



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church *July 23, 2024*

Sacred Space and Sunday Summer Schedule Updates

Work on the Sacred Space Project continues to move at a furious pace, although as with many construction projects it is not without its speedbumps. **Our goal to return to the sanctuary for Sunday Worship is August 18, which is the date for our end-of-summer Gather 'Round Sunday. Our goal for use of the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen for the return of Wednesday Night Supper is August 21.**

That means that we'll continue with our Summer Sunday temporary relocation for worship and Bible Study for three more weekends. Are we excited about the delay? Of course not. But we've waited so long for this project work that we want it to be done properly before we return to our usual spaces. This doesn't mean that the entire project will be completed by those dates, just that we can return to those spaces for our usual meetings and programs in those areas of the building. It will be several weeks after those dates before our building returns to normal.

Know that we deeply appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these days of our Sacred Space Project. We're doing SO well, Highland. In the meantime, here are some pictures from this week's work in the sanctuary. There is vent work going into the floor all around the sanctuary, there's a new fan system in the narthex (entryway at the back of the sanctuary), and members of the construction team examining ductwork beneath the organ.



~ Walter McWhorter

Discovery Camp Reflections

If I had to summarize the past three weeks — returning from Sabbatical, joining PassportKids Camp, and experiencing Discovery Camp — I think I would do so with photos...

On the final afternoon of Discovery Camp, the five of us (Eli, Lula Mae, Livia, Megan, Renee) gathered in the main office to debrief the week. We made note of growth we saw in our campers, the precious moments of learning and joy and laughter, as well as the struggles and a few shifts we thought might help the camp rhythm in future years. At some point I realized that I might not see our youth counselors before they left for college this fall, and I asked for a photo to capture this moment.



It was then that Lula Mae spoke up, recalling that she was pretty sure a photo just like this one existed - from 8 years earlier when they attended their first PassportKids after wrapping up 4th grade! Had we inadvertently recreated a childhood photo? Later that night, a photo of a young Eli, Lula Mae, and Livia appeared in our group text thread. My heart swelled as I recalled these now young adults as children and the journey that is life together in community.



Why do these two photos capture the past three weeks for me, you might wonder? I think because Eli, Lula Mae, and Livia represent the long view of what ministry with children (and their families) is all about. After 17 years of investing in children's lives, I've now had the opportunity to see the youngest ones in our midst grow into adulthood; into their full selves. I couldn't know at PassportKids all those years ago that these three brilliant young people would be camp counselors for a group of kindergarten-3rd graders learning about the definition of compassion (I see your

hurt, I feel your hurt, and I help ease your hurt) and what every living thing needs to thrive (shelter, food, water, air, and community). I only had a trust, as I do with all of Highland's children, that the investment of time, energy, love, encouragement, support and care as we learn the stories of Jesus, sing the songs of faith, and become the beloved community together matters.

This is one of many truths that became crystal clear as I cared for my mind, body, and spirit over my 12 weeks of Sabbath-keeping and renewal. And my return to work via PassportKids and Discovery Camp only gave me new images and memories to hold alongside this specific truth.

So, enjoy the photos from our Discovery Camp week together. It was hot, wild, and a whole lot of fun!

With deepest gratitude for rest and renewal and great joy
in the return to the rhythms of Highland life,

