

Loving, Learning and Serving Together

TODAY (8 am) Mother's Day Breakfast

WEDNESDAY (Noon) Community Lunch at Bethany COB *3rd Wed*

THURSDAY (7 pm) PPR Meeting (Pastor Parish Relations Committee)

SATURDAY Firehouse Ham Supper

May 20 (After Worship) WHY Youth to visit Benny and Joyce

Newsletter Information to Pat Webb

(4 pm) Spiritual Steel Drum Concert at Antioch COB

May 21 (7 pm) UMW *Every 3rd Monday (No meetings Jan. or Feb)*

May 27 Graduate Sunday

June 1 (6:30 pm) Wesley Covenant Group at Krauss House

June 2 (6 pm) Saturday Social at Antioch COB Pavilion: FCHS Jazz Band followed by the White Family

June 3 (10am) Blessing and Beginning of VBS!

(4:30 pm-6 pm) Informational Meeting about the

Commission on the Way Forward at Rocky Mount UMC

(6pm-8:30pm) Vacation Bible School

(7 pm) Community Celtic Worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

June 3-7 Vacation Bible School

June 8-10 Altamons Camping and Paintball Trip

June 10 Blessing of the Annual Conference Kits and Celebration of VBS

June 15-17 Annual Conference in Hampton Roads, VA

June 17 Cooperative Parish Pulpit Switch!

New Hope (8:30 am) Terry Jamison Preaches

Highland (10 am) Carolyn Saul Preaches

June 22 Relay for Life

June 24 (After Worship) Highland Council Meeting

July 13-15 Highland Church Camping Trip

July 14: Cassie Smith followed by Skillet Sisters at Antioch COB Pavillion

August 4: After Jack music at Antioch COB Pavillion

September 8: Like the Moon followed by The Harwell Grice Band at Antioch COB

Graduate Sunday

May 27 we will celebrate the achievements of our graduates. If you know a graduate that needs celebrating contact Jennifer Brubaker. Please join us for a pot luck meal after worship.

Eva Woolridge: NEW ADDRESS (She now lives with her grand daughter April and family) 3102 Cedarmeade Drive, Roanoke, VA 24014

WHY : Youth Event

May 20 at 1 pm. The youth will be meeting back at the church at 1 pm on Sunday, after worship. We will get ready for our visit. Then, at 1:30 pm we will leave to go visit them.

Hartie Price Scholarship Applications

Now is the time to apply for the Hartie Price Scholarships. Applicants should have been in attendance at Highland for a minimum of two years immediately preceding application and should be classified and accepted as a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants should submit in own handwriting a dated and signed request on or before June 1, 2018. Please include e-mail address and phone number. Important note - Applicants having received a scholarship last year must have provided or provide receipts to be eligible. Submit application to any of the Scholarship Trustees: Judy Prettyman, Chairman; Bob Prettyman, Vice Chairman & Treasurer; Katherine McPherson, Chairman of Education; Vicki Hodges, Member at Large; Pastor Amy.

Commission on the Way Forward

Informational meeting June 3 (4:30 pm to 6 pm) at Rocky Mount UMC. For more information see the prayer wall near the pastor's office.

Saturday Social Live Music at Antioch Church of the Brethren Pavilion (2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151)

June 2: FCHS Jazz Band Followed by the White Family

July 14: Cassie Smith followed by the Skillet Sisters

August 4: After Jack

September 8: Like the Moon followed by The Harwell Grice Band

All Evenings begin at 6 pm—Food, Music, and Fellowship
Donations Welcome

Update on the Commission on the Way Forward

Please check out the prayer wall (by the Pastor's Office) for articles and information about this Commission's work the past two years.

Two years ago a Commission on the Way Forward was formed to find a way forward through areas that was dividing the church. Their focus was how can we make disciples for Jesus Christ? Their focus was NOT how to change people's minds. Respectfully, we believe differently, but together in our differences, we can serve. Focusing on division was hurting the witness of the church.

After two years of prayerful, hard work of listening, learning, and praying the Commission recommended three plans (or options on a way forward.

Last week, all the Bishops of the United Methodist Church from around the world met. They recommend one plan out of the three on how we can find a way forward and still be One Church for Jesus Christ. Here is UMC.org's Heather Hahn's report:

“To find a way forward on the denomination's homosexuality debate, bishops are recommending the church allow more freedom at the conference and local church levels. Under what the Council of Bishops calls the One Church Plan, decisions about whether to ordain LGBTQ clergy or to officiate at same-gender unions would be made closer to the congregational level. The plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in the Book Discipline, the denomination's policy book. The plan also adds assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscience cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy that they don't have to do so. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe — could maintain current restrictions.

“While the majority of bishops recommend the One Church Plan, the bishops also will submit two additional plans as part of their report to the special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis. All three possibilities had support among some of the bishops. The other two plans on the table are:

- The Traditionalist Plan would affirm the current language in the denomination's Book of Discipline, the denomination's governing document, and seek to strengthen enforcement.
- The Connectional-Conference plan would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry — be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination's constitution.”

What does this mean for us? We continue praying. No decision has been made. We keep being faithful followers of Jesus Christ. The decision will be made at the called General Conference February, 2019. The United Methodist representatives from around the world will vote for one plan or there may be a completely different solution to be One Church that the Holy Spirit stirs up!

As always I am here for you to listen and try to share how I have understood the Commission's work and what lies ahead. I have attended meetings, kept a folder of articles of each step, I have put out the prayer wall so people can go to it for facts, information, vision, shared updates, and calls for prayer. Another informational meeting is being held at Rocky Mount on June 3. One of the Bishops recommended that as we pray toward February, 2019, we pray together *Psalm 23* and the Lord's Prayer. We are united in what matters: Jesus Christ. He will lead us and help us be One in all our differences.

Pastor Amy