



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 20, 2024

Wednesday Black History Month Classes

Join Highland members on Wednesdays, February 21 and 28 at 6:15 p.m. in watching an inspirational speech given by Bryan Stevenson at a United Church of Christ General Synod assembly luncheon last year. Drawing on his faith and experience, including his work as an attorney defending vulnerable clients, many individuals on death row, Stevenson talks about how to engage the work of justice with courage, compassion, and a fierce hope for a better world.



Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama, that has won major legal challenges by exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of persons in prison, including those with mental illness, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. He also led the effort to create the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, which several of our church members visited on a 2022 trip to visit racial justice sites in Alabama.

We will watch the speech over two Wednesday nights, with time for discussion. Please be warned

that some of his stories mention physical abuse, including physical and sexual abuse of a jailed child.

Because his audience is made up of Christian leaders, Stevenson does not shy away from how his faith has been the guiding point of his life's work, and he gives a rousing call to action to people of faith.

P.S. Check out our [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for more opportunities to learn about Black excellence as we continue celebrating Black History Month. For those who are not on social media, but would like to see HBC's Black History Month posts, please [click here](#).



Around Highland
on February 18



Lent at Highland: What's Saving Your Life?

Barbara Brown Taylor was once asked to speak at a church, and when she asked the pastor (who just happened to be John Claypool) what she ought to speak about, he simply said, “Come tell us about what is saving your life now.” So, what is saving your life right now? What are the practices, activities, and experiences that your life depends upon?

Many of our Bible Study classes will be using *Hard & Holy Work* as a guide throughout the season of Lent. (We still have a few more pre-orders and extra copies available in the church office for \$10 each.) We will certainly reference the book in worship, but we’d like to dig a little deeper and ask, How are we sustaining ourselves to do hard and holy work for the long haul? And, when the work begins to feel more “hard” than “holy,” how do we replenish ourselves along the way?

We would love to hear your responses! What’s saving your life? What makes you come alive? Feel free to respond on social media using the hashtag #LentatHighland.

Remembering Don Burke

On Sunday, March 3 at 4:00 PM, we will honor the life of Highland’s beloved Pastor Emeritus, Don Burke. I’m so glad that Joe Phelps will be returning to Highland help lead Don’s service, and I’m grateful to Kathy Collier for helping to plan this service to honor Don’s rich history of meaningful liturgy and worship at Highland.



Not long after Don began as pastor, the church asked when Don would plan their first revival, which was traditional for a new pastor to do. However, according to our history book by Peter Smith, Don thought this was simply a way for a new pastor to “strut his stuff and have a protracted meeting of hotshot preaching.” So, he responded in a different way, holding services that year on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday – services we still hold dearly as part of our Lenten tradition today. I’m still so grateful that Don was able to be with us for Holy Week last year. I know he treasured the chance to participate in these beloved rituals with the Highland family, 50 years after he first began them.

I’m holding Don closely as we begin a new Lenten season and look forward to hearing more stories as we remember and honor his beautiful legacy among us on March 3. You can learn more about Don’s life in [this lovely tribute](#).

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

An Update from Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups

We write to you on behalf of the Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups as we are considering a change in one of Highland’s practices. Historically at Highland, only the Financial Secretary (and the counters) have had knowledge of any financial contributions made to the church by families or individuals. This information has been kept completely confidential from all other staff, including the Pastor and lay leaders. We have been discussing the prospect of allowing the Pastor to have access to general information related to people’s financial contributions. We

think a change like this could have a meaningful impact on the financial health and well-being of the church and would allow for greater transparency and intentionality in conversations related to giving. The reasons for this proposed change are multifold as we discussed last month at the QCC, but some are outlined below:

- It is important that we thank our givers, especially as there are so many other places where their money could go. Currently, our Pastor can't personally thank people for their financial gifts, like we see happen in many other non-profits and organizations.
- Being able to more effectively fundraise is a key to the future thriving of a stand-alone organization such as our church. Especially given the significant needs of our building and our Sacred Space campaign, it would be incredibly beneficial for our Pastor to know some level of information about giving to be able to have more personal conversations with donors.
- As the leader of the church, our Pastor is privy to so much private information about our lives. We do not believe that entrusting this financial knowledge would change their behavior. In fact, we believe it would allow the Pastor to be more knowledgeable about situations potentially in need of pastoral care. For example, a member's unexpected drop in giving can be a sign of other pastoral concerns, such as illness or unemployment. For our Financial Secretary to be the only person who knows this significant level of information often puts them in situations that we do not believe that this staff member should be responsible to handle on their own.
- It seems that the dominant trend of pastors not knowing any information related to giving is changing with the ever-changing landscape of the world around us. In fact, this change in practice is being strongly recommended to Highland and other churches by numerous organizations, including the [Lake Institute on Faith and Giving](#) and Ashley|Rountree (with whom we consulted for the Sacred Space campaign). As we continue researching and learning from other organizations, we want to point you to a couple short articles (2-3 minute reads) that we have found helpful in this process:
 - From the Lewis Center for Church Leadership: <https://www.churchleadership.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ToThePoint-ShouldPastorsKnowWhatMembersGive.pdf>
 - From Faith & Leadership at Duke Divinity School: <https://faithandleadership.com/louis-weeks-should-pastors-know-what-members-give>

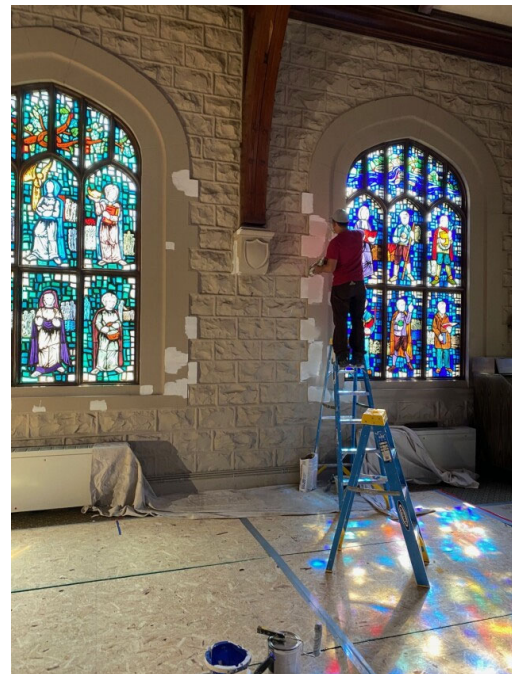
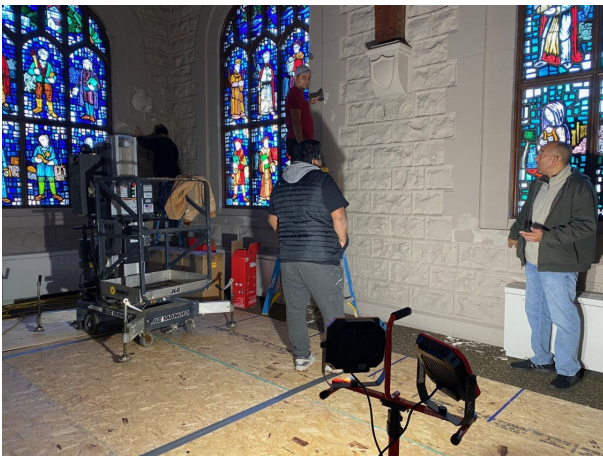
We know that this possible change may come as a shock to many of you, and to others, it may be a surprise that there was so much privacy related to finances to begin with. Again, please know that we hold confidentiality in the highest regard. As of now, there are no specifics "set." We hope to continue to have open and honest conversations about this potential change in the coming months.

Thank you,

Drew Harston, Chair of Finance Ministry Group
Rob Thompson, Chair of Faithful Giving Ministry Group
Tracy Holladay, Finance Liaison to Ministry Council

Sacred Space Project Update

Yesterday saw the beginning of prep work for painting in the sanctuary. Scraping and cleaning the walls was started, along with patching and finishing some of the areas around the stained-glass windows. You'll definitely notice this work over the next couple of weeks.



~ Walter McWhorter

**THE LORETTO COMMUNITY, SISTERS AND CO-MEMBERS,
ARE INVITING ANYONE CONCERNED ABOUT
VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO:**

A public Lenten prayer service for peace in the region and for Palestinians in Gaza followed by a meeting of a small group with one of Senator Mitch McConnell's aids.

WHERE

Outside of the Federal Building where Mitch McConnell's office is located – 601 W Broadway

WHEN

Wednesday, Feb. 28 from 12:00-12:30 pm

WHAT

- **Music:** Louisville's Mourning Choir
- **Speaker:** Farah Mohkareizadeh
- **Prayers:** A litany of mourning and a call to turn from death and towards life

~ Vicki Runnion and Nancy Goodhue



This weekend, our Youth will head over to Camp Loucon in Leitchfield, KY for an amazing weekend of worship, rest, and fun! Our theme for the weekend is “Reset.” It is no secret that I love video games and there are times when playing a game you find yourself stuck. You can't figure out the puzzle or the way to beat a certain level. You get stuck in all that is going on around and you just need to hit reset and try again.