~ *Renee Purtlebaugh*



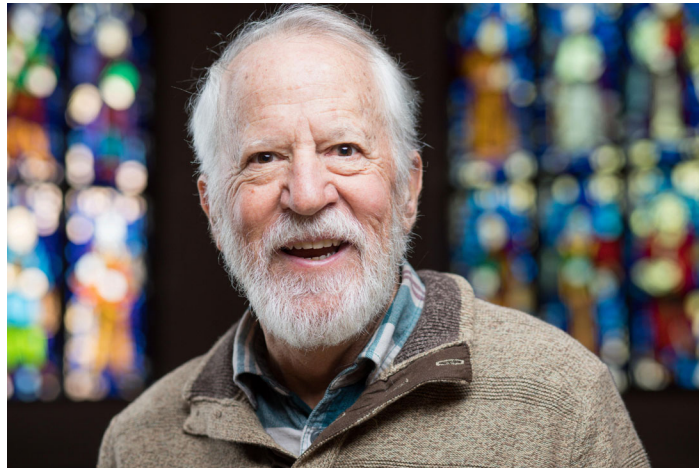
Discovery CAMP



Many thanks to everyone who volunteered and made this year's Discovery Camp come to life! We are grateful to Brooke Hasl (poetry), Paul Henderson (music), Livia Mayfield (yoga), and Megan Fuller (art), as well as our three youth counselors,

Livia Mayfield, Lula Mae Solley, and Eli Schureck, and Sally Evans who assisted with pre-camp preparation. And a huge thank you to Megan Fuller, who quite literally made camp happen by bringing my ideas to fruition, preparing so much of it while I was on Sabbatical, and keeping everything flowing seamlessly throughout the week!

Celebrating Fred Bogert



As we announced recently, Fred Bogert is concluding his time on staff at Highland. We are so grateful for the incredible gifts that Fred has brought to Friday Church for over a decade and for his deep passion and commitment to this space in our community. Through Fred's leadership, we have built relationships with community partners from across the city of Louisville, and he's done this with such creativity, insight, and love for the Friday Church community. He will be dearly missed! **Please join us Friday, July 26, starting at 6:30 PM for a celebration of Fred's ministry over the last decade with us at Friday Church. We're excited to welcome back Joe Phelps and Chris Sanders to participate in Friday night's service.**



HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

Please join our efforts to collect backpacks and \$25 Target or Walmart gift cards THIS WEEK for HCM! Bring your items to the church any time this week through next Sunday, July 28.
Thank you for your generosity for the children in our community!

JULY 21-28 2024



Congregational Votes on July 28

On Sunday, July 28, we will have a ballot vote on three items of business needing church approval:

- The [Job Description for the Associate Pastor of Ministry Coordination and Formation](#) was approved unanimously by the Ministry Council last week. Since this position and the job description was already discussed in last month's QCC, we will not have any formal discussion on July 28. However, here are [some Q&A's](#) that were discussed in the QCC if you weren't able to attend. Additionally, representatives from Personnel and Ministry Council will

be available before and after worship on July 28 to answer any questions and/or to receive any further feedback you'd like to share.

- Ministry Council has also voted to nominate the following individuals to serve on the search committee for the Associate Pastor position:
 - Tanya Cornely (chair)
 - Troy Burden (vice-chair)
 - Robert Davis
 - Tracy Holladay
 - Margaret Pennington
 - Carol Harston (consultant/ex-officio)
 - Mary Alice Birdwhistell (ex-officio)
- The following individuals have been nominated by the church to serve as deacons. They are sharing their faith stories in worship throughout the summer, and brief bios on each candidate can be found in the newsletter each week. Upon church approval, they will be ordained on Sunday evening, August 25 and begin serving as deacons on September 1: Greg Bunten, Bruce Carroll, Roy Fuller, Kelly Garrett, Noelle Gulden, Bonnie Lindsay, Corey Moran, Genene Nisbet, Gene Streible, Charlie Suer, and David Swim.

Deacon and Pastor Gathering



The deacons and pastors met at Mary Alice and Evan's home last week. It was a sacred space of shared wisdom, spiritual insight, laughter, and most of all, HOPE! Highland's deacons are the heartbeat of our faith community, and we are so grateful for their thoughtful servant leadership. Save the date for the Service of Ordination for our new class of incoming deacons on Sunday, August 25 at 6:00 PM.

Deacon Nominees

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will have the opportunity in worship to hear from those who have been nominated to serve as deacons this coming year as they share their faith stories. In addition, we will learn more about them each week in the newsletter.

We are excited about the gifts that each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity. We will have the chance to vote on these folks later this month.



