

The Highland Messenger

October 2011

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

During worship over the past few weeks, I have invited us to consider some glimpses of the early church from the New Testament, to find ways in which we are linked to the early church, and to claim again those practical ways by which we may live as the body of Christ.

As I consider the ministries I now see us offering, I see some powerful ways in which we are seeking to live as one body of Christ.

I'm excited about new programs being pursued by Highland. We are beginning a bus ministry with Fort Lee on October 15. This ministry will take the shape of us being present at South Park Mall, with Church Bus, and offering a "shuttle service" between the mall and Fort Lee.

We are also pursuing a "Children's Church." We have a planning meeting on October 15, with plans to launch this ministry November 13. This ministry will provide children opportunity for age appropriate activities during the 11am services. This is offered as an attempt to strengthen children's ministries and attract young families.

Highland is currently offering three Small group ministries, hosted in the homes of gracious members. This not only offers growth in faith, but also connects us with those who have gone before, as we remember that the early church began in the homes of disciples; we also remember that the Methodist movement of the 18th century arose from small groups orchestrated by John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement.

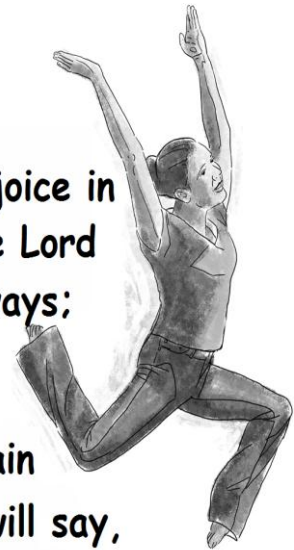
By way of recommendation from an Ad Hoc Committee accepted by our Administrative Council, we have decided to continue with our offering of three services of worship, and to be clear about a distinct identity for each service: the 8:30 service, while claiming tradition in the form of the service and in the proclamation of the Word, will also be more flexible and broader in regard to the offering of music. The 11 Sanctuary service will claim tradition in form and in music, while the Compass service, also at 11am, will continue as a non-traditional alternative, especially for those with no church backgrounds or unfortunate church experiences.

We also are connecting with our neighbors by way of worship, as we invite "Avedah," a choir from Virginia State University to participate in 8:30 worship and Compass Worship on October 23 and November 13. "Avedah" (Hebrew word for "service") will be our guests for a potluck lunch following the 11am services on the 23rd.

Rejoice in
the Lord
always;

again
I will say,
Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4, NRSV



Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
11 am Worship
(Sanctuary)
11 am The Compass
(in the Fellowship Hall
Casual dress)

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Friday
8:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join Our
In Home
Small Group Study

Highland has three Small Group Studies in progress, please take this opportunity to join one of the studies. You will enjoy the feedback from one another and it is great fellowship. These studies are approximately 6 – 8 weeks. They are entitled:

Why? Making Sense of God’s Will

Led by: Rev. Ritchie and Brian Mallary
 Meeting Location: Neil and Lu Knarr, 102 Comstock Avenue, Colonial Heights
 Time: 7 – 8:30 pm (Monday of each week)
 Contact: Keith@highlandumchurch.net or 526-3870

Faith Questions: What Do Other Faith Believe

Led by: Tricia Cox and Linda Coleman
 Time: 6:30 – 8 pm (Monday of each week)
 Meeting Location: Tricia and Steve Cox, 3812 Orkney Road, Colonial Heights
 Contact: cancernp@aol.com or 526-2350

Christianity’s Family Tree

Led by: Chris and Delilah Caldwell
 Time: 7 – 8:30 pm
 Meeting Location: Chris and Delilah Caldwell, 213 E. Westover Avenue
 Contact: d.caldwell20@comcast.net or 526-4717

Kids’ Church

You are invited to the **Kids’ Worship Volunteer Brunch Saturday, October 15, from 9 – 11 a. m.**

Come join us for a time of training and encouragement, honoring our current volunteers and welcoming new ones! Register for this exciting opportunity! Contact: Scarlett Seay 733-4339, or see her at the Sunday School desk.

