



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church April 27, 2021



New Office Manager

The Personnel Ministry Group along with Mary Alice and Walter are delighted to announce that our new Office Manager will be HBC's very own Cheryl Davis. After promoting the job search via several online platforms, we ended up finding what we were looking for right in our own back yard. Cheryl comes to us from Tek4Kids, which partners with schools in Haiti to bridge the poverty gap through education and technology. Cheryl has served as their Office Manager, supporting Tek4Kids staff by managing office & accounting functions, print media, and social media. Her work experience dovetails perfectly with the current Office Manager duties as well as expansion into other roles that will support the church and ministerial staff.

Cheryl and husband Robert joined Highland in 2014. She's served as a deacon, sings in the Sanctuary Choir, has served on several Ministry Groups, and is a member of the Nomads Bible Study Class. Cheryl is the mother of Brandon, mother-in-law to Kelsey, and proud grandmother to Harrison. Her first day in the office will be Monday, May 17. Please extend a warm welcome as Cheryl joins our support staff in continuing God's work of love on the corner of Grinstead and Cherokee.

Deacon Nomination Process Begins

Highland's deacons serve the church in a spirit of love, working to listen to and see all people in the way God does—being attentive and welcoming, patient and lovingly persistent, compassionate, and fully present. It is time in our calendar year to nominate the next group of deacons to serve the church. Nominations opened on Sunday. Please nominate a minimum of five members by Friday, May 7. Complete information can be found on the online nomination form: <https://hbclouisville.org/2021/04/16/2021-deacon-nomination-form/>

For our folks that do not have email, we ask that you call the church office at 502-451-3735. Nominees are vetted and a subgroup of deacons proposes a list of names to the congregation for approval.



In-Person Worship: Beginning June 4 and 6

We are excited to share that we are officially planning to open in-person worship in the sanctuary beginning Friday, June 4 and Sunday, June 6. The staff, COVID advisory team, and two task forces are hard at work planning logistics for how we will gather, as safely as possible.

Obviously there are many details that still need to be worked out, but we do know that RSVP-ing for a limited number of spots in the sanctuary, masks, and social distancing will all be required. As of right now, we will be able to have a minimum of 50 people and a maximum of 90 people per service. In addition to Friday Church, for the time being, we will offer two Sunday morning services at 9 AM and 11 AM. This will allow us time to clear and clean the sanctuary between services.

Beginning on June 6, we will start streaming worship online at 9 AM and will continue for the foreseeable future. We know that the size of our sanctuary will not allow us to accommodate everyone every week, and some still may not feel ready for in-person worship due to their own health situations. We are committed to making sure that worship continues to be

accessible to all people.

We also know that initially, we will not be able to have childcare or children's Bible study during worship. Renee is in the process of evaluating how many of our previous volunteers are able and willing to work with children, since they are not able to be vaccinated, and the process of doing this safely will take some time and planning. However, both she and Perry are already planning spring and summer opportunities for families with children and youth.

If you have questions about how all of this is going to work, so do we! However, we will continue to stay in touch with more information as it becomes available over the coming weeks.

Personally, I can tell you that I am so hopeful about this news and the chance to finally be together with my church family, face-to-face! I am grateful to our task forces and COVID Advisory Team for their hard work and discernment over the past year. I am incredibly thankful for our staff and all the work they have done to imagine and re-imagine worship over the past year, and now they are beginning that process all over again. And I am beyond grateful for the resilience of the community of faith that is Highland Baptist Church.

In the words of Daj Hammerskjold, "For all that has been – thank you! For all that is to come – YES!"

-Mary Alice

Children and Family's Corner

This week in worship we gather to dedicate five children and their families to God. Together we will hear how their names were chosen, the spiritual hopes these parents have for their children, and the hopes each family has for Highland as we walk alongside them. We will make commitments to these families to nurture and encourage them in their faith and we will dedicate and bless them as they travel life's journey. Join us for these moments of delight as we worship God together!

