

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



THE HIGHLANDER

August 2016

Can I Hear a Witness?

I spent a summer serving in Glacier National Park, Montana through A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP). Sundays I led worship services for campers and park employees. The other days I worked at the Park Cafe and Grocery as a waitress and store clerk.

On one of my days off, I decided to go hiking...alone. Do not try this at home. Hiking alone is stupid! Never go hiking alone. Hiking is a friend activity. But, on this day off, I did not think about all the dangers and concerns. Others were busy and an adventure called my name.

Early in the morning, frost still on the wildflowers, I began hiking up the trail. The surrounding tall trees, the evidence of bears, it dawned on me that it was not a smart choice to hike alone. Fear filling my heart, I began to sing. At first, it was a way to make noise. "Hey bear, don't want to scare you, just passing through. With my singing, the bears probably put their paws to their ears and ran the other direction. "Mamma bear, what is that awful sound?" "Baby bear, it's one of those humans who can't carry a tune."

Hymns and praise songs echoed. Singing, I kept on the path and reached the clearing, close to the top of the mountain, meeting two Christians park employees. That's a story for another day.

I thought about this experience this week as yet again we heard about more violence. As people of Jesus, our singing (even if off key) does not increase fear, but guides people in a path of trusting God. We sing of a God who promises to heal the world. We sing of a Jesus who teaches us to pray, "thy kingdom come thy will be done..." We sing of a Holy Spirit that can turn and soften hearts for loving our neighbor as ourselves. We sing of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," "He Lives," and "Awesome God." This changes how we see and speak about what is going on; this changes how we treat each other.

Like hiking, faith is not something we do by ourselves; we need each other.

Recently I wrote to someone in our Conference who has the power to communicate: "What a powerful and humbling position you have. *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John* are your friends, not the 24 hour news cycle...you get to make choices on how to tell the gospel so we may "go and make disciples for the transformation of the world." Where is Jesus helping us through these challenging but full of promise times?"

When we are scared, let us sing so praise leads us not fear; let us sing so others will walk the Way. See you on Sunday where we practice our singing together!

Amy

College Students

Do you have a student or students heading off or returning to a Virginia college, community college or university this fall? Submit their names so Campus Ministers and Chaplains can connect with them. It's easy to do! Just go to this website address (www.vaumc.org/CollegeInfo) fill out the form and submit. The campus ministers will take it from there. The school cannot give out student's names, so campus ministers rely on you to help them make connections. Thank you—Your Campus Ministers, Chaplains, and Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries. If you have trouble with the website address, contact Pastor Amy and she can help you.

News from the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union

The Virginia United Methodist Credit Union (VUMCU) is offering SnapLoan, an education line of credit, to help with the funding gap once scholarships, subsidized federal student loans and college savings accounts have been exhausted. It is structured as a low fixed-rate line of credit. It is a one-time application with no need to reapply each year, and an annual FAFSA is not required. The funds can be used for any educational-related expense such as study abroad. For more information, visit www.virginiasnaploan.com or call (804) 672-0200.

Our New Bishop

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, the first African American woman elected a bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, has been assigned to lead the Virginia Conference for the next four years. She will begin on September 1. Lewis was the first bishop elected by the 376 delegates at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference which met July 13-15 in Lake Junaluska, N.C. She is currently serving as district superintendent of the Atlanta Decatur-Oxford District in North Georgia Conference.

Servant Needed

Kelly Moran has faithfully served as Treasurer of Highland United Methodist Church for three years. She has asked that someone new serve as Treasurer so she can serve in the ways Jesus is calling her: her work at the school, mom to Cassidy leaving for VA Tech, mom to a football player for both Varsity and JV, Thursday and Friday night games, daughter, wife, and amazing crafter. Highland needs someone who, like Kelly, understands deposits and expenses, balancing a check book, etc. For a helpful list about what a Treasurer does, see Pastor Amy. To hear more about this way to serve, Kelly would also be more than happy to chat with you. Thank you for your prayers.

