

Highland United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 34  
Callaway, VA 24067

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## THE HIGHLANDER

April 2016

The wind roared and community clergy gathered up on the High-Land...and something holy happened. In February, I invited the local pastors of our area congregations over to the parsonage for pie and coffee. Each of us are at different places in our ministries: from those just beginning to one about to retire and the rest of us in between. I was deeply moved by the power of what happens when we share stories. We laughed, we got misty eyed as we recounted moments in ministry; the Holy Spirit stirred.

“Remember the time the Rev. Sirk had the key to the fire engine?” Gathered at the fire house, Tricia Custer told a story. With her permission and help, I get to tell you about the time the newly begun Fire Department did not have a fire house to keep the fire truck. The school system let the fire department use the old Agriculture building to store the fire truck. This meant the key to the truck was to be kept in the truck for everyone to be able to use. Well, one day the Rev. Sirk, pastor of Highland Church, drove the truck and put the key in his shirt pocket! That night when the volunteers needed to respond to a fire, no one could find the key! But these volunteers found a way to get the truck started and respond to the fire!” Tricia remembers her dad talking about how they took care of that problem and laughing (did he laugh like her brother Ronnie?) about how he didn’t realize Rev. Sirk had been the one, just by habit, taken the key! Stories make the past present. Remembering surrounds us with a community of good and faithful servants, our forefathers and foremothers. Stories teach the new generation who we have been, who we are, and who we can be.

What’s your story? This is the season—Easter season—where we rejoice that Jesus has given each of us a story to tell. Remembering, listening, sharing is the power of life from death.

On April 3, we will gather—both congregations—Highland and New Hope—so we can begin to tell our stories. Year after year, people of God, in a specific community have sung, studied, and shared the story of a Risen Savior who lives!

I want to close with the lyrics of one of my favorite contemporary Christian songs, “Greater,” by Mercy Me. “Bring your tired, bring your shame, bring your guilt, bring your pain, bring your doubts, bring your fears, bring your hurt, bring your tears...Don’t you know that’s not your name; You will always be much more to me...I hear a voice and he calls me redeemed; When others say I’ll never be enough. And greater is the One living inside of me than he who is living in the world.”

What’s your story and how are you telling it?

Amy

### Risen to Follow: What’s a Disciple?

Did you know that Easter is so great it is not just a day, but a season! Beginning April 3 we will begin a worship series called “Risen to Follow: What is a Disciple?” We could spend years studying what a disciple is...we spend a lifetime learning by living. But, we will listen to some stories of Jesus risen, on the loose, and how he helps us understand how he helps us become disciples.

April 3 *John 20:24-31* Disciples Celebrate

April 10 *John 21:1-22* Disciples Love

April 17 *Matthew 28:16-20* Disciples Serve

April 24 *Luke 24:13-35* Disciples Travel Light

May 1 *John 20:19-23* Disciples Trust the Spirit

## Cooperative Parish Meeting

**April 3, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.** -- Come to Highland United Methodist Church for our second Cooperative Parish meeting.

**[www.highlandumc.net](http://www.highlandumc.net)**

Check out the updated Highland United Methodist Church website!

### **Schedules**

#### **Acolytes**

April 6 Bailey Grace Haskins  
April 10 Davis Moran  
April 17 Jared Jamison  
April 24 Sam Krauss

#### **Greeter**

Shelby Nemeth

#### **Piano**

open

#### **UMW**

The UMW will meet on **Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be served by Mary Mills, Crystal Weaver and Mabel Webb. Ladies, please remember to bring your "shoe" offering and any donations you want to make for Christina Trager's ministry.

The UMW will be making pillow case dresses again for Africa. Any donations of pillow cases, ribbon, laces and elastic would be appreciated. Any questions, see Barbara Guilliams.

### **Other News and Notes**

**Announcement: Friday, April 8, 11:15 a.m. Rev. Dr. Denise Honeycutt will be speaking at Vaughn Chapel of Ferrum College.** Dr. Honeycutt is the Deputy General Secretary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is the mission agency of our church, and channels our donations to needs around the world. When we make donations for disasters, UMCOR responds. 100% of our donation to UMCOR goes toward the designated project. Dr. Honeycutt has a passion for mission. She served in the Virginia Annual Conference prior to her position at UMCOR. She has been a missionary, a pastor, and served at the conference and jurisdictional level. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear how your mission resources are making a difference around the world. (I plan to attend and welcome anyone who would like to join me. I will be leaving Highland at 10:30 am.