Feeding Ministry

**St. Stephens Episcopal Church
 Petersburg
 October 10, 2011 – 12 pm**

Menu

Methodist Casserole
 Salad
 Bred
 Banana/Cookies
 Orange drink and Coffee
 Monetary donations may be made
 Make check payable to HUMC and
 earmark **“DT Feeding Ministry”**.

Reminders From the Kitchen Committee

The church kitchen is in constant use these days. Many are being feed and severed through various ministries of the church. This is wonderful and should be celebrated. However, it is also a good time to remind everyone of the policies and procedures of use of the church kitchen. These have been established to ensure cleanliness pursuant to government food safety regulations and to ensure all members have the ability to use the kitchen when needed. A copy of the Policies and Procedures are located in the church office and posted in the kitchen but a few reminders are listed below:

1. If you bring food in for an event, please label it with your group's name and the date.
2. If you bring food in, please take it with you once the event is over, this includes condiments. We tend to have many half empty bottles of condiments making it difficult to keep up with expiration dates.
3. Paper bags should not be stored in the kitchen.
4. Please keep in mind that floral arrangements for Sunday morning services are delivered on Friday and are kept in the refrigerator until Sunday morning.
5. Please be diligent in your clean up of the kitchen after use: sweep the floors, take out the trash, wipe down counters and appliances, clean food out of the sinks and dishwasher, and make sure the refrigerator and freezer are securely closed.
6. Please give ample notice to the Kitchen Committee if your group needs their attendance or services at an event. If you have questions regarding how to use any of the commercial grade appliances, please ask a member of the Kitchen Committee (contact the church office for committee contacts).

Thank you,
HUMC Kitchen Committee

Colonial Heights Food Pantry

The Colonial Heights Food Pantry is very low in the foods provided by the US Government Program. These are the items that volunteers from our church help bag on the second Saturday of each month. The shortage has been caused by several problems. Until these problems are resolved Highland Church is encouraged to help the Food Pantry so no one goes hungry. The most needed items are canned meat and cereals (all kinds), but all non-perishable foods are acceptable, like canned vegetables, fruits and pasta, etc. Please bring your donations to the Welcome Center, label for *Colonial Heights Food Pantry* and we will deliver to the Food Pantry.

Jerry Skaggs
Mission Chairman

**Financial Up-Date
August 28 – September 18, 2011**

2010 Budget	\$388,385.00
Amount needed each month	32,365.42
Amount received (8/24 – 9/18)	22,042.21
Amount needed Year-to-date	
38 weeks @ \$7,468.95 per week budgeted	283,820.10
Amount collected year-to-date	263,515.67
Amount needed each Month for Building/Capital Improvement	
Loan Payment	3,997.41
Amount received Building/Capital Improvement (7/24 – 8/21)	2,150.00
Memorials received 7/24 – 8/21	125.00

In Memoriam

Marguerite Wright Widdop 09/16/11

Donald Earl Cousins 09/19/11

ALL SAINTS' DAY

“All Saints’ Day” will be celebrated at Highland November 6th. In preparation for this service, you are asked to bring in photographs of loved ones whom you wish to remember. These photographs will be projected as part of this service. Please attach name and the way in which the loved one is connected to you. Pictures will be returned.

Upper Room Devotional Books are available in the Sunday School area located in the Upper Room Rack. **Cost: .70c Regular print \$1.00 Large print**

Please Note: The United Methodist Men’s Fish Fry that was scheduled for October 7, 2011 has been cancelled due to other events. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Note: Address Change:

