

THE COMPASS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

VOLUME III, ISSUE 1

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

Welcome	1
Worship	2
Service	3
Learning	4
Calendar of Events	4

PLACES OF INTEREST

- **Byway of Blessing:** time to rest, reflect, and be received.
- **Paths into Prayer:** offering our words for uplifting our lives
- **Service Roads:** new ways into working for your local community
- **Around the Corner:** what's new and what's coming for the Highland community

A monthly travel guide for holy wanderers and wonderers on the journey of faith.

Produced by The Compass Press of Highland United Methodist Church

Byway of Blessing...

"Listen!" ... I could spend the rest of my life pondering on the implications of that one word. It plunges me at once into a personal relationship. It takes me away from the danger of talking about God and not communing *with* [God].

Esther de Waal, *A Life-Giving Way*

Welcome to the first autumn edition of The Compass News from Highland Church.

May your moments within be restful and fertile. Take a few minutes to ponder the questions in our *Streetside Reflections* section, and be sure to give serious consideration to participating in the 21 Day Financial Fast (beginning Sept. 12) and the State of the Communion Address, an informational Compass conversation and potluck lunch on October 3. Perhaps you'll want to join our Tuesday Bible study of the gospel of Mark starting on Sept. 21. It's a new season, and the Holy Spirit gently summons us all to new places on our faith journey. Come try something new here in the Compass!



Streetside Reflections: Deep Questions

"Anthropologist Angeles Arrien relates that in many indigenous cultures, a dis-spirited or dis-connected person is diagnosed by asking four questions:

Where in your life did you stop singing?

Where in your life did you stop dancing?

Where in your life did you stop telling stories?

Where in your life did you stop listening to silence?

"When I look at the world around me, I see very little singing that isn't play-listed, very little dancing that isn't connected to soft drinks, very little story-telling that isn't violent and disjointed, and a complete absence of silence. The sad truth, if we're willing to be honest, is that youth are being raised in a culture of people who no longer live from the center of their lives."

~*Contemplative Youth Ministry*, Mark Yaconelli (p. 20)

As Dynamic Duos, Liturgists Soar to New Heights



It's a bird! And a plane! No, wait... it's TWO super liturgists rather than one!

Inspired by our own "Batman and Robin" combo of James Patterson and Robert Primmer, we've been gifted with two-or-more person teams in Compass liturgist leadership over the past couple months.

Liturgist? What's that?

Since beginning on Easter 2008, Compass worship has made lay participation a priority. Faith, meet action!

Each week, we begin the service by remembering that we all join in leading this time of worship together. Through presence, through voice, through silence,

through hospitality and so many other ways, we all co-create the experience of worshipping God together.

One notable way that the Compass has offered space for leadership is through the *liturgist*. The liturgist is most often a lay member who leads the community through elements of the worship order like greetings, prayers, and scripture lessons.

James and Robert have developed a new plan to help ease folks into the liturgist task: share the load with an experienced liturgist mentor. Brilliant!

Are you interested in being a liturgist? Talk to Drew or to an active liturgist to pair up with a mentor, and sign up on Sunday.

Un-financing Your Fun: The 21 Day Financial Fast

"You can have fun... but you can't spend any money while you're doing it."

Michelle Singletary, an author and contributor to the Washington Post, has a tough challenge for folks seeking financial well-being.

Singletary has developed a 21 Day Financial Fast for people to assess their financial practices and reorder spending according to their values and beliefs.

From September 12 to October 3, a few courageous members of our church will join together in rising to the challenge. On September 12, we will invite these members forward for a blessing and commissioning during our Compass service.

It's no mere coincidence that September 12 is also the beginning of the Highland Stewardship Campaign. In our financial fasting and our reflection on the stewardship book *Treasures of the Transformed Life*, we pray that we can reorder our financial practices to bless God through giving to our blessed church.

For your consideration, here are a few selections from the Financial Fast flyer that you can collect in the Compass worship space:

- During this fast, you will not shop or use your credit cards. For three weeks you must refrain from buying anything that is not a necessity. And by necessity, I mean the bare essentials, such as food and medicine.
- Curtailing your consumption is just one part of the fast. The second part is eliminating the use of plastic, both credit and debit. Paying with plastic just makes buying too easy.
- There is one thing I can say for sure about the many people who complete this fast. Those who stick with it do become better stewards over their money. Those who repeatedly do the fast continue to be challenged and learn something about themselves.
- [Being wealthy] can mean having a lot of material things, but it also, and more importantly, means learning to live with less so that you can live your life more abundantly. It means having financial peace, which is priceless.



[Being wealthy] means learning to live with less so that you can live your life more abundantly.

Service Roads: Working with the Colonial Heights Food Pantry



The Colonial Heights Food Pantry
530 Southpark Boulevard

USDA bagging is a monthly event!

This Saturday, September 11, we'll be heading back to the Colonial Heights Food Pantry (530 Southpark Boulevard here in Colonial Heights) to fill USDA bags of food for many members of our local community.

