

Highland United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 34
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THE HIGHLANDER

July 2016

“You Have a Choice”

A week before Annual Conference (the gathering of United Methodist pastors and representatives from each congregation once a year) God put a thought, a prayer in my head. “You have a choice: be cynical or wise.” Having now attended thirteen of these three to four day gatherings, I confess I am tempted to dread the time; I just go through the motions. But, God challenged me with a prayer that opened my heart to a surprising three days. Here are a few ways God moved me through this year’s Virginia Annual Conference gathering in Roanoke, VA on June 17-19, 2016.

Rebelling Routines for Relationships. You may have learned this about me already—I am a rule follower—stay on schedule—color in the lines kind of gal. In the past I have let the grueling Conference schedule guide my time. This year, thanks to where our representative Eric Krauss chose to be seated, I ran into old friends—a clergy couple—I had not seen or talked with in years. I rebelled against the “planned schedule” and went out to dinner with them and their two sons. As they extended their hands to hold, asking me to pray in Applebees, I suddenly was overwhelmed with emotion. What grace to reconnect, share deeply about our journeys in ministry and life so far—the ups and downs—the ways God has surprised us and has not let us go. So, maybe it is okay to rebel against schedules and plans for the sake of grace growing the life giving connection we share as companions on this journey.

Life and Business. I am so grateful that Conference took place in our own “backyard,” so I could go to the hospital and check on some of our siblings in Christ. Reminding me of life and death and how precious this life is, walking hospital hallways humble me. So as I walked into Conference, I met, listened, and acted with humility. Sometimes, the “business” of the Church can lead to emotions of frustration, anger, discouragement, bitterness and cynicism. But, after holding hands in prayer with family in a hospital, I went about the work of the church centered in Christ’s care for all of us. I saw who and what mattered and how we could go about it with love, mercy, and humility.

Hope and Inspiration. In the weeks before Conference, many of us wondered when the “other shoe would drop.” Conversation can get heated and hurtful about matters. But this year, the shoe never dropped—instead we stood on the soles of our feet in the Conference Center holding hands, joining our souls together, praying for the people called United Methodists—that “thy will be done.” Never before have I seen Annual Conference finish their agenda’s business early! This year it happened. And in this precious time, before closing worship was to begin leaders the Rev. Tom Berlin and Martha Stokes, had time to share about how we could think and pray about the present and future of the Church. I was deeply moved by Rev. Berlin’s passionate and powerful call for spiritual vitality. How can we help each other with God’s mission and work together so that people enter into a saving, healing relationship with Jesus? Martha Stokes led us in the closing prayer, hands joined, heads bowed, hearts humbled. It is an image I will return to over and over again about what can happen when I let God open hearts to listen and love: You have a choice: Be cynical or wise?

**Annual Conference is not just an event, but also a geographic area. The Virginia Annual Conference includes all the United Methodist congregations in Virginia, except for a little corner near Tennessee.*

“Be Thou My Vision”

This phrase comes from a beautiful hymn. It is also a prayer, a prayer as Highland United Methodist Church begins conversation with God and each other about our present and future this fall. Anytime in our lives and the life of a community, it is good to check in—How are we? Where are we going? What do we celebrate and praise God? What is God reminding us about, helping us with, encouraging and leading us to be? Look for more information next month! Please put these dates on your calendar.

September 25: 11:30am-2:00 p.m. (Lunch included)

October 16: 11:30 am-2:00 p.m. (Lunch included)

November 6: 11:30am-2:00 p.m. (Lunch included)

Please be in prayer. If you have questions or suggestions, please see Pastor Amy or Audrey Daniels, our Lay Leader.

Summer Read: Galatians

July 10, we will begin a new worship series about the little book in the Bible called *Galatians*. Before becoming a book in the Bible it was a letter a pastor wrote to Christians in Galatia. We will read their mail and hear what God might be saying to us, too! This is a four part series: July 10, 17, 31, and August 7.

Thank You!

*Thank you to Eric Krauss, Highland’s Representative to Annual Conference and Irene Bowles, New Hope’s Representative to Annual Conference. Both gave of their time, energy, and resources. They were God’s encouragement to Amy to not be cynical, but meet Jesus with joy. Ask them about their experience.

*Thank you to Highland for the school and health kits! The total number of kits for UMCOR was 51,935! There were 29,625 health kits and 17,612 school kits. Thank you to New Hope for all your cans and boxes of food! We were so overjoyed with the full altar table that we forgot to count! New Hope’s donations joined the 9300 total pounds collected!

*Thank you for the house you allow me to make my home. Members of the Parsonage Committee and Chair of Trustees “walked through” on June 5. An annual report is sent into the District. I am so grateful for your great care and I work to be a good steward of your house.

*Thank you to all our leaders. Did you know we gather every other month for Council meetings after worship? Our next meeting is July 10. All are welcome to hear what God is up to and leading us.

Praying Together

At Annual Conference, here is how our leaders asked us to be in prayer:

**Locally*: How can we help more people experience worship?

**Conference*: In July, the Virginia Conference will be appointed a new bishop. We pray for who will come to help shepherd and serve us so we may serve.