Samuel T. Watkins
11105 Cranbeck Terrace
North Chesterfield, VA 23235-3583



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01. David Gottshall | |
| 02. Johnnie Davis | |
| Stephen James | |
| Joanna Klein-Graves | |
| 03. Hannah Carper | |
| Bobby Clarke | |
| Michael Coleman | |
| 04. Frances Bowers | |
| Michael Duncan | |
| Jewell Rose | |
| 05. Sharon Barker | |
| Graham Ferguson | |
| Mark Leimberger | |
| Betty Skaggs | |
| Thelma Tiedeken | |
| 06. Donald Mayes | |
| Robert Nelson | |
| Betty Perkins | |
| Wilson Treaster | |
| 08. Sarah Vess | |
| Sidney Watkins | |
| 09. Nicole Mills | |
| Barbara Valenta | |
| 10. Marianne Bartholomew | |
| Carolyn Curtis | |
| Susan Harrison | |
| John Lukomski, III | |
| 11. Randy Gullede | |
| Walter Heath | |
| 12. Andrew Gaskin | |
| 13. Jean Martin-Laine | |
| 14. Charlotte Lucas | |
| Steven Odom | |
| 15. Caleb Tolbert | |
| 16. Lynn Bell | |
| | 18. Mellissa Harrison |
| | Doris Kuehn |
| | Mary Perkinson |
| | Ashley Thomasson-Barton |
| | 19. Glayds Chobanian |
| | Yolanda Jenkins |
| | Brian Mallary |
| | Richard Railey |
| | Darlene Reigle-Symorski |
| | 20. Barbara Brown |
| | John DiGiacomo |
| | 21. Noelwin Hunter |
| | Stephanie Lucie-Montague |
| | 22. Tammy Foster |
| | 23. Joyce Barnes |
| | Carol Ferguson |
| | Linda Morton |
| | 24. Skylar Broaddus |
| | 25. Margaret Burfoot |
| | Bailey H. Patterson |
| | 26. Tara Lorentz |
| | Charlie Williams |
| | Dwayne Wohning |
| | 28. Jean Blankenship |
| | Deanna Gunn |
| | 29. Ray Schaeffer |
| | Ann Sovocool |
| | 30. Marty Tuck |

Listed are our Shut-in's –Give them a call, send a note let them know you care and they are in your prayers (Those with asterisk would enjoy visits).

Larry & Mary Amiss	*
Betty Bands	2
Virginia & Fred Barker	*
John Brockwell	*
Anne Burgess	5
Bruce Branton	*
Evelyn Dail	5
Jackie Fenderson	7
Mary Ferguson	6
Barbara Kellam	*
Clyde Long	1*
Bea Mann	*
Edythe Martin	2
Peggy Picardat	*
Nancy Price	*
Lillian Ross	*
Betty Story	6
Marty Thorne	2
Clarence Wells	*
Ann Webb	*
Martha Woolfolk	*
Joyce Westfall	5
Alex Westmoreland	*

Out of State

Helen Moore -332 Buna Vista Avenue,
Arnold, MD 21012

Legend - 1 **Colonial Heights Health Care Center**

831 E. Ellerslie Avenue, Colonial Heights, VA 23834

2 **Dunlop House** – 235 Dunlop Farms Boulevard, Colonial Heights, VA 23834

4 **Brighter Living** – 5301 Plaza Drive, Hopewell, VA 23860

5 **Dinwiddie Nursing and Rehabilitation Home** – 46 Diamond Drive, Petersburg, VA 23860

6 **Tyler's Retreat at Ironbridge** – (New Nursing Home – Rt. 10) 12001 Ironbridge Road, Chester, VA 23831

7 **Golden Living Center** – 287 South Blvd., Petersburg 23803

Highland's Coffeehouse and Talent Show
October 22, 2011
7 p. m.
Fellowship Hall
Prepare to come and enjoy some wonderful goodies!

October 4 is Safe Community Night in Colonial Heights. Highland will be represented at Flora Hill Park. Come out and enjoy the company of our neighbors!

Pastor Mike's Article

Greetings to my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First of all I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all the youth, parents, and church members who have helped make the last few youth meetings incredible successes! September was the kick off month for the Highland UMC youth groups. Last month the youth groups had a joint planning session with 20 youth and parents in attendance. During this meeting, we developed the following mission statement for Highland Youth Fellowship: The mission of Highland United Methodist Church Youth Group is to grow closer to God, each other, and the surrounding community through biblical study, Extreme fun, and service to others. We work together to end apathy and complacency in our community by mirroring the love and passion of Christ, and inviting others to join in our mission.

Youth Update:

September also saw the beginning of the 2011/2012 Confirmation Class and we have an average attendance of 10 students seeking to go deeper in their faith and to eventually enter into the membership of our church. The Sunday evening youth meetings have also been a great success. The youth play games, laugh, learn life lessons from scripture, eat and fellowship together, and genuinely seem to have a good time. The Jr High youth meet from 4:30-5:30pm and the Sr High youth meet from 5:00-7:00pm. The youth meetings have seen an average attendance of 18 youth. Both the Confirmation Class and regular youth group meetings have been awesome experiences, but we seek to ever expand these ministries. If you know of any youth age individuals that would enjoy getting to know other teenagers and having fun together, please invite them to be a part of either the Confirmation Class or Youth Ministry here at Highland.

