

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



THE HIGHLANDER

September 2016

Please Come!

I am excited that September is almost here! Every Sunday you have seen an insert sign up for the first visioning session on **September 25**. For over a year prayer and plans have been preparing for a time of listening and sharing with each other and God about Highland's purpose and plans now and into the future.

Maybe you have never ever been to one of these fancy shmancy church things before. Do not fear! There is going to be food, laughter, and you are not alone. We have some activities and conversation. You won't be called to get up front and speak. Just be yourself. Maybe you have been to these before and you had a bad experience. I pray you will give your church and God another chance— your unique and important experience can help bring healing and hope to others as well.

Please come and play because this is a very different that anything held at Highland before. Our time together will not be a "planning" session where we are setting goals, brainstorming "new" activities. There is a time and place for these important actions. On September 25 we will remember our purpose as a church and take a look at who we are and what we do as Highland that lines up with God's purpose. What a celebration! On October 16, we will pray and learn about our community and see how we are loving our neighbor. On November 13, our final session, we will talk and listen with each other about what we have learned from God and each other about the future of Highland and where God is leading us.

It is my prayer that our time together will be the ground which all other plans and decisions grow. When we have a decision, we remember who we are. When a new idea comes up, we check in with the realities of our community. When a crisis arises, we turn and ask God what he wants us to do and consider the future of Christ's church, not just relieving the present pain. When a challenge, idea, need, crisis, comes, we see each other not as competing interests, but children God calls for holy play.

I am so grateful for the ten people who have signed up so far (as of 8/18). Check out the signup sheets in the bulletin or entryway of the church. If you have questions, please email me (AmyPannell@vaumc.org) or call.

When and Where?

We will meet three times in the fellowship hall:

Sunday, **September 25, 2016**, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. SESSION I Who Are We and What Do We Do?

Sunday, **October 15, 2016**, 11:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m. SESSION II Who is Our Neighbor?

Sunday, **November 13 2016**, 11:30 am.-2:00 p.m. SESSION III So What? Now What?

*****The third session's date has been changed from previous publicity. Session III was moved from November 6 to November 13 because Charge Conference was scheduled for November 6.

College Students

Do you have a student or students heading off or returning to a Virginia college, community college or university this fall? Submit their names so Campus Ministers and Chaplains can connect with them. It's easy to do! Just go to this website address (www.vaumc.org/CollegeInfo) fill out the form and submit. The campus ministers will take it from there. The school cannot give out student's names, so campus ministers rely on you to help them make connections. Thank you—Your Campus Ministers, Chaplains, and Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries. If you have trouble with the website address, contact Pastor Amy and she can help you.

Charge Conference

We will meet at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church on **November 6** (2:00-3:30pm). We will be meeting with other area congregations to strengthen our connection.

The title "doctor" was supposed to be in front of Sharma D. Lewis' name

This is from an article from the Atlantic Journal Constitution by Shelia Poole about our new Bishop

A life in the ministry wasn't on the Statesboro native's radar, even though she came from a long line of ministers and evangelists. Never in a million years did the biology major think she would ever be referred to as "the Reverend." And, God knows, certainly not bishop.

As it turns out, God — and an elderly aunt — had other plans. In a historic move, Lewis, 52, was elected to the United Methodist Church's highest office, becoming the first African-American woman from the Southeast jurisdiction to hold that position and the first African-American woman elected in the denomination since 2000.

Sharma Lewis is overcome with emotion following her election as a bishop in the United Methodist Church. She begins her four-year term at the second-largest conference in the Southeast on Sept. 1, overseeing more than 1,160 churches and faith communities. As of Sept. 1, there will be 46 active bishops in the United States, of whom four will be African-American women.

Since 2010, she has served as the superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District. Lewis was elected on the first ballot, which generally means there is widespread support for her nomination. Candidates must have 60 percent of the ballots cast to win an election. She had an overwhelming 71 percent.

"She is a powerful person of prayer," Schroeder said. "She is going to bring a deep sense of prayer as a spiritual leader, but she also brings enthusiasm for growing churches." In the late 1990s, Schroeder was assigned as Lewis' mentor. It was clear, though, that Lewis already had the makings of a church leader. "I told her you don't need a mentor you just need me to get out of your way." That way, however, didn't always include the ministry.