KELLY GARRETT

I grew up in rural western Kentucky, where my family attended a small independent Baptist church. During my college years at Murray State University I was active in the Baptist Student Union, where I met my future husband, Phillip. After marrying in 1991, I moved to Louisville where Phillip was continuing his education at Southern Seminary and began 32 years of teaching math and physics at Atherton High School, retiring in 2023. Over the first 12 years of our marriage, Phillip and I became the proud parents of Molly (1996) and Jillian (2000).

In search of a new church home in 2003, we thankfully landed at Highland. Here, I found a faith community that has nurtured my family through the ups and downs of life. I am beyond grateful for the faithful witness to and love shown for my daughters as they grew up. My life is richer for relationships that have grown through Bible study classes, many experiences of making music in the sanctuary choir and orchestra, opportunities to serve in ministry groups and chaperone camps with younger kids and youth. I am humbled to be nominated to serve as a deacon and look forward to all it will bring.



BONNIE LINDSEY

I was raised in a Southern Baptist church in Virginia. As many Southern Baptists often say, my family was there every time the doors opened. Although we were active members of our church, we didn't really talk about what we believed about God.

However, by watching my mother, I knew that believing in God meant to love and serve others. She exemplified being a "doer of the word" in big and small ways.

I feel humbled and honored for this opportunity to be a doer of the word by serving this church family that I love so dearly.



Creative Thinking for Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

As Mary Alice recently preached, times of constraint often produce more creative thinking than do times of abundance. The Wednesday Night Dinner Team has taken Mary Alice's sermon to heart as we plan for dinners to resume on August 21.



Looking for ways to reduce the cost of meals for our church family and to avoid losing money, as we did last year with a caterer, we plan to provide this year's meals with more help from volunteers. We will also make use of semi-prepared foods from vendors such as ValuMarket, Costco and GFS. With no caterer, meal costs will go back down to \$10 per person, age 12 and over, \$5 for children, age 3-11, with a maximum of \$25 per family. We encourage you to take advantage of one of the best opportunities we have for intergenerational fellowship. Our church family will be richer with your participation in Wednesday night dinners and other programming opportunities!

We also need your help!

1. Please make your dinner reservations for this fall. It will be important to have an accurate count as we endeavor to be good stewards of our resources. Email Kathleen Gordon [here](#) with your reservations.
2. Volunteer to assist with food prep and setup, making desserts or cleanup. Contact Kathy Belcher [here](#) if you can help or want more information or text her at 502-216-6471.

Thanks,
~ Wednesday Night Dinner Team

**Save the Date: Cole Arthur Riley at Highland
Sunday Evening, September 15**



We are thrilled to host author **Cole Arthur Riley** at Highland on **Sunday evening, September 15**. Cole is the author of the NYT bestsellers, *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us* and *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*. Her writing has been featured in The Atlantic, Guernica, and The Washington Post and has been deeply meaningful and prophetic to many of us at Highland. This event is made possible through generous funding from the Lily Foundation for Renee's sabbatical and our entire church family. More details related to the event and registration will be available in August.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

I ♥ Morocco Solidarity Dinner



Support critical ministries
of the EEAM in Morocco
AND have a fabulous
authentic Moroccan meal
catered by one of
Louisville's best:

Jarfi's Catering!!

\$20 (Scholarships Available)



Please RSVP :
<https://cbfky.org/morocco-1>



Saturday
August 24
5:00 PM
St. Matthews
Baptist Church





**A great crowd gathered at our latest Party with Your Pastors
at the Sizemore home on July 21!**

Cream of the Crop News

July 25 – Tour of the Kentucky Derby Museum

We look forward to seeing those of you who are visiting the Kentucky Derby Museum with us. We will meet at 10:00 AM at the museum, located at 704 Central Avenue (parking available in the Red Lot).

