

Highland United Methodist Church
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THE HIGHLANDER

May 2016

God Moments

On July 11, 2015, I was deeply moved by a powerful worship experience. The youth and adults shared about their mission trip to West Virginia at the annual church camping trip. These precious lives were new to me, but not strangers. As many told a story, I recognized God's presence in them. Each one took the time to share a "God Moment" they had on their trip. Tears flowed as they described experiencing kindness, compassion, hope, a connection with someone else, or unconditional and unearned love (grace).

Sharing God Moments are not new for Christians. In the first moments and years of the Church, they shared God Moments all the time. In fact, the book of *Acts*, where we get to hear all about the first generation of Jesus' followers, is all about God Moments. People tell stories of how they saw, heard, tasted, smelled, dreamed about God's living presence in their lives right there and then. They tell about those experiences not just once, but over and over again.

Sarah Haskins, one of the folks who went on the mission trip, describes a "God Moment" like this: "A God moment is a lot like a silent alarm that goes off within us, reminding us of God's presence. Maybe it's a sense of peace or a sense of wow, but whatever it is, it touches you and lets you know there is something greater than you and me."

Share your God Moment! Everywhere and anytime! And in worship! We now have time in worship for anyone who wants to share. Maybe it happened last week or many years ago. Share it and know that it will be a God Moment for all of us. Thank you.

Talking Like a Disciple: Holy Conferencing

On May 15 and 22 we will have a two part worship series about how God helps us talk and listen with each other. John Wesley, the pastor that began a revival that led to the United Methodist Church today, said that when we listen and share, we can experience God's unconditional and unearned love. He called it "Holy Conferencing." I look forward to this time together.

Pray for General Conference

Did you know that United Methodists from around the world are gathering in Oregon on May 10-20? They will be revising church law, adopting resolutions on moral, social, public, and economic issues, planning budgets, and setting the direction of the denomination. Please pray for everyone.

Praying Together: God, You and Us

So we may continue helping us pray for each other and those we love, there are little slips of paper in the pew and table nearest the sanctuary door. Please share them with the pastor during the Prayers of the People time in worship or after worship.

There are two reasons for trying this!

One reason is to help me make it a time of prayer. Did you know that when I was in second grade I read very little? Thanks to many amazing teachers at Westwood Elementary School, I came to love learning and reading. But, I still had to work hard because it did not come easy for me. I still have trouble hearing, spelling, and writing names down (she is hard of hearing, too). I fear the Prayers of the People time becomes a spelling session where I am failing! With the piece of paper in my hand I can share it with the congregation as you intend and we can be intentional about the prayers.

There is another and more important reason, too!

The little slips of paper have a place for your name (who is requesting the prayer), the name of the person to pray for, and if you wish for that person to be sent a card or have a phone call to let them know they are being prayed for. How come I am asking all these questions? I believe that prayer is a relationship; the power of prayer is it connects us to God and each other. When you request prayer for someone, I know you care and I want to be able to care and pray for you, too. I am praying with you. For a person to hear they are being prayed for by a whole group of people—sometimes two churches—you might sense God's mighty presence. Prayer is one of the many ways we are connected to God and each other. God shares the Holy Spirit so we can cry out and hear the One who loves us. And the Holy Spirit helps us know we are not alone. I believe this is one of the many ways prayer can be healing—healing us from the isolation we feel, the loneliness, or helplessness; healing us from feeling like God has abandoned us or only loves us when we are “doing good.” Prayer helps us feel God's power that shares all of God's many gifts, including a beloved community. Just a little slip of paper, I pray, can help God help us experience this power. I love hearing your ideas to help us connect with God and each other.

Did You Know?

*Wandering, lost pieces of paper found a home: In tidying up the copier/counting office some forms, old articles, and documents were found. Each one now has a home in a file in the gray filing cabinet.

*The District Superintendent held a Pastor Parish Training at Rocky Mount on April 4. Four members from Highland attended and one member from New Hope attended. The purpose of the PPR committee is to bring together the pastor and church in focusing on the mission of the church. Want to know more? Ask Terry Jamison (chair), Audrey Daniels, Sarah Haskins, Eric Krauss or Irene Bowles (New Hope).

*The Franklin County United Methodists gathered at Gogginsville UMC on April 5. Amy helped host with Rev. Kathryn Budzik. We shared in lunch, our book discussion, and communion. A six week old pup even attended. Amy and area clergy met in Floyd County at Micky G's on April 7.

What's Going On? Master Calendar

From our second Cooperative Parish Meeting, we made a goal of having a BIG calendar somewhere in the church. On this calendar, we could put community events, each congregation's events (Highland and New Hope), etc. This will help us with Jesus' command to “Go” out into our community and “be one in ministry.” We will discuss the steps for accomplishing this and any ideas at our next Council meeting on **May 15**.

Cooperative Parish Updates

On April 3, the second Callaway Cooperative Parish meeting was held at Highland. (Our first was held at New Hope.) For many months, I invited both congregations for continued conversation about who you are as Christ's church in your unique communities. To prepare for our time together, a time-line hung on the wall in each church building. During the month of March, I asked questions so the time-line could be filled in more and help our discussion. I called this "This is Our Story, this is Our Song, Praising Our Savior All the Day Long." This phrase comes from the hymn "Blessed Assurance." I am awe struck that for so many years each congregation has been a place that praises God; each congregation has a story.

Eleven people attended. Three from New Hope and eight from Highland. Time lines of both congregations were taped on the folding partition so we could have it in front of us as we laughed, shared, and listened. We nibbled on some Easter ham and veggies.