Did You Know?

*Thank you to those who worked hard so that the floors in the fellowship hall shine.

*Did you know Pastor Amy keeps a time sheet every week? She keeps track of how she is trying to serve you. If you ever have concerns or questions, please contact her and she is more than happy to hear how you can help her serve.

*\$131,003.58 has been collected for the Annual Conference's special offering. Highland contributed over \$200.

*Highland has an updated website: <http://highlandumc.net> Check it out!

Community Cow Bell Service

On Saturday, October 29 area congregations are invited to Piedmont Presbyterian Church for a Community Cow Bell Service. This is a popular event for rural Brethan congregations. The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. for dinner on the grounds. Piedmont is cooking—just bring your favorite dessert to share! A worship service begins at 6:30 p.m. Each pastor will have a fixed number of minutes to preach on the same topic. When the time is up, a cow bell rings! People can “vote” for the best message by placing coins in the pastor’s jar. All coins go toward an area ministry for the Callaway Elementary School: “Pack A Sack.” Gogginsville UMC, Bethany Brethren, New Hope UMC, Highland UMC, and Piedmont Presbyterian Church will be there.

Numbers Preach?

It is a tradition that on the Sunday morning of Annual Conference, the last morning, right before worship, we hear the “numbers’ reports.” The “Statician” tells us about how many members are part of VA United Methodist congregations, how many are worshipping, giving, studying, and serving. This year, there was a four percent drop in average worship attendance. The number of people worshipping in VA United Methodist congregations is below 100,000.

Hearing this information, the Rev. Tom Berlin, a United Methodist Pastor in Virginia, went back to his congregation in Northern Virginia and asked, “When we heard that less than 100,000 people in 1,000 United Methodist congregations in Virginia are worshipping Jesus Christ, how come we did not get on our knees and pray? If this doesn’t make you worried, spiritually bothered, something is wrong. Our vitality is so low that no one is showing up for worship.”

It is a sin to shrug our shoulders, saying, “Every church is going through this.” This leads to apathy and giving up.

Rev. Berlin challenges me to think about Jesus’ words in *John 15*: Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Abiding in him means we bear fruit and grow.

Sometimes we need pruning and tending when we are not growing. If you would like to hear this sermon he preached, Amy would be more than happy to share with you a copy. This summer she is also reading two of Rev. Berlin’s books. I invite you to kneel and pray with me.

Be Thou My Vision

You are invited! You are needed! Does Highland United Methodist Church matter to you? Do you long to see others be part of Highland? We are meeting three times in the fall to talk, listen, look, and learn about Highland as a church of Jesus Christ.

When and Where?

We will meet three times in the fellowship hall:

Sunday, September 25, 2016, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. SESSION I

Sunday, October 16, 2016, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. SESSION II Sunday,

November 6, 2016, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. SESSION III

What?

What is Visioning? The word "vision" is a fancy word for "seeing." Any group of people with a purpose (a school, church, business, etc.) take time out to see—where have we been, what are we doing, where are we going? Visioning is like a football team looking over plays for a winning game. Visioning is like a dirt bike racer watching past races on video and looking over the track before a new race (which also means listening to what needs fixing on your dirt bike so it is ready for the race). We, as God's people, come together to see Jesus at work through us and around us. Here is what we will do in these two and half hours:

*Eating! Lunch is provided for you!

*Spending Time with each other! People who love God and Highland and You! *Activities. Tape, markers, and more!

Each Session will have a special focus:

*September 25: Looking at Ourselves: Who Are We and What Do We Do?

*October 16: Looking Outside the Walls of the Church: Who is Our Neighbor?

*November 6: Looking Ahead: Where is God Leading Us?

Why?

Because God loves us! Jesus' love changes our lives and we want that life changing experience to reach as many people as possible. So, we rally and huddle up to see a way to do this.

