

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



THE HIGHLANDER

October 2017

Colossians 1:9-12 shares with us:

“Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven’t stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you’ll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you’ll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.” (The Message Translation)

A few months ago, Tammy Bernard Sloan called me a “city girl.” I never felt like a city girl—I grew up in the town of Waynesboro. We have stop lights, but no high rises or highways.

Well, the proof is in the pudding...or potatoes.

Sitting in the hospital waiting room with the Bernards’, I thanked Ronnie and Sue for bringing me potatoes from their garden: “You picked some good potatoes.” Tammy began laughing, elbowed her dad, and said, “Amy is a city girl. She doesn’t know we **dig** potatoes—not pick!” We all began laughing and it has made me chuckle remembering it.

This city girl is grateful God brought her to the country to learn; here I am learning God’s ways. *Colossians* says to see how God works. One of New Hope’s members, Henry Bussey, planted different pumpkins and gourds for the Lord’s Acre Sale. He carefully selected the seeds. He planted them, each one, in little mounds of dirt, patting and packing the seed in its new home. In several visits, I saw how the seeds grew to vines, leaves, stretching across the field. Then, I saw Henry’s “Pumpkin Wagon” where just some of the harvest sat, ready for sale, proceeds for the Lord’s Acre Sale.

“Don’t lose heart,” the pastor of *Colossians* says. Working in our Lord’s Acre is work that takes patience, hard work, and trust in God. Whenever I golly and gosh at Henry’s bumper crops, he shakes his head and says, “It’s not me that does it. God grows.” And I think that is what *Colossians* wants us (and this city girl) to know too...when we know we are tending our Lord’s Acre, we are working with God, we have a “glory-strength”—a strength that endures and spills over into joy. When we remember we are farming in God’s fields, we do our best—we responsibly and responsively tend, care, sweat, and invite people to “come and see.”

This city girl learned something else in Henry’s Pumpkin Patch. Volunteer Plants! Plants surprisingly and unexpectedly growing—seeds he did not plant bring a harvest, too. Henry did not rip these plants up, but watched them, gave them space and tended to them to see what would happen. He helped them grow. What wisdom for human volunteers—people who sprout up, wanting to grow—how do we give them what they need to bloom and produce fruit? God wants to surprise us.

As October 31 nears, I look forward to my annual tradition of watching *It’s The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* Cartoon. This year I will ponder anew the lessons of faith and pumpkin patches. With Linus, Sally, Henry, with each other, we watch and wait through the night for what God can do. With trust in what we cannot see, we prepare, plan, and work for seeds to grow, for volunteers to bloom, for everything bright and beautiful God has for us. Amen.

Schedules

Acolytes

October 1 Graham Weaver
October 8 Jared Jamison
October 15 Abby Krauss
October 22 Emma McPherson
October 29 Bailey Grace Haskins

Greeter

Ronnie and Joyce Guilliams, Zoie and Ashton

Nursery

October 1 Donna Guilliams
October 8 Sarah Haskins
October 15 Crystal Weaver
October 22 Sherri Krauss
October 29 Cindy Jamison

UMW

The District UMW Gathering will be held on Sunday, **October 15** at 3:00 p. m. at St Paul's in Danville.

The UMW will meet on Monday, **October 16** at 7:00 p. m. Refreshments will be served by Vicki Hodges and Pam Messenger. Pat Webb will be doing our "Pledge to Mission" program.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Custer's Cruise In

Saturday, **October 7**, Noon to 4:00 p. m. at the Callaway Fire and Rescue Building (8380 Callaway Road, Callaway, VA). BBQ, Hotdogs, Chips, Drinks, Desserts and Live music by The Canned Biscuits. Donations goes to Pancreatic Cancer Research in Loving Memory of Jerry Custer.

Donuts and Devotions in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **October 8** at 9:00 a. m.

Finance Committee will meet on Sunday, **October 8** following the morning worship service.

Workday at Highland will be on Saturday, **October 14** beginning at 8:30 a. m. Please let Keith know if you plan to help so he can schedule work accordingly.

Lord's Acre sale will be held **October 21** at the Franklin County High School.

