

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



THE HIGHLANDER

October 2016

“They’re Holding Up a Ladder For Me”

As I write this, I am preparing to celebrate with the people of New Hope for their homecoming service on September 18. (I like to honor Pat Webb’s request to turn items for the newsletter in on the 20th because she has a full life and I am so thankful for her hard work in this ministry.) I am honored, humbled and pleading with Jesus since I will be offering the New Hope’s Homecoming message. I began the week with a scripture and two words. That’s it! But, like so often with this mysterious burden of “preaching,” I cry to Jesus: “I got nothin’...” and then he provides more than a potluck United Methodist meal. I am getting a bit long winded (hey, blame Jesus). So, I thought I would share with you a story I won’t get to share on Sunday. I do not believe God causes events to happen for the sake of the sermon; I think the spiritual practice of preparing a sermon opens the eyes of my heart to see how you and I always have more than enough good news to share. Tuesday morning we had a work day at New Hope. Key to preparing for Homecoming: spruce up home! Last year I got to help, so I knew what needed to be done. We all arrived with a surprise—several who could not make Tuesday came the day before to weed and trim bushes. One of my qualities that can at times be a strength and other times a sin: being a doer. If it needs to be done—just do it, yesterday. So, I offered to do the outside of the fellowship hall windows. (The other reason I volunteered for the fellowship hall windows was because the streaks I was sure to leave behind would not be noticed; eyes behold all the food, not the glass! Washing windows is like me trying to be perfect—it is a hopeless task.) Odessa shared with me the rags she brought. I used left over glass cleaner I bought but never used when the amazing Highland folks prepared a place for me by washing the windows with their glass cleaner. I hoisted the ladder out of Carl’s truck and the taskmaster went to work. When I got to the last window, the gravel and dirt foundation was uneven ground, but I stupidly began to climb up an unsteady ladder. Unknown to anyone, I fell. You all have probably already figured this out, but not only am I stupid but I am also stubborn. Shaking off the pain, I began twisting and turning the ladder, trying to figure out how I could climb a ladder on uneven ground. Just at that moment, the back door of the fellowship hall opened up. I heard Penny’s sweet voice saying, “Good Morning.” She claims the ham and sausage biscuits she brought made her late; but really she was right on time to save me from myself! Somehow the presence of someone else helped me see the reality of the situation. “I don’t think I am going to get this window here,” I said to her. “See the ground.” She agreed, offering grace. Her presence helped me let go and head inside to help her. A little while later, I needed to clean the outside of the kitchen windows. All on her own, Penny offered, “I will go with you and hold the ladder.” She stopped her work and went with me. I had not thought of someone holding the ladder for me, much less ask for help?! Every week, I learn about the new hope Jesus brings into our lives. For me, this Tuesday morning, Jesus taught me that new hope can save me from myself. New hope teaches me I can never do it alone, especially when I am stubborn and think I can, think I can! New hope provides before I ask and teaches me how to care for myself and others. Thanks be to God!

Flat Footing with the Holy Spirit

I marvel at how people flat foot! I love to see people toe tapping to the music on a wooden board. The image of flat footing came to mind last week as I made the decision to change our visioning process. You all have been kind to hear and read about a process where I was inviting people to gather three times for lunch and discussion about how we saw Jesus at work in and through Highland and we saw Jesus leading us into the future. The previously scheduled first session on September 25 was joyfully cancelled because of a fundraising walk for fighting Type I diabetes. I am so grateful the Holy Spirit, through Callaway Elementary School, is leading us to “walk the walk” of what it really means to be the Church: connecting with the hurts of life, walking with each other, and saying to our children and community, we care! I cannot wait to try to help with an issue that can feel so helpless and be a walking prayer! The previously scheduled last visioning session on November 13 is being joyfully cancelled because of our District Conference. Our District Superintendent is doing something new; we are invited to join with congregations around Danville to participate in some hands on mission projects. This opportunity is an example of what many studies offer how we can connect with those who do not “come” to church on Sunday mornings. The “generation” that is missing from the church crave hands on, volunteer experiences that seek to make a difference in someone’s life. So many have big hearts but because of the overwhelming expense of raising a family today do not have money to give; but a hands on volunteer experience helps people sense being part of something and something of God’s presence. Working side by side, you begin to share about life and get to know each other in a way you can’t sitting in a pew facing a long winded, out of touch preacher. We will still meet on October 16 for lunch and conversation. Our District Superintendent has sent us questions to pray and ponder as we look to a new year. I hope you will sign up for this time together. I want to thank each of you who help me to dance to the Holy Spirit in our homes, hearts, and community. I follow your lead to dance with the Lord of the dance!

Ring Dem Bells for Revival! October 29 is our long awaited Cow Bell Revival Service at Piedmont Presbyterian Church! At 5:00 p.m. hotdogs, chips, drinks, and ice cream will be served. NOTE: This is a change from earlier publicity. You do NOT have to bring a dessert. Piedmont is providing everything! Just bring yourself! At 6:30 p.m. the worship service will begin. Each pastor from each service will be given five minutes to preach. Rev. Nadia Stropich, Rev. Jessica Slusher, Rev. Kathryn Budzik, and Rev. Amy Pannell have been asked to choose a scripture and then five minutes of message on revival. A cow bell will ring when the five minutes is up! There will be a free will donation for Pack a Sack program at Callaway Elementary School. Please sign up so Piedmont will have an estimate of how many hot dogs to purchase!