Bible Studies Beginning to Return to In-Person Fellowship

As we begin reviving our in-person worship, I've initiated conversation amongst Bible Studies to consider if they would like to start meeting in-person. The responses have been varied, reflecting the beautiful diversity of our seventeen adult Bible Studies. Here's a glimpse of the different approaches classes are taking:

- Meeting occasionally outside for fellowship while maintaining Zoom classes weekly
- Meeting in-person outdoors on a weekly basis
- Sticking with Zoom right now until schedules and comfort levels align
- Ongoing discussion amongst the class about how best to move forward

We know this to be true: a full return to weekly in-person gatherings will be difficult until in-person worship is revived to the extent that class time and worship service are in conjunction.

When will that happen? We're not sure! Our staff is dedicating the next few weeks to get in-person worship ready to begin. Discerning how to revive the Bible Study hour will be next on our plate! We give thanks for your patience and flexibility as we move forward. If you have questions or want to connect with a group that is meeting in-person, please email me at carol@hbclouisville.org so that we can connect.

-Carol



Highland Welcomes Matt McGarvey

Matt McGarvey is originally from Paducah, KY. He attended Paducah Tilghman High School, the University of Louisville and the University of Maryland. His hobbies are gardening, biking and sailing. This summer Matt is planning a trip in Maine with some friends and they plan to sail off the coast. Matt is a CPA with

the Securities and Exchange Commission and has lived most of his adult life in Washington, D.C., Lexington and Chicago.

His husband of many years passed away three years ago. Matt decided to move back to Louisville. He feels at home at Highland because he has met some incredible people. Matt really enjoys his Sunday school class (Nomads). Lewis and Ginger Miller have introduced him to many people at Highland. He loves the liberal progressive theology and intellectual sermons.





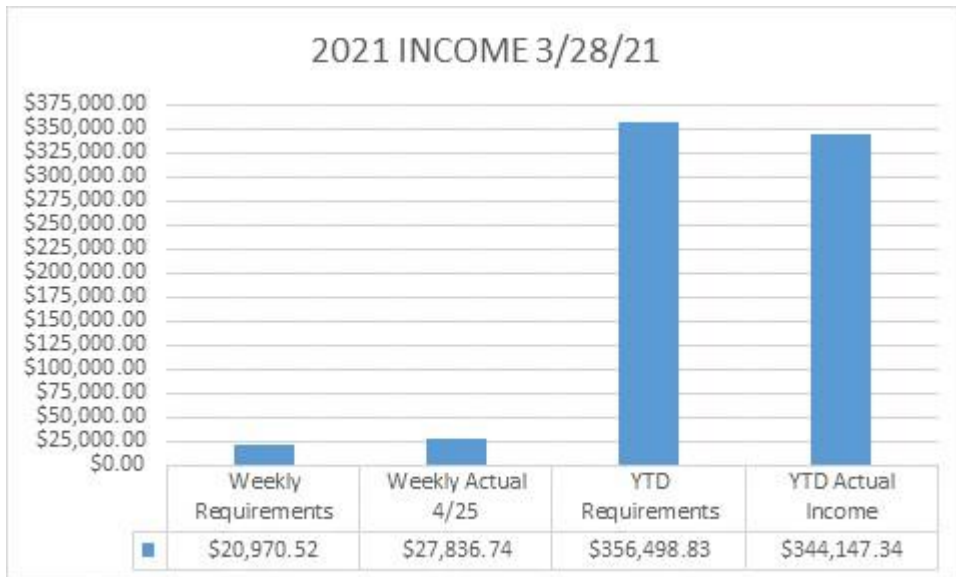
Friday Church on the Lawn

Join us weekly for Friday Church on the Lawn, every Friday at 7:00 PM, weather permitting. Please bring a lawn chair. Masks and social distancing required. Hope you can join us outside as we continue our Easter worship series, "Practice Resurrection."

Finance Corner

The church continues to be in a solid financial position thanks to your continued faithfulness in giving. Below are the numbers through April:

- Pledged Giving is at 109% of Budgeted Amount
- Non-Pledged Giving is at 70.7% of Budgeted Amount
- Other Income is at 19.5% of Budgeted Amount
- Total Income is at 96.5% of Budgeted Amount



The Messengers Class met this weekend for a picnic gathering!

