



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 4, 2025

**Our regular Sunday schedule resumes this Sunday, February 9
with 8:45 AM Worship, 10:00 Bible Study, and 11:15 AM Worship.**

A Prayer of Praise

Many thanks to Sally Evans for the beautiful prayer of praise on Mary Alice's last Sunday with us. We include it today as we savor all the good gifts we received from Mary Alice over the last four and a half years. Stay tuned for next week's newsletter, which will feature some of Mary Alice's parting words.

O God Beyond All Praising,

Perhaps songs cannot repay, but through our singing voice . . . we sure will try. We lift up our EYES to the heavens, where does our help come from? Our help comes from You, Giver of Light.

This morning our cup overflows with gratitude for the light and revelation of God that has come through Jesus, and continues to come in this season of Epiphany. You have sent Highland such gifts, O Lord, and together we marvel at them. Among the brightest lights that has led us to you is our Pastor Mary Alice, who has lived her life so fully and bravely before us, defying gravity in a thousand ways.

We lift up our HEART to You, Giver of Joy. And joy is not made to be a crumb! So for the joys without end that came through our minister, Gracious God, we tell out our praise.

- For how she loved us!
- For the way she walked with honesty beside us.
- For how she entered places of pain with us.

- For how she comforted our fear.
- For how she asked us to dream an impossible dream of God's love & justice for the city of Louisville.
- For how she cultivated beloved community.
- For how she pointed to the divine in all things.
- For how she opened our eyes through scripture to recognize a bigger, better story.
- For how we were made more whole and beautiful with her here with us.

Lastly, we lift up our HANDS this morning and bless You still, Giver of Hope, and hold high our Christ light to shine out boldly in these dark days.

For Your faithful guidance and steadfast love, guiding Highland for the past 132 years, and for the blessings without number we have received from Your dear servant, we lift up our eyes, our heart, and our hands and sing now with our whole being! And all the people said, *Amen*.



Update from Finance Ministry Group

Greetings from the Finance Ministry Group. We gave an update at the QCC on Sunday and wanted to share some of the important numbers with you today. In last week's newsletter we highlighted the successful end of 2024 for the operational budget with income exceeding expenses. Hooray!

Sacred Space Financial Data	
Total cost	\$3,800,000
Expectations of state and federal tax credits	\$1,000,000
Donations amount needed	\$2,800,000
Pledges Paid To Date	\$1,206,176
Non-Pledged Contributions to date	\$199,668
Outstanding Pledges	\$647,260
Additional Pledges/Gifts Needed	\$746,896

Today, we will focus on the Sacred Space campaign. As you can see in the attached graph, the total project costs are likely to be ~\$3.8 million. After expected tax credits, the congregation will need to raise \$2.8 million. So far we have received \$1,405,844 and have \$647,260 in outstanding pledges. Thank you so much for your generous gifts!! Assuming all pledges are met, we will need to receive an additional \$746,896 in contributions for this project.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the Finance Ministry Group; including, Justin Boldt, Drew Harston (chair), Tracy Holladay, Andrea Hunt, Susan Pierce, Renee Purtlebaugh (staff liaison) and Lauren Swim.

February Children's Bible Study and Music Teacher Appreciation Month

During the month of February each year, we honor the Bible study and music teachers who give of their time weekly to nourish Highland's children on their faith journeys! Many of these teachers have taught for multiple years (some for even 10 years, or more!), and for this gift of consistency and presence, we also say a wholehearted, "Thank You!"

Infants, Toddlers & Twos



Kathery Colightly Sanders



Vaughn Bell



Jason Baker

Kindergarten & First Grade



Luke Riley

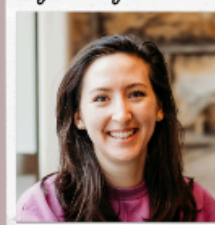


Kathy Belcher

Godly Play: Threes & Pre-Kindergarten



Angela Collins



Megan Fuller



Lauren Blackwell



Katie Metcalf

Second & Third Grade



Shanda Cool



John Pacyga

Fourth & Fifth Grade



Beth Hedges



Zach Watson

Join us in this expression of gratitude by:

- **making a donation** to our Sacred Space campaign in honor of a past Children's Bible study or music teacher, or in appreciation of one of our current Children's teachers. We'll have hearts available in the Children's Commons and the Sanctuary Commons, where you can write a note of gratitude (that we will post on a bulletin board on the 2nd floor) and make your donation. Or go online [using this link](#), choose "Other" and note "Teacher Appreciation - [insert name]" in the "More Information" box available.
- **writing a card** to one of our current children's teachers, thanking them for the gift of time, creativity and life journeying they do with our kids.
- **helping your child create** a personal expression of gratitude for their current children's teachers at Highland and deliver it on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night sometime this month!