The daughter of two entrepreneurs, Lewis long nurtured a dream to practice medicine. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Mercer University and the University of West Georgia. She applied to medical school twice and didn't make the cut. Not to be deterred, she applied a third time. While waiting to learn whether she was accepted, her elderly Aunt Essie, a Methodist minister herself, gently pulled her aside. She had been watching her niece. She saw something there. A calling, if you will, but it wasn't in medicine. It was in the ministry.

"I know you feel like you know what you want to do, but have you asked God?" her aunt asked. She challenged Lewis to really pray about what God was calling her to do. It was a pivotal moment, but it wasn't the first time that subject had been raised. Sometimes at restaurants, people asked her if she was a pastor. Her best friend saw it as well and said it was an anointing. She knew she needed to pay closer attention. She wanted to be sure. She prayed and prayed. She waited to hear from God. "Too many times in ministry, people follow this path because of a generational legacy," Lewis said. She didn't want to fall into that trap.

It became clear on Feb. 13, 1994. A good friend was giving his first sermon at Ben Hill United Methodist Church. At altar call, Lewis felt a tug on her spirit. She went up to the front of the church, knelt and cried. "I heard the voice of God as clear as I'm talking to you," she said. "He said, 'Stop running and go preach my word.'" She has served at Ben Hill UMC in Atlanta, Powers Ferry UMC in Marietta and Wesley Chapel UMC in McDonough, where she gained a reputation for building church membership and bridges of understanding.

The Rev. McCallister Hollins, senior pastor at Ousley United Methodist Church in Lithonia and former senior pastor at Ben Hill, called Lewis "a preacher's preacher and a pastor's pastor. What you see is what you get."

From Callaway to Cambodia!!!

This is an article by Dam Tithiavan about where some school kits went. Thank you for the kits you put together—it makes a difference!

“Ten-year-old Eang Eng eagerly opened the school bag he had just received at Lvea Primary School, located in a remote and impoverished district of central Cambodia. What he found inside made his eyes grow wide with excitement: notebooks, pens, pencils, a ruler, scissors, and more.

Like most children in rural Kampong Leaeng district beside the Tonle Sap River, Eang, a fifth grader, doesn't take his education for granted. He knows the uncertainties of living in a flood plain, the challenges of living where roads are scarce, and, with nine siblings, he understands his farmer parents' financial limitations.

“Before having this kit, I had only a half pencil and a thin notebook that would last just three months,” he said. “Now I have everything I need to study for a whole year!”

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provided nearly 300 school kits to students of Eang's school. They were among more than 16,490 kits distributed to Cambodian students this year through UMCOR partner International Relief and Development (IRD).

Eang's classmate, Ban Ro, was equally enthusiastic when he peered inside his school kit. “My parents can't afford all the daily expenses of my studies, like notebooks and school bags. I love the school kit very much. My family will be very proud when I show it to them.”

According to Cambodian government sources, in fiscal year 2015, 10.9 percent of primary school children in Kampong Leaeng District did not advance to the next grade and 5.36 percent dropped out of school, leaving the district literacy rate far below anticipated levels. Also, children skipped classes out of economic need or because their parents chose to migrate in search of work.

Kits were delivered to students in 78 schools and one orphanage, all in Kampong Chhnang province. Lvea Primary School was one of the most remote. To reach it, you must travel first by ferry for two hours across the Tonle Sap River and then by motorcycle along mainly dirt roads. The long trip was clearly worthwhile.

Man Savart, a teacher, noted how happy the children looked as they waited anxiously for their turn to receive their kits. He said the kits were clearly a “way to motivate students to come to school confidently, without feeling shy because they do not have all the items they need for their studies.” Savart added, “I am thankful for UMCOR, which is keen to help us reduce school drop-out rates and the repetition of classes in our school.”

Servant Needed

Kelly Moran has faithfully served as Treasurer of Highland United Methodist Church for three years. She has asked that someone new serve as Treasurer so she can serve in the ways Jesus is calling her: her work at the school, mom to Cassidy leaving for VA Tech, mom to a football player for both Varsity and JV, Thursday and Friday night games, daughter, wife, and amazing crafter. Highland needs someone who, like Kelly, understands deposits and expenses, balancing a check book, etc. For a helpful list about what a Treasurer does, see Pastor Amy. To hear more about this way to serve, Kelly would also be more than happy to chat with you. Thank you for your prayers.