Around Highland

- Two things that **Carol Harston** has been up to lately: First, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky's Board of Trustees elected Carol Harston to its board last week. Carol will serve a three-year term on the board. BSK's mission is to prepare people sensing God's leadership for life and ministry in faithful witness to Jesus Christ in the church and the world. Second, Carol was a panelist on Saturday for the Wisconsin Congregational Association, presenting "Re-engaging Faith Formation in the Church" with the Center for Healthy Churches.

•The Alliance of Baptists' Annual Gathering took place this past weekend, and **Lauren Jones Mayfield and Tyler Mayfield** presented a workshop entitled, "Exploring the 'Whiteness' of Jacob: The Challenges of Racial Reconciliation."

The workshop used the compelling biblical story of the "reconciliation" of Jacob and Esau to challenge us to ponder anew a faithful condemnation both of racism and easy answers to this evil. What if we see Jacob as a depiction of "whiteness?" Many of Jacob's actions surrounding his reunion with Esau are self-serving and superficial. The problem with a reconciliation paradigm is that Jacob/Whiteness is never held accountable for previous actions. How might this story relate to current calls for reconciliation and the work of anti-racism? How do white people move beyond well-intended but shallow calls for reconciliation to a paradigm of repentance and reparation?

Here is their introductory video to the workshop, which hosted lovely conversation around the differences between reconciliation and reparation. <https://youtu.be/t4odMU1sYMQ>

•**Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons** is leading a 3-part virtual series for Highlands Community Ministries on his book "Just Faith." The series will be held weekly on Tuesdays starting May 4, 2021 at noon. The [Zoom link for each week is here](#). A flyer about the series, including a bio about Guthrie, [can be found here](#).

All Things Mission

-Lauren

Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light

I am excited to share with you the Mission and Justice budget emphases. Over the course of the next several weeks, I will highlight each organization to whom we offer funds and the amount that we give.

The first one to highlight comes in response to Lillian Glover's mission moment this past Sunday on behalf of the Environmental Action Team, and because we celebrated Earth Day last week. Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light (KIPL), like their website states, is about "making the connection between spirituality and sustainability." Here is an informational video that shares their mission and vision. <https://youtu.be/0BP5V59YLYA> And, of course, you can read more on their website www.kentuckyipl.org. Finally, note the flyer below for information about a film series that all are invited to attend.



Through the Environmental Action Team Highland has supported KIPL for the last several years, and this year will donate \$1500 toward their efforts. Click here to see a list of their other giving partners, with whom we are in community: <https://www.kentuckyipl.org/partner-communities>.

Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Staying Focused: Immigrant and refugee rights and emerging policy
May 6 Zoom Gathering, 7-8:30 pm (EST)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckc--opz0oGNGegehAvwgfbew8Qat3GHU>



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1393292317737776>

Reach out to Lauren Jones Mayfield, Carolyn King, or Ryan Eller with questions. All are welcome to attend!

Arms of Compassion

Here is a video tribute to those who have been killed by acts of violence in the City of Louisville in the last five years. It is a beautiful and simple tribute. There are 635 people remembered.

<https://vimeo.com/536976693/8242b1c389>. Highland stands in partnership with Arms of Compassion in paying tribute to these lives that have been lost. Their director Anne Walter writes, "Let us create a ripple effect of Nonviolence - the releasing of violence from our own hearts, thoughts and actions - leaving compassion and courage to create change in ourselves and our world around us."



Kentucky Interfaith
Power & Light



Join us virtually as we learn about communities who have overthrown their extraction economies, and then take action locally.



SCAN ME

tinyurl.com/EngagingSpring

For more information, email info@kentuckyipl.org or visit our website kentuckyipl.org

Details:

April 18: Current Revolution	(6-7:30 pm)
April 25: Union Town	(6-7:30 pm)
May 2: Water Warriors	(6-7:30 pm)
May 9: Advocacy Event	(6-7:30 pm)

All times are Eastern Daylight Time



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Kentucky Interfaith
Power & Light



Louisville Homicides

Please join us in prayer and action as we remember those who have been killed in recent weeks in our city. We grieve with those who mourn, while we also maintain a hope that one day, all things will be made new.

- Damien O'Neal, age 22, killed April 5
 - Darrin Thiele, age 14, killed April 14
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