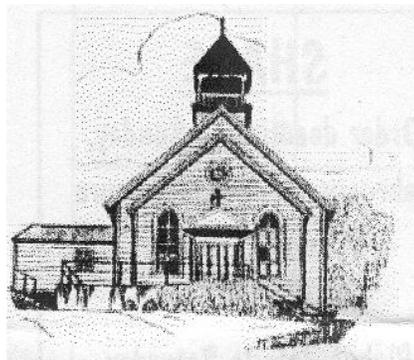


Highland United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 34
Callaway, VA 24067

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CALLAWAY, VA
PERMIT NO. 1



THE HIGHLANDER

March 2016

As I write this, some of our members in the Cooperative Parish are without electricity. This second storm of winter brought not just snow, but ice. I have been praying for them from a place of remembrance. Several times in my life I have been without electricity. It can get really dark.

In July, 2003, fresh out of seminary, I was sent to serve New Hope United Methodist Church in Saluda, Virginia. In September, Hurricane Isabelle blew through! Growing up in the mountains of Waynesboro, I had never experienced a Hurricane before. (I stupidly, watched the whole storm from the picture window of the parsonage.) Thankfully, no one was hurt. I rode my bike to a few of the nearby homes to check on folks who were already helping each other. Downed trees meant the parsonage and all my neighbors down the dirt road were without electricity. Because the lines were on this side, dirt road, we went two weeks without electricity.

Thankfully, it was during the summer, so I was not cold. Since electricity also affects water, I learned to adapt. One member of New Hope rented out his childhood home next to the parsonage. The county line ran between both homes. The church parsonage was in Gloucester County, while Billy's home was in King and Queen county. He came the second day after the storm and opened up his well. Billy threw a bucket on a rope down the well and brought up some water. We laughed as we would now get to tell everyone that we carried water all the way from King and Queen County.

The two weeks were memorable with other adventures. We worshiped in the church building without electricity that first Sunday. Not many of us had showers, so I chose the passage from *John 11* where people are concerned about Lazarus coming out of the tomb because "he will stink!" Having seen the power of wind uproot trees, our tattered emotions found comfort in the hymns and being together; and Jesus helped us look outside of ourselves to pray for our community and the recovery efforts.

But it was at night, when the darkness set in, that unnerved me. Without light, it can get really dark. And that darkness affects all your senses and creeps inside you. The land line phone still worked and I remember one night getting a call from one of our elderly members. She knew about life's darkness. Her husband had died years before a son had died. She worried about her grandkids who were having to navigate a world that had changed so much. We talked and then as we ended our conversation, she just said, "We love you." Typically, I would have responded as I was formed in seminary to pray. "Thank you; but I was sent here so we could all love Jesus and our neighbor." But, on this night, her unexpected statement changed the experience of darkness that surrounded and dwelled in me. It was still dark but, with love my fear and disorientation.

This month we will experience Holy Week (March 20-27), this is Jesus' way of entering our darkness and bringing love. God's "I love you," has the power of reaching us in all that we fear, in all the ways we lose our way, and in all the ways we are powerless. Jesus will ride into Jerusalem on a donkey being praised by fickle, selfish people. Jesus will wash his disciple's dirty feet, including the feet of Judas who is so disgruntled that Jesus is not doing it his way, that he has negotiated a deal. Jesus will be arrested, tortured and hung beside criminals who he will minister to while himself dying. And Jesus will be raised from the dead to prove that love is more powerful than darkness. The light of the world shines.

I pray that this month you and I will experience Jesus's light and love in new and renewing ways. May his life of love in suffering of mind, body, spirit, and relationships speak to your life wherever you are, whatever you are going through and in all the patches of darkness in our community. See you Sunday for worshipping this Light and Love.

Shalom,

Amy

Maundy Thursday: Rest in Jesus

On March 24, 2016, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday through a special worship service. Maundy Thursday is a tradition in the Christian calendar—it is the day where we remember that Jesus gathered with his disciples just hours before being arrested and sentenced to death on a cross. On that night he ate with his disciples and washed their feet saying, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (*John 13:34-35*) The word “Maundy” means new commandment so that is why we call it Maundy Thursday.

On a night where Jesus loved his disciples, cared for them and inspired them, I invite you to experience a different worship service that will allow Jesus to love, care, and inspire you. On March 24, at 7:00 p.m., we will have a Celtic Worship service at New Hope United Methodist Church. Do not fear! Celtic is Christian! The word “celtic” is an adjective describing the type of Christ centered Christian worship. Celts refers to our brothers and sisters in the middle ages who were from Scotland, Ireland, and Britain. These “celts” were going through a time of great change in their communities and conflict in the church. But worship brought them together and connected them to the One who commands us to love each other as he loved us because “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (*John 13:35*)

So, what should you expect at a Celtic Worship service?