Teachers, we love you and cannot express our gratitude with adequate words. We are so deeply grateful for you!

~ Pastor Renee

Reception for Mary Alice



Exciting Update from the Strategic Planning Committee

What do people outside of Highland Baptist Church think of us? Or do they know about us? How do Highland members describe our church to others. Are we who we say we are?

These are important questions. The Strategic Planning Committee, under the guidance of the Ministry Council, will be exploring these questions as we look to the future. Church member Casey Boggs has generously offered the skills of his company, **Reputation US**, to help us assess our reputation, both inside and outside the church. Data collected will be very helpful for future planning and direction. It will help us create coherent messaging.

There will be surveys, focus groups, and interviews coming in the next couple of months. Please participate in an honest and prayerful manner. We want to hear your voice! (And thank you, Casey.)

~ Carolyn King and the Strategic Planning Committee

The Empathic God: A Book Presentation and Discussion in Three Parts



Frank Woggon's book *The Empathic God: A Clinical Theology of At-onement* (Fortress Press, 2024) constructs a reinterpretation of the Christian narrative of salvation from the clinical perspective of a spiritual care practitioner, utilizing case studies and interdisciplinary dialogue to suggest a faithful Christian practice of participating in God's ongoing work of salvation. Join Frank Woggon as he discusses the argument and central themes of his book in three presentation sessions:

February 12: The Shadow of the Cross: A Problematic Atonement

February 19: Shame, Empathy, and the Human Condition

February 26: Practicing At-onement: How the Empathic God-event Calls Upon Us

Rev. Frank Woggon, PhD, BCC is the director of Chaplaincy Services at UofL Health, an ACPE Certified Clinical Educator, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville. He is married to Kelley, and they are long-time members of Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

Save the Date for Highland's Summer Camps for Children



We are already looking forward to summer sunshine as well as learning and growing together in community! Each summer, Highland provides overnight and day camp experiences for children who have completed Kindergarten-5th grade. This year's options are PassportKids, Discovery Camp, and Advocacy Camp. Registration will open Thursday, February 13, and links to register will be available in our Family Ministry Happenings e-newsletter and via our private Facebook group and Instagram. Need to sign up for the newsletter or one of these social groups? Do so by emailing [Megan](#) or [Renee](#).

Coming Up

Worship in February

Our regular Sunday schedule will resume this Sunday, February 9 with 8:45 AM Worship, 10:00 Bible Study, 11:15 AM Worship.

Upcoming Proclaimers

February 9: Bob Cunningham, Interim Associate Pastor

February 16: Justin Sizemore, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

February 23: Sally Evans, Former Interim Associate Pastor

March 2: Jim England, Former Interim Pastor

Wednesday Nights

February 5: Moving Faith Forward - Carol Harston (final session)

February 12, 19, 26: *The Empathic God* book study and discussion with Frank Woggon

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Check next week's newsletter for a listing of whom to contact on our church staff when you have various needs or questions during this interim season.



Meal costs are \$10 per person, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$25 per family. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship! **We are still in need of *one* more person each week to help dry dishes.** Volunteers serve one week per month. **Contact [Kathy Belcher](#) if you can help.**

Please make your reservations by Monday at 12:00 Noon for that week's meal. You can either make standing reservations or make them weekly by emailing [Kathleen Gordon](#) or calling her at the church office, 502-451-3735.

February Menus:

February 5: Fried & Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert

February 12: Lasagna, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

February 19: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

February 26: Meatloaf, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert

Click Here for Church Signup Links



Fat Tuesday, March 4, 2025 • 5:30PM - 7:30PM

Highlands Community Campus (1228 E. Breckinridge St)

\$60 All-inclusive Ticket • \$75 VIP Bourbon Experience



Scan for Tickets

Your attendance directly helps neighbors stay nourished and housed through Highlands Community Ministries

Celebrate The Highlands at this lively Mardi Gras party, sponsored by **King + Company**, **Peoples Bank**, & **Givhan and Mitchell Realtors**!

- **Sweet and savory bites** from The Highlands' finest restaurants
- Pair your plates with exceptional **local spirits and beverages**
- Upgrade for \$15: VIP bourbon tasting from **Limestone Branch Distillery**!

Questions? Contact **Steven Michael Carr**, HCM Development Director at scarr@hcmloouisville.org OR (502) 451-3695 ext. 208.

Jean Janes Yard Sale March 15

Please start collecting all the household items you would like to get rid of! The long delayed yard sale will be held Saturday, March 15th. More information to come on when you can bring items to church.