**World*: A new commission that the United Methodist bishops are putting together this fall to help the United Methodist worldwide church.



SCHEDULES

Acolytes

July 3 - Davis Moran
July 10 - Garrett Weaver
July 17 - Sam Krauss
July 24 - Logan Custer
July 31 - Jared Jamison

Greeter

Cheryl Bailey

Piano

Jennifer Brubaker

UMW

No Meeting in July

News and Notes

Sunday, July 10 – Administrative Council will meet following worship service. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, July 17 – Antioch Church of the Brethren at 4:00p.m. - Come hear outstanding organ music plus a wide array of music and benefit for the World Hunger Auction. Jonathan Emmons, an organist, returns for his eleventh year. He is the director of traditional music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro and holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Bridgewater College and University of Michigan, respectively. Jonathan is excited to welcome Robert Faub. Faub lives in Greensboro, NC and is an accomplished classical soloist and jazz artist. He plays with two innovative ensembles in NC—Red Clay Saxophone Quarter and the Piedmont Triad Jazz Orchestra and teaches at High Point University.

July 29-31 - The Virginia Conference Mission Encounter (formerly School of Christian Missions) will be held at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA. Study topics are "Climate Justice, a call to Hope and Action", "The Bible and Human Sexuality", and Latin America, People and Faith." Further information and a registration form are on the bulletin board.

God's Activities to Pray for and Participate in:

July 10 - Administrative Council Meeting
July 22-24 - Church Camping Trip
August 7 - Lay Leadership Meeting
August 14 - Finance Meeting
September 25, October 16, November 6 - Highland Visioning Gathering



Operation Christmas Child -Thank you for all the donations for Operation Christmas Child in June. 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. July's donation is candy. Appropriate varieties are listed below. Please check the expiration date. It must be at least **May 2017**. We are hoping that you'd like to participate with us.

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.
August	Pencils/Colored Pencils/Erasers/Sharpener
September	Ink Pens: Black, Blue, Red, Green
October	\$7.00 for shipping

Prayer List

Family of Mack Martin
 Family of Lorraine Guilliams
 Family of Claudia Huddleston
 Maxine Angle
 Sharon Mahala
 Billy Cole
 Newton Guilliams
 Barbara Guilliams
 Caroline Guilliams
 Ruth Carter
 Cary Dale Young
 Sara Beth Shorter (daughter of Jeanette Wright)
 Family of Bob Dolan
 Family of Clara Morgan
 Jean Jackson
 Petty Marten
 Nancy Mize
 Jennifer Brubaker
 Jeff Gaubatz
 Danielle McPherson
 Don Sledd
 Tony and Leslie Green
 Carrie Fisher
 Andrew Snead
 Carolyn Jefferson
 Amanda, Colby, Allison and Abigail Rude
 Family of Nancy Stanley
 Judy Prettyman
 Family of Florence Greer
 Bob Prettyman's coworker recovering from back surgery

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July 2 A – Kenny and Jean Bernard
 July 3 B – Morgan McPherson
 July 4 B – Linda Bourhill
 B – Cindy Guilliams
 B – Sherri Krauss
 B – Jeanette Sledd
 July 7 A – Bobby and Mabel Webb
 July 8 A – Dempsey and Beth Brown
 B – Kelsey McPherson
 B – Laura Weaver
 July 9 B – Josh Guilliams
 July 13 B – Betsy Guilliams
 July 14 B – Alan Messenger
 July 15 B – Scott Weaver
 B – Dot Webb
 July 18 B – Mitch Webb
 July 20 B – Donald Janney
 B – Hannah McPherson
 July 23 B – Jessi Alley
 B – Linnie Moran
 July 25 A – Bob and Judy Prettyman
 B – Cassidy Moran
 July 26 A – Jeremy and Crystal Weaver
 B – Judy Brubaker

Cattle Drive Casserole (shared by Cindy Jamison)

- 1 1/2 lbs ground beef
- 3/4 cup onion, diced
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 1 taco seasoning packet
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded & divided
- 1 sm. can (4 oz) diced green chilies
- 1 (10 oz) can Rotel diced tomatoes with green chilies
- 2 cups Bisquick
- 1 1/4 cup water, divided
- Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Brown ground beef, drain off grease. Add in diced onion, bell pepper, taco seasoning and 1/2 cup of the water to pan. Simmer approximately 10 minutes until onion & pepper are soft.
- In separate bowl, combine sour cream, mayonnaise, 1/2 cup cheddar cheese and green chilies, set aside.
- Stir Bisquick and 3/4 cup water (you may need a tiny bit more water) to make a soft dough. Spray 13X9 baking pan with non-stick spray. Press dough into bottom of pan and bake 5 minutes.
- On top of biscuit layer, spread ground beef mixture, next add can of Rotel spreading over ground beef mixture, next spread the sour cream mixture and end with remaining shredded cheese sprinkled over the top.
- Bake 30 minutes.