Audrey Daniels

If you would like to be a substitute teacher for any of our Sunday School classes, please see Katherine McPherson.

Make sure you mark your calendars and be in prayer for: **April 3, 4:00 p.m.** (Cooperative Parish Meeting), **September 11, October 2, November 6, 11:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** (A visioning process for Highland UMC)

SAVE THE DATE!! VBS will be held Sunday, **June 5 - Thursday, June 9.** More information to follow as the date gets closer. If you have any questions, please see Katherine McPherson.

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for all the donations of toothbrushes and plastic holders for our February donation to Operation Christmas Child. Our shoe box ministry is off to a good start.

Remember, our youth are participating in this mission project and we'd like to invite you to join with us to touch the lives of less fortunate children. We plan to collect different items each month for 8 more months. In November, we'll assemble as many shoe boxes as we're able. Listed below are the items we are requesting each month for Operation Christmas Child. A reminder will be placed in the newsletter each month and in the weekly bulletins. A box will be placed in the hallway where you can place your donations.

April is Let Your Light Shine month. We'd like to put small flashlights with batteries in our boxes.

We are hoping that you'd like to participate with us. Thank you for all the support and love you show for us.

| MONTH     | COLLECTION  |
|-----------|---|
| February  | Toothbrush with Plastic Holder <b>Done</b>  |
| March     | Musical Instrument: Harmonica, Recorder, etc. <b>Done</b>   |
| April     | Small Flashlight with Batteries   |
| May       | Short Sleeve Shirt  |
| June      | Deflated Soccer Ball with Pump  |
| July      | Candy: Appropriate candy includes candy corn, gummy bears, caramels, taffy, gum, and Tootsie Rolls. Don't include chocolate (like kisses or candy bars), fruit roll-ups, fruit snacks, or drink mixes. The expiration date must be at least May 2017. |
| August    | Pencils/Colored Pencils/Erasers/Sharpener   |
| September | Ink Pens: Black, Blue, Red, Green   |
| October   | \$7.00 for shipping   |

### Prayer List

Alvin Stanley  
 Joseph Sink  
 Glenn Turman  
 Pam Messenger  
 Susan Mitchell  
 Family of Bobby Crum  
 Benny Fisher  
 Family of Gary Hodges  
 Family of Nancy Ledbetter  
 Kathleen Morgan  
 B. L. Furrow  
 Sherri Krauss  
 Gayle Goad  
 Family of Reba Campbell  
 Newton Guilliams  
 Betsy Stanley  
 Betsy Guilliams  
 Vicki Hodges  
 Dorothy Walker  
 Patty Sanders  
 Jesse Mahala  
 Family of Jonathan Lavender  
 Andrew Snead  
 Danielle McPherson  
 Tiffany McPherson  
 Jerry Jamison  
 Julie Fortner  
 Julie Walker  
 Wileina Furrow

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 1    B – Johnnie Pendleton  
 April 2    A – Randy and Pam McPherson  
             B – Trevor Stanley  
 April 3    B – Levi Haskins  
 April 6    A – Lynn and Kelly Moran  
 April 7    B – Teresa Moran  
 April 8    B – Kelly Moran  
 April 9    B – Bob Gaubatz  
 April 12   B – Cheryl Bailey  
 April 13   B – James Webb  
 April 15   A – Junior and Peggy Hodges  
 April 18   B – Mildred Boitnott  
             B – Bailey Grace Haskins  
 April 20   A – Alan and Pam Messenger  
 April 21   A – Billy and Shelby Moran  
 April 25   A – Jeff and Donna Guilliams

Recently, I was doing some early spring cleaning and ran across the following, given to Mitch by Anne Snead after she had preached a sermon one Sunday at Highland. It has been quite a few years ago since it was given to us. Thought I would share it in the newsletter. (Pat)

There is a powerful story that I would like to share with you. I have kept this story in my heart for over twenty years waiting for the time when I felt I needed to share it. It is a story for everyone, not just for women. Many years ago Dave and I went to Lake Junaluska for a seminar and met James Buskirk, who is now Dr. James Buskirk. He was the one who told this story which Dr. George Ray Harley related to Bishop Goodson. Many of you at Highland remember Bishop Goodson, he came here to dedicate our fellowship hall.