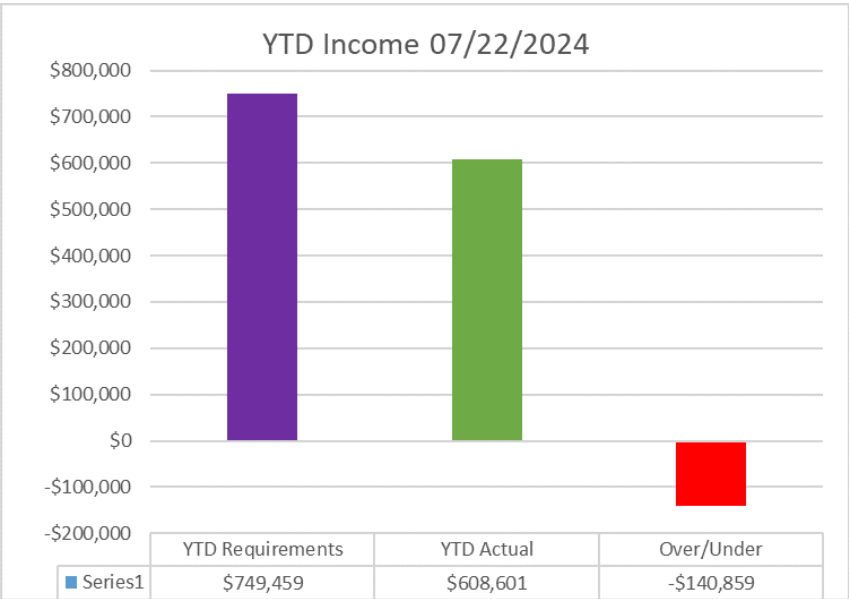
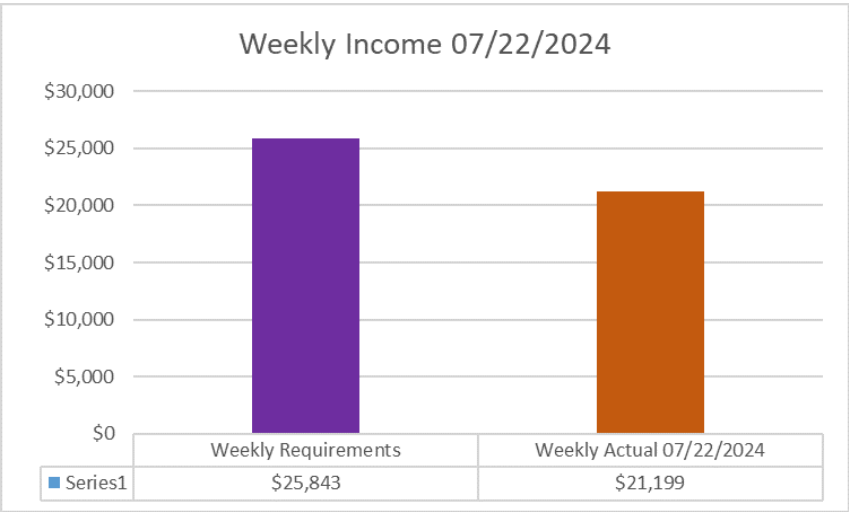
- 10:10 The Greatest Race, 18-minute film in the Great Hall
- 10:30 Group historic walking tour and guided track visit of Churchill Downs
- 11:00 Group self-guided museum and gift shop time; self-guided access to two floors of permanent, specialty and interactive exhibits; browsing in the museum stable area.

After our tour, we will have lunch at the historic Wagner's Pharmacy.

August 13 – Potluck Luncheon at 12:00 Noon with entertainment by Emmanuel Maize and Paul Henderson from the American Songbook repertoire

Shredded pork taco bar. Sort school supplies we will collect through July.

Financial Reports



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



Looking Ahead

July 25	Senior Adult Tour of the Kentucky Derby Museum
August 13	Senior Adult Luncheon with Emmanuel Maize and Paul Henderson (12:00 Noon)
August 18	Gather 'Round Sunday
August 21	Wednesday Activities Return
Sept. 15	Cole Arthur Riley visits Highland on Sunday Evening

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**



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.

- Rodney Bowman, 58, killed July 10
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