October is shaping up to be a great month for ministry and fellowship for the youth group and the church as a whole. The youth group will be helping with an Elder Homes project on October 1st. We will be helping to build a wheel chair ramp for someone on Hamilton Ave. If you would like to help as a volunteer or a chaperone, please email me at pastormtolbert@gmail.com. On October 23, the youth group will be heading to Chesterfield Berry Farm after church to pick pumpkins for Halloween and enjoy games, hayrides, and a corn field maze. If you would like to attend or chaperone, please contact me. Both of these events are mission and outreach focused, and are good opportunities to invite friends who may not attend church.

Continued

Pastor Mike's

Compass Update:

Compass Worship has been an uplifting experience in September. It has felt as though the Spirit of God is truly in our worship space, and our worship experiences have been meaningful and moving. We spent most of August and all September focusing on what qualities make a strong foundation for the church, with a worship series called Compass Points: What is the Purpose of Church, and Where are We Going. During this series, we talked about the core values of Highland UMC and how do we live those out as a church. Worship topics included: Worship, Prayer, Hospitality and Community, Discipleship, Service, and Stewardship. We talked about how excellence in these six areas is essential to growing as a congregation, and we explored practical ways to do each one well, as a unified body.

In October, the Compass worship theme turns to Christian Spirituality and Discipleship, with the worship series Ordinary Radicals: Finding God in our Everyday, Ordinary Lives, and Answering His call to be Radical in our Love and Service to Others. This series will focus on finding God in our day to day lives, and sharing His love with the people we encounter every day. Topics will include: finding God in the details of our lives, seeing and being God's presence in the support we share with others, understanding that our faith is still relevant today, and God speaks still speaks to us, if we know how to listen. Some of these worship experiences will include breakfast pot lucks, exploring the latest and greatest in technology, and even being together in a coffee shop environment.

We all feel lost sometimes or feel like there may be more to life than we are seeing. If you or someone you know feels this way, but may not be comfortable in a traditional church setting, we invite you to come and find your way in the Compass. We worship together on Sundays at 11:00am in the Highland UMC Fellowship Hall.

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Mike



Children's Ministry Volunteer Brunch on Saturday, October 15 from 9am to 11am.

Join us for a time of training and encouragement, honoring our current volunteers and welcoming new ones!



Highland Kids' Church begins **November 13** during the 11am worship hour!

Place in the offering plate after completion.

Yes! I will attend!

Name: _____

ph: _____ email: _____

Preferred communication: ___ phone ___ email

- I am currently a Sunday School teacher or volunteer.
- I am interested in being a part of the Highland Children's Ministry.
- I will volunteer for Kids' Worship during the 11am worship hour.
- I will help with the Volunteer Brunch.
- I will pray for the Highland Children's Ministry.

Highland UMC Van Ministry:

In an effort to reach out to military personnel stationed at Fort Lee, Highland United Methodist Church is beginning a **Free** shuttle service to base soldiers, beginning Saturday October 15 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

South Park mall is a popular off duty destination for military service members stationed Fort Lee. Many soldiers, new to the base and without transportation, spend upwards of \$30 per person on taxi fare for a one way trip from the base to the mall.

Highland UMC would like to reach out to these young service members by offering a Free shuttle service from the mall entrance at the food court to the front gate of the base. We will begin this ministry on October 15, and continue to offer this service one Saturday every month. We need volunteers to make this Van ministry a success.

Van Ministry Continued

If you would like to volunteer to drive the church van, act as a greeter/host to riders, or just make an offering for gas money, please contact Pastor Mike at pastormtolbert@gmail.com.

This ministry will be a great way to show our appreciation for the service that these young men and women provide to our country, as well as offer an opportunity to invite new membership to our church. Please show your support by volunteering your time.

