

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



THE HIGHLANDER

November 2016

GOD'S QUILTING BEE

I am sure by now you have figured out that I do not have it all figured out! Especially when it comes to this life of following Jesus. I truly am learning with you. Sometimes I will lament to God and family members about the work of a pastor (sermons falling short in the face of life's realities, the worry about hurting a precious person's feelings, the anxiety we are not meeting budget, missing my own family). But, at the end of the day it is gratitude that fills my heart for the humbling grace—being a pastor gives me a front row seat, a back stage pass to see God in ways that helps my “unbelief.” Without a doubt, I always receive more than I could ever give. Looking back, I stumbled, followed a pull into pastoral ministry; it is work that has let God change me.

Last weekend, I was able to attend one of the most beautiful funeral (worship) services. Pastor Stuart Kelly shared about the life of Lois Barnhart Huffman, Mildred Jamison Boitnott's sister. Lois quilted. Pastor Kelly shared about how her life was like a quilt God stitched together—with helping hands, choosing colors seen brilliantly in the light. Then, Pastor Kelly painted for us a heavenly image. (My apologies for not remembering his exact eloquent words). Now, Lois with God—God was turning over her quilt, revealing all the stitching and ties—God was showing her how He had stitched together the scraps of her life and made something beautiful.

I am not sure if you do this, but often I try to make meaning of my life; especially on those days and weeks where I see more mistakes and regrets than anything good much less beautiful. Pastor Stevens, through the inspiration of how Lois lived, helped me remember that our Awesome, Crafty God can stitch all the scraps of my life; my life is a quilt—and yours, too.

Pastor Kelly concluded his sharing by leading us in singing two of Lois' favorite hymns: “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” and “Jesus Loves Me.” After leaving the funeral, I went to see Annette Saul who had been in the hospital for her 12th day in two weeks (one day of that she was home). As I got up to leave from our visit, I wondered if as our prayer she wanted to sing, “Jesus Loves Me.” Suddenly, there we were, in Room 860 in Roanoke Hospital, holding hands, in a circle; Annette, her daughter, and me singing. I wondered what it sounded like to the nurses and others on the floor? The light filtered through the large windows. We then tried to sing, “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus.” The words failed, but Annette hummed this holy hymn's words singing in our souls and bodies. In the suffering, the frustration, the not knowing, Jesus' love was at work in ways we could not see, but could trust...oh so sweetly.

Seems God was still stitching Lois's life to let grace cover and care for God's people. I pray God will do that with mine. I give thanks God is doing that with yours in mine. May this November you and I give thanks for this God who through our lives is having a Quilting Bee.

See you in worship on Sunday,

Amy

ALL SAINT'S CELEBRATION

November 6 at our 10:00 a.m. worship we will celebrate a very special Church Holiday!

This is from an article written by Joe Iovino on www.umc.org: "John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history. From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on. Charles Wesley, John's brother, picks up on this theme in his hymn that appears in our United Methodist Hymnal as "Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above," #709. In the first verse, he offers a wonderful image of the Church through the ages: Let saints on earth unite to sing, with those to glory gone, for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven, are one. Alongside the likes of Paul from the New Testament, Augustine, Martin Luther, and John and Charles Wesley, we tell stories of the grandmother who took us to church every Sunday. We remember the pastor who prayed with us in the hospital, and the neighbor who changed the oil in the family car. We give thanks for the youth leader who told us Jesus loved us, the kindergarten Sunday school teacher who showered us with that love, and the woman in the church who bought us groceries when we were out of work. Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be. Charles Wesley's hymn tells us those "to glory gone" are joined by the "saints on earth," whom we also celebrate on All Saints Day. We think of the inspirational people with whom we worship on Sunday, and those across the world we will never meet. We celebrate fellow United Methodists who inspire us, and those of other denominations whose lives encourage us. We give thanks for those with whom we agree, as well as those whose views we do not share. Additionally, we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who faithfully follow Jesus in places where being labeled a Christian puts them in harm's way." On All Saints Day, we recognize that we are part of a giant choir singing the same song. It is the song Jesus taught his disciples; a tune that has resonated for more than 2,000 years; a melody sung in glory and on the earth. Our great privilege is to add our voices to this chorus. On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for the lives of his saints." This article is from "Joe Iovino" www.umc.org WE ARE NOT ALONE

Our Charge Conference will be November 6 (Sunday), 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church. Charge Conference is a time where congregations gather to remember the "charge" Jesus has given us for a new year of ministry. In the past the District Superintendent would come to individual congregations. Recently this has changed; congregations gather with others so we can support each other and share, remembering we are not in ministry alone. This year both New Hope and Highland is asked to go to Rocky Mount UMC and we will be meeting with Bethlehem UMC, Fork Mountain UMC, Gogginsville UMC, Pleasant Grove UMC, Pleasant Hill UMC, St. James UMC, and West Franklin Charge.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 13th, 3:00pm, at the Uptown Ministry Center of First UMC in Martinsville. (Ministry Center is located across the street from First UMC, behind Rania's Restaurant.) This year's conference will include a mission project that all churches are encouraged to participate in. We will be assembling UMCOR Cleaning Buckets, also known as flood buckets, to help replenish UMCOR's supply. These buckets are used during the recovery process following disasters, such as flooding, tornadoes and hurricanes.

