



***The Weekly Newsletter of
Highland Baptist Church
May 4, 2021***

**NOMINATIONS
FOR
NEW
DEACONS**



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/>
If you're having trouble with the nomination link, please email names to Kathleen Gordon in the church office: kathleen@hbclouisville.org
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.

My Turn: “Serving as Resurrection People” **by Bill Campbell, Vice Chair of Deacons**

“I just don’t know. All I get from God—if there is a God—is radio silence.” Have you heard words like these? Maybe you’ve said them yourself. In times of darkness, who carries God’s light? I remember rushing to the hospital after Linda was in a terrible accident. A deacon showed up, and I will never forget the sight of the deacon picking broken glass from my wife’s scalp. (Gee maybe I should have thought of that...).

In times when strangers pass through our doors unsure of what they’ll find, who offers welcome and God’s warmth? I’ve seen deacons in humility and great kindness make people feel at home, developing relationships, and confirming God’s great love.

In times of strife, who can we seek as peacemakers? As I have drawn verbal swords ready for battle, certain deacons, full of the Holy Spirit, have cast aside “sides” and helped us rabble see instead the with eyes of God’s love and grace.

“What’s it like to be a deacon?” I was recently asked. To tell the truth, I feel under qualified, but I am amazed at the times God has met me along the journey and made miracles of feeble offerings. I have been buoyed and empowered by seeing fellow deacons being “doers and not hearers only.”

Deacons are not “theological mechanics”—diagnosing and repairing all life’s challenges. Deacons are called to be present, to be attentive listeners, and to help serve as reminders of God’s great love for all peoples. We are witnesses that God is not done; we are keepers of hope even when hope seems lost. We are resurrection people.

Along the way, Jesus told Simon Peter that Simon Peter, a fisherman, was fishing in the wrong spot. Jesus told Simon Peter to head for deeper waters. Serving as a deacon can be challenging, but sometimes God calls into deeper waters.

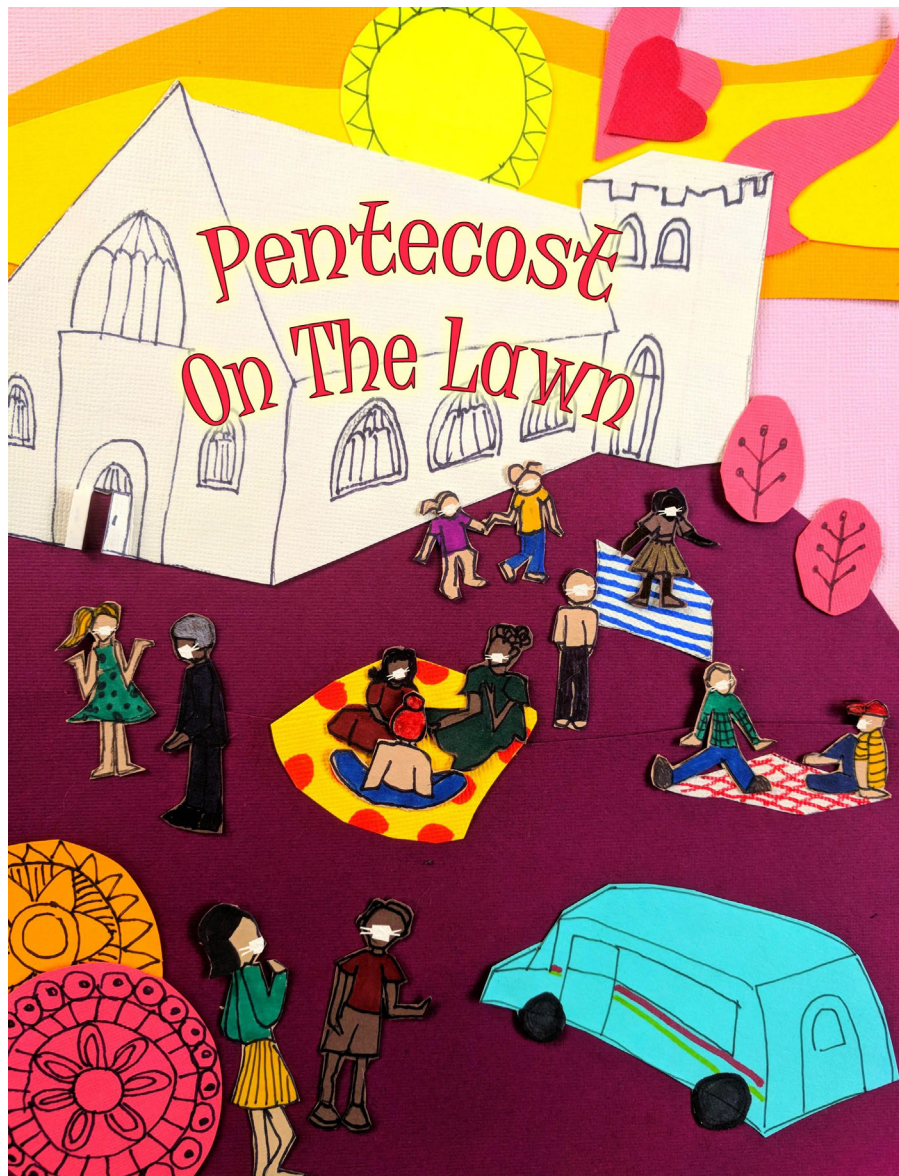
What’s it like to serve as a deacon? I stood at the end of the line, holding communion for a long line of people one Friday night. The sun shown brilliantly through the back stain-glassed window, bathing them in a dazzling warm glow. And for a moment, as I looked each person in the eye and softly repeated the words, “the love of Christ, given for you,” I was able to truly see each of these sacred souls through the eyes of God.