Unlike the smaller, more frequent bags that the CHFP fills and disperses weekly, the USDA bags are filled to the brim with food intended to provide a base amount of nutrition for a month. Though the bags can be huge, one look will still tell you that it's not a lot for an entire month—which is why the CHFP strives to supplement the monthly USDA bags with weekly resources.

Our continued covenant relationship with the CHFP is becoming a two-way street. They are eager to support us in our thriving Wednesday Night Community Suppers at Highland by putting these advertisement flyers in their food bags to local folks: "Free. For All. No Strings Attached." Not only that, the CHFP is also contributing some of their largest cans of food (too large to give out) to our Community Suppers.

One step at a time, we are joining in the effort to welcome all God's people at the table. Come and be a part of this holy work again this Saturday, Sept. 11.

Next month, we will return to the Food Pantry on Saturday, October 9.

State of The Communion Address, Potluck

"Your ministry is perfectly designed to get the results it is currently getting."

~Andy Stanley

It's time to assess and reassess The Compass. Save the date: Oct. 3, 12:15pm.

Now a burgeoning toddler of 2.5 years old, The Compass at Highland has a great deal to celebrate—and far more to anticipate. As the Compass settles into a comfortable routine, we need to take responsibility for our community and take time together to look around and ahead. After all, the Compass is made for the journey, not for spinning in place!

On Oct. 3, we will have a potluck lunch with an address and roundtable conversation immediately following morning worship. Those who attend will be the first to receive our initial Compass "calling cards" to invite others to join us on the journey of faith. You want to grow? We'll supply some tools at our first State of the Communion address and potluck. Please sign up soon in the Compass worship space and join us with your potluck dish.



WHAT IS THE COMPASS?

MISSION

The Compass: where all seek to journey together through faith.

VISION

Embodying worship
welcome
service
learning

INVITATION

We invite you to join us in the work of being God's people in this beautiful, wounded world. All are welcome. Come and find a new direction!

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All are welcome...
Come find a new
direction!

Learning: On Your Mark, Get Set, Study!

Have you ever wanted to have a firmer grasp on the Bible?

Have you ever tried to read the Bible and given up, too confused to go on?

You're in good company, and that company is going to begin reading the gospel of Mark together on Tuesday nights starting September 21, 6:30-7:45pm.

The gospel of Mark is a great place to start reading the Bible. Scholars say that Mark was the first of our four gospel accounts written back in the first two centuries A.D. This means that Mark gives us a direct connection to some of those earliest church communities. When we read Mark, we're reading a translation of primary documents nearly two thousand years old! What a way to get to the heart of the Christian story!

You don't have to have any prior experience reading or studying the Bible. All you need is

- 1) a Bible of your own (if you don't have one, we can get you one) and
- 2) a faith that in reading and talking with other people, we can discover new and relevant meaning together.

We recommend Bible translations that will help rather than hinder your understanding. While the King James Version of the Bible can be very beautiful, it can also cloud our understanding with dated and unfamiliar language. The NRSV and the NIV are most strongly recommended. The Message, while quite compelling, does not lend itself as well to less-biased study and interpretation.

Please sign up in the Compass worship space soon—this study begins soon.

Compass Shout Outs

A "Buddy Jesus" shout out to Grayson Shinault for his technological leadership in Compass worship services, and to Robert "Guru" Primmer for mentoring Grayson in the wild ways of Compass multimedia.



LOCAL LISTINGS: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(ALL EVENTS AT HIGHLAND UMC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

SEPTEMBER

11 th	9am	Wheelchair Ramp Construction
	9:30-11am	Colonial Heights Food Pantry USDA day
12 th	11am	21-Day Financial Fast begins, <i>Turn Turn Turn</i> in the Compass
	6:15pm	"Seeing Gray" study led by Keith Ritchie (6 weeks thru 10/17)
15 th	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper: free, for all, no strings attached.
19 th	11am	<i>Money Matters</i> in the Compass
21 st	6:30pm	"Mark: The Beginning of The Gospel" Bible study, ends 7:45pm
22 nd	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper: free, for all, no strings attached.
26 th	11am	Compass worship
28 th	6:30pm	"Mark: The Beginning of The Gospel" Bible study, ends 7:45pm
29 th	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper: free, for all, no strings attached.

OCTOBER

3 rd	11am	World Communion Sunday in the Compass
	12:15pm	<i>State of the Communion Address</i> and potluck, ends 2pm
5 th	6-9pm	Safe Communities Night in Flora Hill Park No Mark Study
6 th	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper: free, for all, no strings attached
9 th	9:30-11am	Colonial Heights Food Pantry USDA day
10 th	11am	<i>Alien Infiltration</i> in the Compass
12 th	6:30pm	"Mark: The Beginning of The Gospel" Bible study, ends 7:45pm
13 th	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper: free, for all, no strings attached
16 th	7am-1pm	Ann Douglas Guild Yardsale in Fellowship Hall
17 th	11am	<i>It's Beginning to Feel A Lot Like Advent</i> in the Compass
19 th	6:30pm	"Mark: The Beginning of The Gospel" Bible study, ends 7:45pm