Our lives can be like that as well. This weekend we will take an intentional time to hit reset as we focus on who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do. We welcome your prayers as we travel and enjoy this weekend together!

~ Justin Sizemore

The poster features a woman, Dr. Carol Anderson, smiling and holding a copy of her book "One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy". The text on the poster includes the event title "CITY-WIDE BOOK CLUB", the date and time "THURSDAY, FEB. 22ND | 6:30PM", the speaker "SPEAKER: DR. CAROL ANDERSON", and the book title "AND HER BOOK 'ONE PERSON, NO VOTE: HOW VOTER SUPPRESSION IS DESTROYING OUR DEMOCRACY'". It also mentions that books are available for purchase at Carmichael's Bookstore and that the event is sponsored by The Baugh Foundation. The location is St. Matthews Episcopal Church at 330 N. Hubbards Ln., St. Matthews, KY 40207.

SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY AND **CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE** PRESENTS

CITY-WIDE BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, FEB. 22ND | 6:30PM
SPEAKER: DR. CAROL ANDERSON
AND HER BOOK "ONE PERSON, NO VOTE: HOW VOTER SUPPRESSION IS DESTROYING OUR DEMOCRACY"
BOOK ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT CARMICHAEL'S BOOKSTORE
SPONSORED BY THE BAUGH FOUNDATION

ST. MATTHEWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH | 330 N. HUBBARDS LN., ST. MATTHEWS, KY 40207

*IN-PERSON AND STREAMING AT SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY'S FACEBOOK PAGE
THIS EVENT IS FREE AND REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com)*



Join us for Wednesday Night Supper! Dinner begins at 5:20 PM and children's choirs and youth activities begin at 6:00 PM. Adult programming begins at 6:15 PM.

Prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children (age 4-11), with a family max of \$35. Children below

three years and below eat for free.

Reservations and cancellations are due by noon on Friday each week. [Sign up here](#) to reserve your spot. Payments can be made via cash or check as you arrive, but we also encourage paying ahead [here](#) (*Note: those with standing reservations can make payments for the whole month (or more!)*).

Any changes to reservations can be made by emailing [Paul](#) or [Kathleen](#) or calling the Highland Baptist office at 451-3735. If you are in a season of financial hardship that makes paying difficult, you can speak to any of the ministers about assistance for Wednesday Night Supper.

Menu for February 21: Shredded BBQ Chicken / Baked Beans/ Salad / Dessert

Upcoming Menus:

February 28	Baked Spaghetti / Salad / Garlic Bread / Dessert
March 6	Fried Chicken / Mac & Cheese / Salad / Rolls / Dessert
March 13	Meatloaf / Mashed Potatoes / Cornbread / Dessert
March 20	Chicken Fajitas /Rice / Salad / Dessert

Christmas Lights and Retreat Opportunity

Want to experience a retreat and the lights of Christmas in France and Germany this year? Highland member Denee Walsh and Rev. Nancy Tinnell of Middletown UMC will be leading a retreat and tour to Paris, Strasbourg, Heidelberg, Nuremberg, and Frankfort. Explore the monuments and museums of Paris and stroll the Christmas markets in Alsace and Germany. For more information, go to Passports.com and enter Tour ID DWALSH2024 or [email Denee](#). We have ten spots available and would love to have you join us!

Looking Ahead

- Feb. 21 & 28 Black History classes featuring *Just Mercy* author Bryan Stevenson, 6:15 PM
February 25 Party with Your Pastors—Mary Alice & Evan’s home, 4:00-5:30 PM
March 3 Service of Remembrance for Pastor Emeritus Don Burke, 4:00 PM
March 7-9 Habitat for Humanity Spring House Build
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Sunday, 11:15 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>
<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

Friday, 7:00 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

**Streaming
Worship
Links**



**CLICK HERE TO
GIVE TO HIGHLAND**



To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212
and open the link.



Louisville Homicides

Please join us in prayer and action as we remember those who have been killed in recent weeks in our city. We grieve with those who mourn, while we also maintain a hope that one day, all things will be made new.

- Ronald J. Hall, 27, killed February 11
 - Ronald F. Batey, 37, killed February 11
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