficult and expensive to obtain in Morocco. In a part of the world where thousands are brutally injured seeking a safer life, this is a small opportunity to show our care. Whenever we have a volunteer to carry these acceptable items so far away, we will have an offering to send. ~ The Global Partnerships Ministry Team

Friday Church Ministry Group Report

We had a wonderful Friday Church Ministry Group retreat at the home of Jeff Grey and Debbie Lemmon the weekend of June 9, full of good food and fellowship, prayers and discussions, and some really candid sharing that characterizes the level of trust and adventure we share. Holy ground.

After an hour or so of coming together and letting our cares emerge, we came to realize that this last year has been a year of great loss for the Friday Church family. Bill Dinwiddie, Linda Barber and John Sanders, three foundational supporters of Friday Church, have passed on. Joe and Nina have both retired. Each one of these beacons of Christ love and light comforted and challenged us in our midst and are now even more conspicuous in their absence.

We the Friday Church Ministry Group discovered our need to grieve together. This is our necessary season of graceful God and tender prayer, a time of planting the seeds of thought and intention that will become tomorrow's harvest of joy. The usual Friday Church activities will continue unabated, and we'll continue leaning on the everlasting arms of God and adventuring our way through scripture and song. We found this pearl from Isaiah 43—God's quiet voice daring us to prepare:

I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.

Amen!

Help Needed for Fellowship Supper

We are in need of side dishes and desserts for the Fifth Friday Fellowship Dinner. If you are willing to help, you may drop off your side dish or dessert during church office hours and place in the kitchen. Or, you may come after 5:00 p.m. on Friday. We would love to have stay and join us for dinner and fellowship. Thank you!

Friday Church Corner



Interim Update Corner

With the retirement of two long-time ministers, Highland finds itself at a place where there are more questions than answers. This dynamic will change in the coming months, but for now it is our reality. One question I have heard is if and when we might replace the position held by Nina Maples. Short answer: no one knows, yet. Long answer involves exploration and discernment on the part of our ministers, lay leaders, and the congregation. Some of the work done by Nina is and will continue to be, taken up by our ministerial staff and church members. Typically, churches do not fill significant positions while at the same time they are engaged in a pastor search, as whoever that person might be would want to have input on other ministerial positions. Highland Baptist Church will likely complete our pastor search before filling any other ministerial positions. The Pastor Search Committee met for the first time last week. There is another possibility in this area, namely that we MIGHT choose to not replace our two retired minister spots with two new ministers. I stress MIGHT because that is a big decision which will be made down the road by the congregation. Why would we not replace 2 for 2? A couple of reasons spring to mind. First, we are in the process of determining what we need going forward and it is possible that we determine, as present and future staff bring their skills to bear along with their callings, that we only hire one minister and not two. Second, for some time now, HBC has been high on the percentage of our budget devoted to personnel. Different sources give different percentages on the desirable percentage of overall budget to staff, but by most measures Highland Baptist Church has been spending a high percentage of our budget on personnel. Going any higher would impact the funds available for our many ministries and reducing this percentage might enable us to have even more impact as a church. There are no magic numbers or formulas on these matters, but they do serve as helpful guidelines. We love and need our ministers and support staff, so an interim period is the time to discern what size our ministerial staff should be to best position us for future growth and impact. ~ Roy Fuller



**This Week
at Highland**

Tuesday, June 26

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) 5:30 p.m.
 Committee on MG (Youth Suite) 6 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Wednesday, June 27

No Regular Evening Activities/Supper
 Picnic on the Playground 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursday, June 28

Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 7 p.m.

Friday, June 29

Friday Church Fifth Fellowship Supper
 (Front Lawn) 6:30 p.m.
 Narcotics Anonymous (FH) 8 p.m.

Sunday, July 1

Worship 8:30 a.m.
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 11 a.m.
 Bible Study 11 a.m.
 Worship MG (103) 12 p.m.
 True Colors Ministry Group (FS) 12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 2

Ministry Council (103) 6 p.m.
 Immigration Team (Commons) 6:30 p.m.
 Young Adult Retreat Planning (FS) 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 3

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

Upcoming Events at Highland

- June 26-29 PASSPORT kids! Camp
- June 29 Friday Church 5th Friday Fellowship Supper
- June 30-July 7 High School Youth Mission Trip
- July 4 Church Offices Closed
- July 8 Watermelon Social
- July 9 Interfaith Coalition on Immigrant Justice
- July 10 Encourager Program Information/Training
- July 12 Libation Theology
- July 14 MensWork Breakfast; Annual Sewing Blitz
- July 15 Quarterly Church Conference
- July 20-22 Vacation Bible School Camp
- July 29 Summer Fellowship Gathering
- August 11 MensWork Breakfast
- August 14 Children's Lunch and Movie