God UnBound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church

This is the title of a book by Elaine A. Heath and it is also the title for our worship series beginning in October. Our Bishop, Sharma Lewis, recommended reading *God Unbound*. October 1st, we will read and pray together the book of *Galatians*, a little book in the Bible. Before becoming a book in a collection of books (the Bible), *Galatians* was a letter to early Christians who had their differences and struggles. Let's let God speak to us a new and fresh word so we may live our freedom for joyful obedience in Jesus Christ.

WHY: A New Youth Offering

Like the adults of Highland, the diversity is great: different ages, backgrounds, spiritual needs, labor, and economic realities. How does Jesus disciple—make disciples—with such diversity? By bringing all of us together to be the Body of Christ!

WHY is a new youth offering. Monthly the youth and some special guests will hear and talk about what Jesus CAN do through his peeps. Why be part of the church prays to:

*Specific Focus on a Spiritual Discipline/Element of the Faith—

—What shapes us as Christ-ians and what helps us on Jesus' Way

*Consistency (something offered on an on-going basis)

*Nurture Relationships between generations

*Create an **Opportunity for conversation of questions/needs going on in life**

The first time kicks off October 22, after worship where we will be discussing Holy Friendship. Andy Daniels was a “come here” and has felt like an “outsider” at times. But, Andy has developed a special relationship with Mitch Webb and Fred Guilliams. They can all count on each other. How do we make people feel welcomed and welcome them into our lives? What’s so holy about friendship? Questions or suggestions? Contact Pastor Amy.

A Charge to Keep

Charge Conference is an event that takes place once a year. This year’s ours will be held at Gogginsville UMC on Sunday afternoon, **November 19**, (notice change of date) at 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The name shows our purpose. We gather to talk and listen or as John Wesley (the starter of a revival that led to the United Methodist Church) called “holy conferencing.” We “conference” for a “charge”—a purpose. We are “charged” with our existence—for Jesus to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Bishop Sharma Lewis’ Vision: “The Virginia Annual Conference is ‘to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners, who influence others to serve.’”

Please mark your calendars! It will be a full day as I expect this will also be the date of our community Thanksgiving Service and Youth making pies. So, I trust people will be where they need to be, but if you are able, tighten your shoe laces and journey with me! Amy

HENRY FORK CENTER

Henry Fork Center ASKS Would you be willing to share in one of the following tasks? 1. Volunteer receptionist – one day each week from 2:00-5:30. Primary responsibilities include answering the telephones and greeting parents and students. 2. Read with or help students with homework from 3:30-4:40 one day each week. Our students thrive with one-to-one relationships, and your hour could make a world of difference in the lives of elementary students. .3 Providing food for the birthday party on the last Thursday of each month. Food could include cupcakes, Little Debbie cakes, or ice cream treats for 60 students and staff members. 4. Sharing one afternoon with our Middle School students during the semester. We hope to encourage that class to explore different vocations, and your sharing could encourage them to use their gifts and talents. Thank you for considering these opportunities to serve. Your support and your presence can help Henry Fork Center continue to “Make God’s love visible in our community. Please call us at 540-483-2819 or e-mail at henryforkcenter@cs.com with any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lisa Nichols, Deaconess, Executive Director

Prayer List

Judy Prettyman's Aunt Muriel
Janice Murray
Sue Yearout
Lori Robertson
Ronnie Bernard
Fred Guilliams
Iva Guilliams
Karen Haskins and Family
B L Furrow
Christian Yopp
Family of Estelle Jones
Joyce Sledd
Mildred Jamison's daughter Phyllis
Jeff Gaubatz
Louise Gaubatz
Bob Gaubatz
Eric Krauss
Tim Holt
Karen Shively
Sandra Jackson
Johnny Guilliams
Jeff Cooper and Family
Katherine Cooper
Mary Wade Akers
Michael Schwartz
Kenny Bernard
Family of Gary Wray
Family of Dorothy Webster
Dean Blankenship
Tricia Custer
Colton Holly
Buck Hodges
David Mattie
Family of Russell Smith
Mabel Webb
Irene Webster

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
Oct 13 B - C J Rhodes
Oct 20 B - Julie Bollings
Oct 26 B - Crystal Weaver