Each congregation was asked to bring certain supplies for putting these buckets together. GREAT NEWS! These supplies have been provided! The UMW who gave reusable rags to the Men on Father's Day—there were left overs! This provides. Laundry detergent was the other request and this has been donated.

If you would like a ride, please contact Pastor Amy: AmyPannell@vaumc.org or 540-483-1053.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Highland United Methodist Church: The sanctuary will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for communion at the altar. Come as you are and as you can. We will share in a short prayer and kneeling or standing at the altar receive communion. Even if its just you, you are welcome to join God's family of your brothers and sisters' in Christ! (If your family would like an earlier time, Pastor Amy would be more than happy to meet you.)

New Hope United Methodist Church: A candlelight worship service with scripture, hymns, a meditation, communion, and candlelight singing of "Joy to the World" will be held at 7:00 p.m.

What a faithful struggle when trying to fit worship into your family's plans! All families have different traditions and gatherings. Area congregations like Piedmont Presbyterian and Gogginsville United Methodist Church will be offering Christmas Eve services as well. Look in the December newsletter for more information. Thank you!

YES, VIRGINIA...we will have worship on Christmas Morning! Same time, 10:00 a.m.!



Schedules

November 6 - Donna Guilliams
November 13 - Cindy Jamison
November 20 - Crystal Weaver
November 27 - Sarah Haskins

Greeter

Levi Haskins

Nursey

November 6 - Hannah McPherson
November 13 - Levi Haskins
November 20 - Emma McPherson
November 27 - Bailey Grace Haskins

Piano

open

UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, **November 20** at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served by Caroline and Norma Jean Guilliams. Pat Webb will be having our World Thank Offering program.

The UMW will host their annual Community Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday, **November 15** beginning at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Amy will have devotions prior to the meal. Come enjoy good food and fellowship and then music by Alan Messenger and friends.

Youth

The Salvation Army has asked for our help for 2 kettle drives this year. They need of volunteers **November 12** at Roses and **December 17** at Kroger. If you would be willing to donate an hour or two between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., please contact Sherri Krauss (540-798-4001) or Sherri@fcch.com. Last season our youth and volunteers raised the most money of any kettle in a single day!

News and Notes

Sunday, November 6 – All Saints Celebration. We will have a special time of showing pictures on the TV screen of those who have shared God's love.

November 6 – Our Charge Conference is scheduled at Rocky Mount UMC from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please plan to attend.

November 13 – A new hands on mission encounter afternoon for the district. Our D.S. is leading us to act out of the box—it will be a hands on event of connecting with each other and our neighbors.

November 20 – Our Thanksgiving Service will be at St. Peters Episcopal Church (65 Rock Ridge Road) at 7:00 p.m. Bethany Church of the Brethren will provide music. The Rev. Nadia Stropich will be the speaker. Everyone is asked to bring an item of food and/or make a cash donation. Food items will be donated to Heavenly Manna. Cash donations will be given to the Callaway Elementary School Pack-A-Sack program.

Kenny and Jean Bernard have arrived safely at the Mayo Clinic and started treatments for his stem cell replacement. Please send them cards of encouragement and love. Their address is:

Gift of Life Transplant House
Attention: Kenny Bernard, Room 27
705 Second Street SW
Rochester, MN 55902

The facility has requested NO FLOWERS!

Thank you to the twenty-two people and countless others who prayed for our gathering on October 16 after worship. If you would like to hear what happened, we have a write up we can send you or pick up in the entryway of the church. We would love to share because everyone is part of the conversation! And the conversation continues.

Part of our time together was to list all the activities Highland shares helping us Love God, Love Our Neighbor as Ourselves. This list helps us pray in gratitude, support, and invitation: how is God calling you and I? Thank you so much!!

FIGHTING HUNGER

Antioch Church of the Brethren thanks you for supporting their World Hunger Auction. They share that they were able to disperse the following: Heifer International: \$30,000, Roanoke Area Ministries: \$15,000, Church of the Brethren Global Food Initiative: \$6,000, Lake Christian Ministries: \$3,000, Stepping Stone Ministries: \$3,000, Heavenly Manna: \$3,000.

Prayer List

Danielle McPherson
Teresa Craighead
Johnny Guilliams
Kelsey Pendleton
Kenny Bernard and Jean
Brad Bernard
Family of Lois Huffman (Mildred's sister)
Annette Saul
Jerry Jamison
Margaret Wescott
Butch Moran
Polly Hicks
Richard Stump
Kim Stump
Brandon Miller
Eva Wooldridge
Family of Howard Pendleton
Carrie Moran
Carol Ruff
Family of Derise Foster
Richard Blankenship
Family of Paul Worth
Family of Josh Hodges
Becky Moran
Thelma Beckner
Wesley Hall

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Nov 1 B – Kevin Burroughs
Nov 2 B – Amanda Custer
B – Coy Guilliams
Nov 3 B – Shelby Nemeth
Nov 7 A – Fred and Barbara Guilliams
B – Mark Bollings
Nov 8 B – Ken Handy
Nov 9 A – Brad and Dawn Akers
B – Travis Prillaman
Nov 14 A – Johnnie and Missy Pendleton
Nov 15 B – Bobby Webb
B – Wesley Moran
Nov 19 A – Ronnie and Sue Bernard
Nov 20 B – Taylor Moran
Nov 24 B – Sarah Jamison
Nov 26 B – Fred Guilliams
Nov 28 B – Joyce Guilliams
Nov 29 B – Eva Wooldridge