**July 10: Information Meeting/
Training for Encourager Program**

Simmons College of Kentucky, a Historically Black College located in Louisville, is looking for volunteers to serve as encouragers for first year students in the fall of 2018. Volunteers who become encouragers are asked to offer words of encouragement and celebration through notes, cards, social media, goodie bags and an occasional meet up with student participant. An information meeting/training for volunteers will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 6:00-8:30 p.m., in the Commons. For more information, or to sign up and register for the information meeting/training, call or text: Susan Lockwood, 606-465-1504, Darrell Adams, 502-541-7683, Carolyn Allaby King, 502-541-9636; or email encouragesimmons@gmail.com.

Around Highland...

... For the summer, the Highland Book Club will be reading two books, both by James Baldwin: *The Fire Next Time* and *Giovanni's Room*. We will discuss these books on Sunday, August 26, at 6:00 p.m., in room 103. Everyone is invited!
 ... This summer, we celebrate several anniversaries for our church staff! June 18 marks eleven years with Renee Purtlebaugh. July 1 marks two years with Lauren Jones Mayfield and eleven years with Kathy Collier. We give thanks for these wonderful ministers who enrich our community life and our church's ministries!

This Week's Deacons

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Mike McFall, Becky Smith (C)

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Communion)

Allison French, Lewis Miller (C)

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. (Communion)

David Bannister (C), Bruce Carroll (G), Allison French, Jim McBee

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. (Communion)

Kathy Belcher, Cheryl Davis, Ginny Sims, David Wells

Cream of the Crop Upcoming Trips

We hope you will join those of retirement age and older for our upcoming trips!
July 18—We hope you will 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 sailing time is noon. The cost for the lunch cruise is \$30 per person. RSVP to Joanne Taheri by Tuesday, July 10.
August 14—Join us for a potluck lunch and a movie in Highland's Fellowship Hall. We will gather at noon to eat, followed by the movie around 1:00 p.m. RSVP to Joey Eubank by Sunday, August 12.

A Word from Joe (continued from page 1)

I've preached this for years, but now have time and emotional energy to get to know neighbors, to drive without rushing and to see our city as if for the first time, to visit other parts of Kentucky ... only to discover that heaven's epicenter is southeast of Lexington: Red River Gorge.

I continue my work with racial reconciliation and as advocate for Metro Corrections inmates, particularly Joey, with whom I communicate regularly.

Retirement provides a window into soul-searching: Who am I now that I am just me— no official title, office, role, place, responsibilities? I am grateful for those skilled in helping others on this journey. It is enlightening, scary, and invigorating.

I've not been bored for one moment.

I suppose I'm on a sabbatical of sorts from life-long Sunday practices. On Sundays when we are in town, I sit and pray and listen, or I walk in the woods, or I drive around the city and notice who is and isn't in church. I pray for you, Highland. Absent from you, I'll often feel like I am with you, accompanying you. I'll notice the time, envision where you are in the morning schedule, and give thanks to God for the gift that is you.

For blessed are you, Highland. You are a church ready "for such a time as this." You have the wisdom, the energy, the vision, the gifts, the guts, the hope, and the connection. Highland, the world needs you now as never before. Your unique blend of gospel passion and history and courage and gifts are given to announce God's new day. As our Highland hymn instructs: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus Christ the author of our faith." ~Joe Phelps



Our Summer Fellowship Gatherings kicked off this past Sunday night as twenty-five gathered at Carol's home to party with their pastors! You are invited to attend an upcoming gathering on either July 29 or August 19 by signing up online at <https://hbclouisville.org/2018/06/11/summer-fellowship-gatherings/>.



On June 14, the Cream of the Crop group toured the Farnsley-Moremen Landing and had lunch at Mike Linnig's.



Highland had an amazing diverse group march in the Pride Parade.

Weekly Financial Report June 17, 2018 (24 weeks)

	Weekly Requirement	Receipts This Week	YTD Requirements	YTD Receipts	YTD Over/Under
Contributions	\$20,477.93	\$27,176.30	\$505,853.00	\$481,914.70	(\$23,938.30)
Other Income	\$1,034.13	\$126.24	\$24,819.17	\$28,693.89	\$3,874.72
Total	\$21,512.06	\$27,302.54	\$530,672.17	\$510,608.59	(\$20,063.58)



2015 Building Renovation Project

Contributed this week	\$115.00	Loan Balance	\$40,804.00
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