Community Cow Bell Service

On Saturday, **October 29** area congregations are invited to Piedmont Presbyterian Church for a Community Cow Bell Service. This is a popular event for rural Brethren congregations. The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. for dinner on the grounds. Piedmont is cooking—just bring your favorite dessert to share! A worship service begins at 6:30 p.m. Each pastor will have a fixed number of minutes to preach on the same topic. When the time is up, a cow bell rings! People can “vote” for the best message by placing coins in the pastor's jar. All coins go toward an area ministry for the Callaway Elementary School: “Pack A Sack.” Gogginsville UMC, Bethany Brethren, New Hope UMC, Highland UMC, and Piedmont Presbyterian Church will be there.

SCHEDULES

Acolytes

September 4 Emma McPherson
September 11 Davis Moran
September 18 Bailey Grace Haskins
September 25 Garrett Weaver

Greeter

Fred Guilliams

Nursey

September 4 Crystal Weaver
September 11 Donna Guilliams
September 18 Sara Haskins
September 25 Cindy Jamison

Piano

Barbara Guilliams

UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, **Sept 19 at 7:00 p. m.** Refreshments will be served by Carol Jane Moran and Amy Pannell.

News and Notes

Don't forget the Callaway Yard Sale on Saturday, **September 10**. Highland will be selling hotdogs, cakes and cookies for this event as a money making project for Highland. Headed up by the finance committee. We hope to set up across from A&A market. Please see the signup sheet on the bulletin board for items needed. If you would like to donate money, we will purchase items needed. See Pat Webb if you would like to donate money. We will be selling 2 hot dogs, drink and chips for \$5.00. Also, we need wrapped cakes or cookies as well as whole cakes. Any questions, see Pat Webb, Dawn Hall, or Kelly Moran. Thank you for your support.

The Nursery will be starting up again for our youngest members and their parents/grandparents. If you can help, please see Crystal Weaver for more information. Thanks!

The Administrative Council will meet following morning worship on Sunday, **September 11, 2016**. Everyone is invited to stay and participate!

After having the summer off, the Adult Choir will start back with rehearsals on Monday, **September 12, 2016** and each Monday night except the third Monday of the month. Please plan to join us this year even if you've never sung with us before. We'd love to have you! If you have any questions, please see Jennifer.

Disciple I will start back again on Sunday, **September 18** from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. We will begin the New Testament. For a schedule or the reading on CD see Pastor Amy.

Operation Christmas Child -Thank you for all the donations for Operation Christmas Child in August. 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. Our donation for September is ink pens: Black, Blue, Red and Green.

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

Prayer List

Kenny Bernard
 Audrey and Andy Daniels
 Andrew Snead
 Newton Guilliams
 Verna Gravely
 Carol Norton
 Leo Scott
 John Bussey
 Lola Saufley
 Unspoken Request
 Pam and her cousins traveling
 Vicki Hodges
 Fred Guilliams
 Family of John Pendleton
 Linnie Moran
 Family of Michael Platt
 Family of Mark Overstreet
 Sherri Krauss's dad Ricky
 L. Green
 Mr. and Mrs. Hank Norton
 Tom Dicky
 Chesley Snead
 Bob Gaubatz
 Ronnie "Rooster" Hodges
 Hattie Sanders
 Marcus Wade

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sept 1 B - Sarah Haskins
 Sept 2 A - Bobby and Tammy Sloan
 Sept 5 B - Darryl Haskins
 Sept 7 B - Garrett Weaver
 Sept 13 B - Timmy Dudley
 Sept 14 B - Meredith Brubaker
 B - Judy Prettyman
 Sept 22 B - Sam Krauss
 Sept 22 B - Brian Weaver
 Sept 24 B - Mabel Webb
 Sept 25 B - Dempsey Brown
 Sept 29 B - Katherine McPherson
 B- Jacob Dudley
 Sept 30 B - Donna Janney
 B - Lynn Bayly