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**



Looking Ahead

- February 5: Moving Faith Forward - final session with Carol Harston
 - February 9: Regular Sunday schedule resumes
 - February 12: *The Empathic God* book study and discussion with Frank Woggon begins
 - February 18: Senior Adult Potluck Luncheon/Table Games at 12:00 Noon
 - March 5: Ash Wednesday
 - March 7-9: Women's Retreat - contact Ginger Miller for more information
 - March 15: Jean Janes Yard Sale
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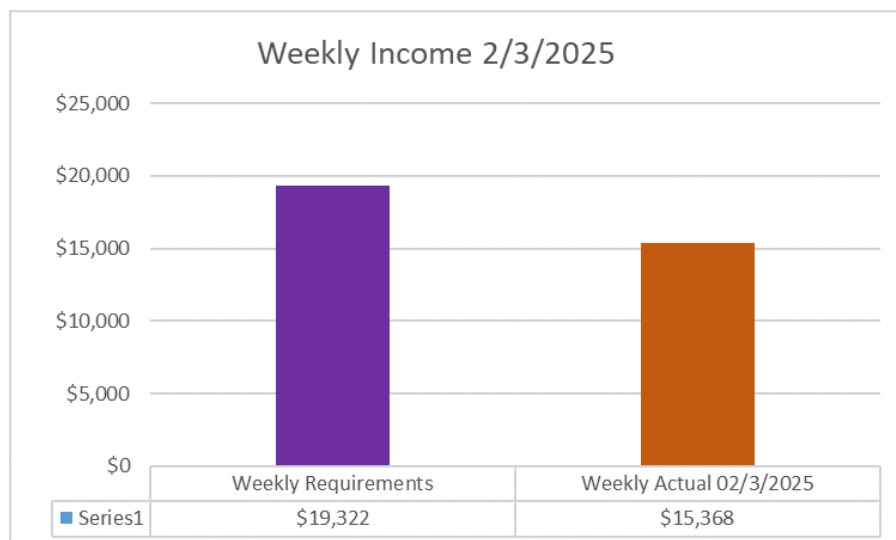
Financial Focus

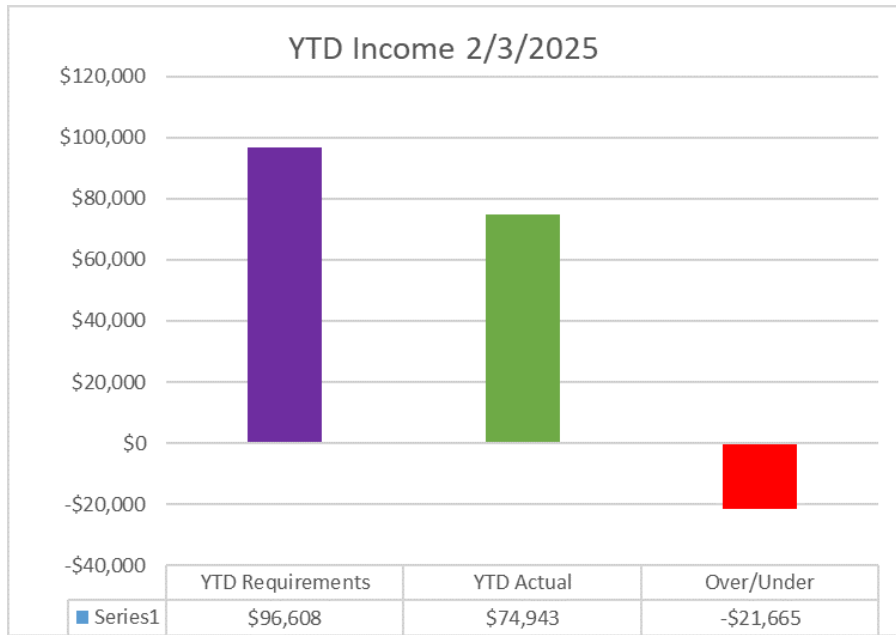
On behalf of the Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups, I would like to thank you all for your generosity and commitment to Highland Baptist Church. If you requested offering envelopes, they can be found in the Commons from now until February 28th. If they have not been picked up by then, I will mail them to you. If you do not see your box, please reach out to me and I will have one out for you by the following week.

As we move forward into 2025, please remember contributions can be debited automatically from your checking account. They can also be processed using your credit or debit card. Note that Highland incurs no processing fees for auto withdrawals from your checking account, but there are fees associated with credit or debit transactions. Please review your accounts regularly if you have signed up for Highland to automatically draft your contributions. If you find any discrepancies, please let me know right away. You can contact me at the church office by phone at 502-451-3735 or by [email here](#).

~ Kathleen Gordon

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.**

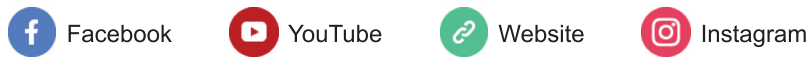


Louisville Homicides

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.

- Morris Felton, 61, killed December 21
 - Craig Robinson, 62, killed December 21
 - Michael Orchard, 34, killed January 23
 - Taylor Mudd, 25, killed January 24
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