Senior Pastor – Continued

We recently connected again with this community at Flora Hill Park as we participated in Colonial Heights' "Safe Communities night."

Adults as well as youth took part in the building of another ramp for a neighbor in need on October 1st, building upon our partnership with Elder homes. Consider but a few of our mission ministries:

- We expressed our gratitude to local rescue workers on Sept. 11, providing food items and notes of appreciation.
- We have recently hosted a support group for victims of domestic violence, building upon our relationship with the Tri-Cities Domestic Violence Task Force.
- Our backpack ministry which benefits local school children in need has resumed again.
- We continue a mutually beneficial partnership with the Colonial Heights Food Pantry.
- We continue to meet Jesus in the person of those whom we feed by way of the Downtown Feeding Program.
- We continue with the hosting of Wednesday Community Night suppers, meeting new persons and families; meeting Jesus in the presence of our neighbors.

Now all of the above is not offered in some arbitrary, random, haphazard way. All of this is offered borne of our vision to love God and love neighbor. This is offered in accord with our Vision Document, which speaks to goals of greater Faith Development, Missions, new experiences of Worship, and new expressions of Hospitality. This is offered in harmony with our Core Values; values such hospitality and mission and worshipping and following Jesus.

So I invite us to consider again the life and vitality that so informs the ministry and identity that God is entrusting to Highland Church.

As I share this invitation, I am also aware that these blessed ministries of Faith Development, Mission, Hospitality, and Worship do not at this time translate into increased membership or worship attendance or financial giving. Given our concern regarding attendance and giving, there will be a called Administrative Council meeting on October 29th, 9am, for the purpose of addressing these concerns. Any and all are welcome to attend. It is hoped that our participation in the 5 Talent Academy should be of help in this meeting, as this next 5 Talent Academy event speaks to ministries of hospitality and evangelism.

Now in reflecting upon the above ministries that arise from the service and prayers and gifts of your good people, I pray that you feel the gratitude for these ministries that I feel – and the gratitude I feel is mighty.

Highland is making a difference in this community and beyond. Lives are being touched with the good news of Jesus. This community is blessed by our response to God's call and claim upon us. Again, I am grateful, and pray that you share in my gratitude.

Could it be that by the offering of these ministries, we look something like the Lord we serve, one who gave himself away in ministry.

One more time, I am grateful; grateful to serve with you this God who challenges us, moves us, and inspires us to be a blessing to others for his sake.

Grace and Peace in the name of Christ,

Keith

Highland will again host a coffeehouse and talent show on October 22nd. Please come and enjoy one another's company and share any and all talents!

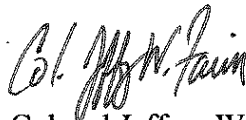
THANK YOU

Dear Church Members:

On behalf of the men and women of the Colonial Heights Police Department, let me take this opportunity to express our thanks for the goodies that you delivered to headquarters for us to enjoy. In light of the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th event, it gives me great pleasure to know that citizens are willing to recognize our officers for all that we try to do to make our city's streets safer.

Again, please accept my appreciation on behalf of the entire department for making this effort. You may be assured that all of the officers enjoyed the food in the Squad Room as they came in and out of headquarters while on duty.

Sincerely,



Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries
Chief of Police

Dear Highland Methodist Church,

Thank you for hosting us for
the night during the final stretch
of the Ride: Well Town. In honor of
your generosity, we wrote you a
poem.

Thank you for being so
willing to serve,
After riding all day through
the crazy curves.
We're so happy to have the
chance to dine together,
Though we wish it would
last forever!

Ellen
Brief

Jessica
Shemas

Emily
July

Alyssa
Hester

We love you!

Ride: Well Town - South 2011

Ch R

Corey Smith

John
Fisher

James
Mandy
Fisher

Brian
Brown

Justin
Emerson

Harriet
Sandra Carey

Thanks for Everything!
Marissa Pyatt

MIGUEL
GRACIAS
ELVIRA

We appreciate
Everything you do
to make our community
stronger.
Pencel
Christa Kasey

We appreciate
your support.
Janel
Clayborne

Thank you for
your support and
hospitality.
Teresa
Anderson

Your kindness
is very much
appreciated.

Thank you for your hospitality
and allowing us to host
our support group at your
church.