Because of what we see: lives that have been changed because of Jesus Christ.

Because of what we see: a hurting world and churches with less and less resources to be a place and people of Christ's healing. God so loved this world. Will we be the people who share Jesus with this world?

Please sign up! See the sign-up sheets in the front of the church. Or contact Pastor Amy.

Disciple I

We are gathering to continue our journey through the Bible on September 18! We will begin with the New Testament. You can still join if you missed out on the Old Testament! You are always welcome! Here is the schedule:

September 18, 2016: Lesson 18: Radical Discipleship

September 25, 2016: *Visioning Session I (11:30pm-2:00pm)*

October 2, 2016: Lesson 19: Mounting Controversy

October 16, 2016: *Visioning Session II (11:30pm-2:00pm)*

October 30, 2016: Lesson 20: The Hidden Messiah

November 6, 2016: *Visioning Session III (11:30pm-2:00pm)*

November 13, 2016: Lesson 21: God Seeks the Least, the Last, the Lost

SCHEDULES

Acolytes

August 7 - Graham Weaver
August 14 - Abby Krauss
August 21 - Hannah McPherson
August 28 - Levi Haskins

Greeter

Pat Webb

Piano

Audrey Daniels

UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, **August 22 at 7:00 p. m.** Refreshments will be served by Sue Bernard and Shelby Nemeth.

News and Notes

Mission Encounter

Our District Mission Encounter will be held at Smith Memorial UMC in Collinsville on Sunday afternoon, August 21. Registration, fellowship, and goodies begin at 2:30 P.M.

Two classes will be offered: "The Bible and Human Sexuality," led by Lisa Nichols and "Creation Care," led by Samantha (Sam) Wilds.

The textbook for the "Creation Care" study was edited by Pat Watkins, an ordained elder of the Virginia Conference. He has served churches and held other positions in Virginia. He has a passion for environmental care. Currently he is serving as the first General Board of Global Ministries missionary assigned to the care of God's creation.

Mission Encounter is an annual event held by United Methodist Women. It provides an opportunity for fellowship and study of current issues from a Christian perspective.

You may contact Barbara Guilliams or Audrey Daniels for further information about the Mission Encounter or if you would like a ride on the 21st.

Operation Christmas Child -Thank you for all the donations for Operation Christmas Child in July. You all have made our shoe box ministry really awesome. 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 4 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. Our donation for August and September are school supplies. You can find them on sale now.

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 Done
March	Musical Instrument: Harmonica, Recorder, etc. Done
April	Small Flashlight with Batteries Done
May	Short Sleeve Shirt Done
June	Deflated Soccer Ball with Pump Done
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. Done
August	Pencils/Colored Pencils/Erasers/Sharpeners
September	Ink Pens: Black, Blue, Red, Green
October	\$7.00 for shipping

Prayer List

Family of Billy Cole
 Peggy Nunn
 Sarah Haskins
 Our New Bishop
 Steven Pauley
 Newton Guilliams
 Ruth Carter
 Alice Young
 Family of Gilda Woods
 Family of Emily Jamison
 Family of Paul Holland
 James Guilliams
 Cecil Cooper
 David Willis

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Aug 3 B - Joyce Guilliams
 Aug 5 A - Ronnie and Joyce Guilliams
 Aug 8 B - Lexy Bailey
 Aug 10 B - Junior Hodges
 Aug 11 B - Norma Jean Guilliams
 B - Abby Krauss
 Aug 12 B - Helen Akers
 Aug 14 B - Peggy Hodges
 B - Danielle McPherson
 Aug 15 A - Stoney and Carolyn McPherson
 Aug 16 B - Carolyn McPherson
 Aug 17 B - Bob Prettyman
 Aug 20 B - Bill Rhodes
 Aug 22 B - Paige Brown
 Aug 27 A - Mark and Julie Bollings
 Aug 30 B - Ronnie Guilliams
 B - Jared Jamison