Connectional Charge Conference November 6. Charge Conference will be held at Rocky Mount UMC (2:00-3:30 p.m.). We will be meeting with other area congregations: Rocky Mount, Bethlehem, Fork Mountain, Gogginsville, Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Hill, St. James, and West Franklin. The D.S. has to be at another church at 4:30 p.m. so our Charge Conference will end at 3:30 p.m.

Pastor Amy

Schedules

Acolytes

October 2 Sam Krauss
October 9 Garrett Weaver
October 16 Logan Custer
October 23 Jared Jamison
October 30 Abby Krauss

Greeter

Ronnie Bernard

Nursey

October 2 Crystal Weaver
October 9 Donna Williams
October 16 Sarah Haskins
October 23 Cindy Jamison
October 30 Crystal Weaver

Piano

open

UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, **October 17 at 7:00 p. m.** Refreshments will be served by Vicky Hodges and Pam Messenger.

Highland WAGS Program (Women and Girls in Service) schedule:

Date	Topic	Service	Volunteer
Oct 8	Crafty Idea	Give to shut ins	Barbara
Dec	UMW	Christmas Gathering	Church
Mar 4	Gardening	Give to nursing home	Trish
Jun 3	Cooking	Give to Stepping Stones	Sue, Shelby and Norma Jean
Sept/Oct 2017	??		

The idea is to have an older woman or women volunteer to teach a group of young women a skill and in such, how to be "in service" to others. The purpose is to encourage mentoring, promote the UMW vision and to bond multi-generations in the church. These are suggested topics and services. All suggestions are welcome! If you are willing to take on one of these dates, please let Barbara know as soon as possible.

News and Notes

Saturday, **October 1** - Stepping Stone Mission 2nd Annual Autumn Fest 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Franklin County High School in Rocky Mount. Fish Fry and Hot Dog! Come join Stepping Stones Mission for a day of family fun to benefit the local soup kitchen. Live music, corn hole, food and fun. Classic cars, trucks and motorcycle cruise in. Food, drinks and dessert will be available for purchase. Bring your families, friends, church groups and enjoy the live music and good food. For more information, call 540-483-9018. Menu: Hot Dogs and fixings, Fish Coleslaw, Chips, Sodas and Dessert. Rain or Shine.

Sunday, **October 2** – Men's Breakfast Outing. Please be at the church by 6:45 a.m. so we can make it to Cracker Barrel and hopefully back! See Terry Jamison or Keith Brubaker for more information. Sorry ladies, we love you, but...

Sunday, **October 2** – The Worship/Music Committee will meet following morning worship. If you have thoughts or ideas, please see Lynn Bayly, Pastor Amy or any member of the committee

Sunday, **October 2** – Disciple I will meet from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Lesson 19: Mounting Controversy.

October 16 – Join us for lunch and a discussion about how Jesus is making disciples at Highland 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We will also learn about the needs of our neighbors. So we will have a BBQ sandwich for you, please sign up on the bulletin board by the sanctuary door. See Pastor Amy with your excitement and questions.

Sunday, October 30 – Administrative Council meeting following morning worship service

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.

Operation Christmas Child—Thank you for all the donations for Operation Christmas Child in September. You all have made our shoe box ministry really awesome. The time has come to assemble as many shoe boxes as we're able. October's donation is to pay for shipping. It will cost \$7.00 per box. We 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/Sharpener Done
September	Ink Pens: Black, Blue, Red, Green Done
October	\$7.00 for shipping

Chocolate Chip Treasure Cookies

1½ c. graham cracker crumbs	1 1/3 c. coconut
2 t. baking powder	1 c. chopped nuts
1- 14 oz. condensed milk	½ c. flour (plain)
1- 12 oz. semi-sweet choc. Chips	½ c. butter Crisco

Small bowl—mix cracker crumbs, flour and baking powder.

Large bowl—Beat condensed milk and butter Crisco until smooth. Add crumb mixture. Mix well with spoon. Stir in coconut, chips and nuts. Drop by rounded tablespoons on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 375 degrees for 9-10 minutes.

(Recipe given to Carol Moran from Joyce Johnson)

Prayer List

Annette Saul
 Family of Dorothy Walker
 Benny Fisher and care giver Clyde
 Kenny Bernard
 Family of Ethel Scott
 Danielle McPherson
 Family of Margaret Goodpasture
 Velma Beckner
 Family of Mary Jane Thomas
 Carrie Moran
 Family of Nancy Austin
 Johnny Guilliams
 Sarah and Noah
 Family of Tommy Barrett

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Oct 1 B – Jeff Guilliams
 Oct 6 A – Perry and Carol Moran
 Oct 7 B – Carol Moran
 Oct 10 A – Terry and Cindy Jamison
 B – Jesse Pendleton
 Oct 13 B – C. J. Rhodes
 Oct 15 B – J. W. Stanley
 Oct 20 B – Julie Bollins
 Oct 21 A – J. W. and Connie Stanley
 Oct 23 B – Kara Agee
 B – Kristen Agee
 Oct 26 B – Crystal Weaver