George Ray Harley, having earned five doctor's degrees including three in medicine and two in theology, went as a missionary to Liberia. People met him at the airport saying, "Come, we want you to be the chief physician at our main hospital in the capital city of Liberia." "No", Dr. Harley said, "my place is where they have never seen the face of a white man." This must have made them angry because they said, "You must walk for four days in a westward direction and you'll be in a country where they have eaten white men." He took his wife Winnie, who was seven months pregnant, and they walked for four days. Finally, she said, "George, I can't go any farther. I'm exhausted."

He apologized for not being aware of how weary she must be and helped her to sit down under a tree to rest. Then he poured her some water from a canteen and as he gave to her lovingly to drink, he said, "Honey, don't be frightened but there are painted faces behind every bush." She said, "Who are they, George?" He said, "They are our new neighbors." They came rushing out with spears raised, but saw she was pregnant. It was against their beliefs to take the life of an unborn child, so they carried them captive to their village, planning to kill them when the child was born.

Meanwhile, however, Dr. Harley was able to heal the infected eye of their medicine man, and he became Dr. Harley's first medical assistant. Only God could have pulled that off...but God does things exceedingly well. The people would come to the little medicine hut but wouldn't come to the chapel, the brush arbor, for the worship services. Dr. Harley preached three times a week for four years and nobody came, except his wife and little son Dicky. Finally, after twenty years he came home for a furlough. He was in Alabama telling this story to Bishop Goodson, and the Bishop asked, "But, Dr. Harley, how did you communicate the love of God? How did you get through to those people, Dr. Harley?" "Bishop, I can't tell you that. It's too personal." His wife Winnie was sitting there and she said, "Well honey, if you can't tell it, I will." He said, "No honey, I could never stand to hear the story in your voice. I'll tell it."

He said, "I was sitting in my clinic one day looking out the window and I saw my little boy, almost four years old by then, running and playing with one of his friends. They collided, and my Dicky lost his balance and fell over a ledge. My heart stopped because I knew how far that ledge went down. I ran to the ledge and slid down to him. Again my heart sank, for I saw that his head had butted sharply on a jagged rock. I picked him up, and he said, "Daddy, it hurts and I'm afraid." I looked into his face and I said, "Son your Daddy's got five doctor's degrees. I'll make you well, I promise. Don't be afraid."

I carried him in and had to operate on him, but then I discovered the meaning of that phrase, "He saved others, himself he could not save" (Mark 15:31). I have saved the sons and daughters of others. My son I could not save. He died and I couldn't do a thing about it. We made a little casket by tying tree limbs together, and we put Dicky's body in it. The next morning, we had a memorial service.

"Have you ever tried to preach the memorial service for your own son?" Dr. Harley asked the Bishop. "I couldn't speak. I tried to pray and I couldn't even pray. Finally, Winnie had to help me get that casket on my shoulder and we started out to a place where we could put the casket away.

As we walked along, a great big strong black man, much like a blacksmith here, said, "Great Father, what do you have in the box?" I said, "It's Dicky's body. He died last night." That big wonderful man said, "You take one end of the box, I'll take the other." We went to a place and dug a hold, put the casket in, and poured dirt on top. I'd held up for the boy's mother to that point. But as I looked at that mound of dirt it hit me.

We'd been there four years and they'd never once heard me preach. Now we'd lost our son. I couldn't stand it anymore and I fell across that grave and started crying, "God, why? Why?" I shouldn't have done that because something inside me burst, and I didn't just cry. I bawled. I squalled. I screamed, "God, why? Why? Why?" but that did it. The big black man went running to the village screaming to the top of his voice, "Great father cries like one of us!" People came running from every direction. They put their arms around us, trying to console us, loving us. From then on, every time we had a worship service, everybody who was not in my little mud brick clinic was in that brush arbor to worship. We were able to get through to those people. But, oh what a cost! It cost me our only son.

Bishop Goodson said, "Isn't that amazing? God tried to communicate His love to us and that's exactly what it cost Him...His only Son".

What does it mean to you that God cared so much that He gave his only Son to a world He had created and then saw that Son pushed out of that world on a cross? To me, it means that God gave His best, and that challenges me to give Him my best in return.