**Simplicity.* We will sing hymns with just a few sentences. For example: “In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord, I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.” (*Faith We Sing*, 2195).

**Silence.* There will be moments of silent reflection between parts of worship. I know silence can be really scary for us as human beings glued to our gadgets and always on the go. But the silence is an opportunity to welcome and rest in Christ, let go and receive what we may need. The silence is an invitation for us to hear Jesus speaking to us.

**Light.* We worship with all our senses and one of the ways to help us experience Jesus as light is to light candles. In our time of prayer, you will be invited to come light candles for anyone you are praying for, including yourself.

**Communion.* We will be fed by Jesus, much in the way we do on the first Sundays of the month.

**Directions.* Don’t worry. You won’t get lost! This may be a brand new worship experience for you or a first time worship experience for someone else...but we will be led with a bulletin, hospitality, and helpful guiding (but not getting in the way) instructions.

I hope you will come and experience Christ’s ministry in a different style of worship on March 24 at 7:00 p.m. We will be having this worship service at New Hope United Methodist Church (3901 Old Forge Road).

Amy

Did Ya Know?

Keith Brubaker, Jonathan and Logan Custer, and Ronnie Bernard cleared the parking lot the first snow. Ronnie and Sue Bernard along with Mitch Webb cleared a fallen tree branch from the Highland drive way during the last snow/ice storm. Thank you!

On July 10, 1898, the first Sunday people worshipped in the building of what we know today as Highland United Methodist church they sang the hymn, “I Love to Tell the Story.”

If you wish to give to the Hartie Price Scholarship you can write the check directly to “Hartie Price..” For any other questions you have contact Bob and Judy Prettyman.

The Trustees have an email address: humctrustees@b2xonline.com The Trustees are updated and filed at the Franklin County courthouse!

United Methodists around the world will be gathering in Oregon on May 10-20 for General Conference. The theme is “Therefore Go,” from Jesus’ great commission in *Matthew 28:19*.

“Who are You?”

By the time you hold this newsletter in your hands, hopefully, you will notice something on the wall in the church building. Thanks to permission from the chair of Trustees, a long piece of paper is (painter tape) taped to the wall! This is a time line of Highland United Methodist Church. From 1898 to today, you will see dates, facts, and figures. New Hope United Methodist Church has a time line taped on their wall, too!

The title of this project is taken from a great hymn, “Blessed Assurance:” “This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.” What a praise to tell the story of a congregation’s ups, down’s, hurts, healings, sorrows and joys. Take a gander at all the changes that have taken place in our world while each congregation has been a place where Jesus has been making disciples through worship, scripture study, service, and so much more! Behold the testimony of Jesus’ followers who have been present for worship and given of their resources.

The time-line is one way (of many) of answering the question, “Who are you?” Who is Highland United Methodist Church. Who is New Hope United Methodist Church? The time-line also helps us celebrate God’s activity in a people in a special community. Finally, the time-line also helps us see, hear, think, and pray about where God is guiding us into the future. We cannot go forward without first understanding who we are and how we have been doing as Jesus’ church. The past and present are guides into the future.

We need your help to help tell the story. You are part of the “who” of Jesus’ church is. Each Sunday in March you will hear Pastor Amy ask a question. There will be markers, pieces of paper, and tape to add your response on the time-line.

The time-line will be used in our second Cooperative Parish meeting. On April 3 at 4:00 p.m. at Highland United Methodist Church, we will celebrate and listen to who each other is as God’s beloved Church. Thank you very much for participating!

A Year of Visioning

One of the questions I had to answer in the ordination process was what my job is as a pastor in the United Methodist Church. *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* states: “The responsibilities of elders are derived from the authority given in ordination. Elders have a fourfold ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service... (paragraph 340). Over the years, one of the ways I have thought about this is that I am a pastor to individuals and I am a pastor to an organization, the Body of Christ. Just as I offer Christ’s care to people, I am to offer Christ’s care to the ways, whats, and hows so that we are fulfilling Jesus’ purpose.

In January I spent time making a plan for what God and I have been calling a year of visioning. In between singing, off key, the hymn, “Be Thou my Vision,” Jesus reminds me every year is a year of seeing his risen, rascally presence so we can follow.

I wanted to share with you a few ways I am looking forward to being with you and ask for your prayers that I and our lay leaders follow God’s vision. (I will also be leading New Hope in their own visioning process, so your prayers for your brothers and sisters and myself are needed, too.)

**March:* “This is Our Story, This is Our Song, Praising Our Savior All the Day Long.” Together, we will be working on a time line of Jesus’ church.