I was deeply moved by the power of how we need each other. As we sat in a circle loving hearts each had their own unique perspectives and experiences to share which makes us such a strong, beautiful Body of Christ. A high school senior to senior citizens and in between. Retired and Working. United Methodist since the womb and different denominational life journey. One remembered his father walking miles to come for worship, while another shared how their work has downsized so much that one person is doing four people's job. Here are some of the questions I asked: What is a funny story from a time in the congregation you are part of? What is it like to see the time-line? What changes have taken place in the community over the years and what impact have these changes had on the church? What has it meant to be United Methodist? What has helped in dealing with conflict? What do you think people fifty years from now will say about us now? What can we learn from the past to keep doing? What can we learn from the past to not do? What does the church need to keep telling our story, singing our song, praising our Savior all the day long? We also discussed the fifty years of statistics available for each congregation. (membership, average worship attendance, pastor, average attendance of Sunday School, total amount given and for expenses and any significant events).

There is a great deal I am still praying and thinking about. If you were not able to make it, how would you answer the above questions? We can keep the conversation going. One take away I had was how there are changes and constants. So much has changed since the congregations' beginnings with technology, community, and economy. Yet, the power of relationships—relationships with Christ's love—change our lives and make us who we are.

We ended by singing the hymn "Blessed Assurance."

With her permission, I would like to share with you the prayer Audrey Daniels led us in that tied in with her devotion from the *Upper Room*. May it continue to lead us.

Father God and Creator, we praise your name. Thank you for loving us; thank you for the faithful servants of New Hope and Highland who paved the way before us. Thank you for the beauty of the redbuds and the song of the birds.

We ask that you be among us this afternoon. Open our hearts and ears to listen. May your thoughts inspire our words and become our dreams. For those of us who want to run ahead, as well as those of us who want to turn around and find comfort in the past, give us the patience and confidence to take your hand and move to your rhythm.

Forgive us for those times we leave you out of the picture, and help us forgive those persons we need to forgive. Be with our members who are not with us today, especially those who are hurting. And now, we ask that you guide us as we set about doing your work as a cooperative fellowship. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

SCHEDULES

Acolytes

May 1 - Logan Custer
May 8 - Graham Weaver
May 15 - Jared Jamison
May 22 - Abby Krauss
May 29 - Hannah McPherson

Greeter

Tricia Custer

Piano

Hannah McPherson

UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, **May 15, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served by Lynn Bayly, Dawn Hall and Sherri Krauss.

News and Notes

Sunday, May 7 – Mother's Day Breakfast. Men will serve breakfast beginning at 8:00 a.m. Please come and enjoy breakfast with us. We will need men to arrive at 6:15 a.m. to begin the cooking. See Terry Jamison for more information.

Saturday, **May 21** – The Callaway Fire Department Ham Supper, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Music to follow with Dry Hill Draggers. Recommended donation \$10.00. Donations of baked cakes are needed.

Our next Administrative Council meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15 after our worship service. Check out the new website: www.highlandumc.net

SAVE THE DATE!! Vacation Bible School 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. Sign-up sheets are in the hallway if you would like to sign up to help with VBS.

Sharing Upper Rooms

When I first came, I noticed a large amount of old Upper Room devotions on the pew, outside the pastor's office. Every other month it seems there are left over Upper Rooms. In the fall, while preparing for a funeral, Keith and Jennifer Brubaker took these extra devotionals to a place in need. In December, New Hope United Methodist Church planned to go Christmas caroling at Trinity Mission nursing home. As Amy was leaving, she saw the left over Upper Rooms piling up on the pew again and decided to take the out of date left overs there. The activities director welcomed the donation. Since then, Amy has continued to donate left over, out of date Upper Rooms for Trinity Mission. New Hope has begun collecting little things to be used for bingo prizes. If you have other ideas, please share them!



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for all the donations of flashlights and batteries for our April donation to Operation Christmas Child. 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 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.

May's donation is a short sleeved tee shirt. Please choose children's tees in small or medium.

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
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

Bruce Tuttle
 Christina Tregar
 Cody and Rachel
 Family of Martha Custer
 Verna Gravely
 Family of Dale Nichols
 College Students taking exams
 Peter
 Family of Bessie Nichols (sister of Joyce Sledd)
 Jerry Jamison
 Tom Tomberlin (Elizabeth Brown's dad)
 Kyle (coworker of Betsy Stanley)
 Ed Daniels (Andy's brother)
 Family of Alvin Stanley
 Carrie Fisher
 Family of Kemp Atkins
 Jackie Murray
 Family of Jimmy Hall
 Annette Saul
 Ronnie Hodges
 B. L. Farrow
 Family of Chad Nichols
 Thelma (Sherri Krauss's grandmother)
 Joyce (Mary Mill's niece)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 2 B – Lindsay Jordan
 B – Randy McPherson
 May 3 B – Keith Brubaker
 B – Michelle Dudley
 May 6 B – Audrey Daniels
 May 8 B – Tammy Sloan
 May 9 B – Tyler McPherson
 May 12 B – Eric Bourhill
 B – Charlotte Jordan
 May 13 A – Heith and Andrea Jennings
 May 14 A – James and Dot Webb
 B – Tiffany McPherson
 May 19 B – Graham Weaver
 May 20 B – Missy Pendleton
 May 21 B – Tim Jordan
 B – Tyler Layman
 May 23 B – Dawn Akers
 May 25 B – Jean Bernard
 May 28 B – Earl Akers