Pentecost On The Lawn

Save the Date for a Pentecost Gathering on the Lawn on Sunday, May 23 from 2:00-4:00 PM. This will be a great chance for us to gather again as a community of faith, face-to-face, after this year apart from one another.

As we gather, we'll have multiple stations of activities for children created around the images of Pentecost – wind, fire, dove, and languages. Note: Please bring your own small bag of Legos or Lego-type construction items for a Lego challenge!

More details coming soon!



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's Corner

Pop-Up Children's Choir Event!

Calling all children in Grades 1 through 5 to Highland on Saturday, May 15, for musical activities outdoors on the front lawn and playground! Our Children's Choir Teachers have greatly missed making music with the children and are so excited to have something scheduled after being away since March 2020. Watch for an email with all the details and information on how to register. Our plan is to offer two morning sessions so everyone can attend and be safely distanced. The rain date will be Saturday, May 22.



Pop Up Play in the Month of May

Join us for Pop Up Play at various locations around the city throughout the month of May! This week, we'll gather at Brown Park in St. Matthews on Friday, May 7 from 1:30-3:00 pm. Parents and children will gather at the playground area, where we'll have sidewalk chalk along with a soccer ball or frisbee for anyone who would like to join us. If your family would be interested in hosting one of our Pop Up Play gatherings (select the location, date, time, meeting spot and greet those who attend), [contact Renee](#).

Summer Camp Opportunities for Highland's Elementary Children

This summer, our regular pattern of overnight camps is not possible and so we are re-designing and re-creating our opportunities! Our 4th and 5th graders will have the opportunity to participate in Advocacy Camp in late June, and our K-3rd graders will have the opportunity to participate in Compassion Camp in mid-July. All of the details, including dates, cost and registration information, are in this past weekend's Sunday email for families. Can't find it? Be sure to check your junk mail. Still can't find it? [Contact Renee](#).



Weekend Services
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 98
Acts 19:44-48
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Celebration of Holy Communion

Finance Corner





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."



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