**April 3, 4:00 p.m.* Cooperative Parish meeting in Highland United Methodist Church’s fellowship hall.

**April* Worship Series: Risen to Follow: What is a Disciple of Jesus?

**May 15 and 22* Two Part Worship Series: Talking Like Disciples: Holy Conferencing

**September 11, October 2, November 6:* Three Part Visioning Sessions. We will gather from 11:15 to 2:00 p.m. on these Sundays for guided conversation about the present and future of being a place where our purpose is “To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Schedules

Acolytes

March 6 - Hannah McPherson
March 13 - Levi Haskins
March 20 - Emma McPherson
March 27 - Brandon Custer

Greeter

Fred Guilliams

Piano

Barbara Guilliams

UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, **March 21** at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served by Barbara Guilliams and Joyce Sledd.

The UMW will be making pillow case dresses again for Africa. Any donations of pillow cases, ribbon, laces and elastic would be appreciated. Any questions, see Barbara Guilliams.

Youth

The Youth group members would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who supported our Super Bowl sub sales. We sold over 170 subs this year, Woot Woot!! The monies will go toward this years' service projects. Do you have tasks we could do for you? Contact Eric Krauss.

Mark your calendars to come have fun with us Saturday, March 12. Dinner is sure to be delicious and we plan to make you smile all night!! We also invite you to join our Walk to the Cross devotional event March 26 at 5:30 a. m. as we ponder the theme "Hunger for Jesus". This is our favorite event of the year and one that you don't want to miss.

Lastly, we encourage youth of all ages to join us! Our next meeting will be **March 6** immediately following worship service.

Other News and Notes

Trustees will meet on Sunday, **March 8**.

The Administrative Council will be meeting every other month on the second Sundays to celebrate how Jesus is making disciples and seeking His guidance. Our next meeting will be **March 13, 2016**.

March 20, 2016 is Palm Sunday.

Community Easter Sunrise Service

On March 27, 2016 at 6:30 a. m., we will celebrate that Christ is Risen! You are invited to join with brothers and sisters in Christ from other congregations at the Callaway Community Cemetery located at 8000 Callaway Road. In case of rain we will worship at Piedmont Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Eric Anspaugh, pastor of Antioch Church of the Brethren will be the preacher. New Hope and Highland will be offering the music.

If you would like to be a **substitute teacher** for any of our Sunday School classes, please see Katherine McPherson.

Make sure you mark your calendars and be in prayer for: **April 3, 4:00 p.m.** (Cooperative Parish Meeting), **September 11, October 2, November 6, 11:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** (A visioning process for Highland UMC)

SAVE THE DATE!! VBS 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.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for all the donations of toothbrushes and plastic holders for our February donation to Operation **Christmas** Child. Our shoe box ministry is off to a good start.

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.

March is Make A Joyful Noise Unto the Lord month. We'd like to put small musical instruments in our boxes. If you'd like to donate cash/check instead of instruments, I'll order instruments at the end of the month. Recorders, harmonicas, and tambourines cost between \$5 and \$10. Donations can be given to Sarah Haskins.

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.
April	Small Flashlight with Batteries
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

Dot Webb
 Judy Walker
 Danielle McPherson
 Angie Lilly
 Gary Williams
 Drucilla Barbee
 Mike Shaw
 Josephine
 Emily Bayly
 Family of Matt Ellis
 Mary Amos
 Barbara Williams
 Deborah Wray
 Lexy Bailey
 Meagan Keith
 Arlet Greer
 Loleine Fisher
 Lois Hale
 Family of Mary Belle Underwood
 Family of Warren Robertson
 Family of Ernestine Webb
 Briley Darden
 Roger Hicks

Birthdays and Anniveraries

March 6 A - Mitch and Pat Webb
 March 7 B - Layton Bourhill
 B - Carrie Moran
 March 8 B - Alton Hall
 March 9 B - Davis Moran
 March 10 B - Jason Hall
 March 11 B - Robin Morris
 March 13 B - Andy Daniels
 B - Robert Bradbury
 B - Terry Jamison
 March 14 A - Andy and Audrey Daniels
 B - Perry Moran
 March 23 A - Alton and Peggy Hall
 March 26 B - Zach Agee
 March 27 A - Donald and Donna Janney
 B - Tiffany Moran
 March 28 B - Amanda Rude

How Much Does a Prayer Weigh

Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into the grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work. They had seven children and they needed food.

John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store. Visualizing the family needs, she said: "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can." John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at this store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good whatever she needed for her family.

The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?" Louise replied, "Yes sir," "Okay" he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries."

Louise hesitated a moment with a bowed head. Then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed.

The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scale went down and stayed down. The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it." The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales.

The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood in utter disgust.

Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list. It was instead a prayer which said: "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands."

The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a fifty-dollar bill to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it,"

It was sometime later that the grocer discovered the scales were broken; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs.

-Arthur Unknown_

