



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church July 15, 2025

A Note About Justin



As most of you know by now, Justin Sizemore will be leaving Highland in a few weeks to begin a new role as co-pastor of First Baptist Church on St. Clair in Frankfort, Kentucky. In case you missed the news, you can [read about it here](#), along with a note I wrote about his departure. We will have an opportunity to celebrate Justin's time with us on Sunday, August 3 and will share more information about that in the coming days. In the meantime, join us in praying for Justin, Abby, and the girls as they make this transition and for our youth and young adults as they adjust and move forward into new possibilities.



Pastor Search Committee Update

Following the approval of the Senior Pastor job description, the pastor search committee posted the position with CBF, CBF of Kentucky; American Baptist Convention (ABC), Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists (AWAB), Baptist Women in Ministry, Alliance of Baptists and the following seminaries: Louisville Presbyterian; Duke; Wake Forrest; Truett; BSK; McAfee; Candler and American Baptist Seminaries.

In addition, members of the pastor search committee are reaching out to friends and colleagues in ministry to share the job posting and get recommendations. We have also posted the information on all of

HBC's social media accounts and are very grateful to members for sharing on their accounts! We are already receiving résumés and supporting documentation from candidates. Here is the posting. Please share with anyone you think would be interested and/or could recommend someone!

- Highland Baptist Church in Louisville seeks a Senior Pastor to lead a vibrant, progressive congregation of 300 in-person worshipers with an additional 100 online. We are rooted in the values of thoughtful faith, inclusive community, and social justice. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a justice-oriented ministry and collaborative leadership. For more information or to apply, please send a cover letter, résumé, and philosophy of ministry, [please click here](#).

~ Kathey Golightly Sanders

Sacred Space Trivia Night



**Many thanks to Margie and Steve Brown for hosting
our Trivia Night Fundraiser for the Sacred Space campaign.
Everyone enjoyed a great evening together and we raised \$1350!**



Sermon Series Beginning This Sunday

Beginning July 20, I'll continue following the lectionary but will be preaching a four-part sermon series: "Insightful Critics of the Church, and Bill Maher." In the first three sermons, we'll take a look at four people who know churches well, and we'll see what we can learn from their critiques. In the final sermon, I'll have something to say about Maher profiting from sloppy stereotyping and the need for the Church to know when to stand its ground.

In light of the criticisms, the sermons will also set forth practical ways the church can improve, as well as key parts of our theology we need to hold dear. In short, we'll learn from some folks who point out hazards and pitfalls, and we'll consider how we can do better, as we, like the Apostle Paul, aim for God's bullseye but know we'll always miss the mark.

- July 20 Dr. King and White Liberalism
- July 27 Barbara Brown Taylor: The Confining Church
- August 3 Mark Twain and H.L. Mencken: Church for the Sake of Church
- August 10 . . . and Bill Maher: Not Every Criticism is Valid

It's a pleasure serving you during this time of transition!

~ Chris Caldwell



Coro Louisville Travels to England This Week



Our thanks to the many Highland folk who came to hear *Coro Louisville* and the folks in our choir on

Sunday afternoon! The floor level of Second Presbyterian was completely full and we are so grateful for this show of support. The majority of our choir members will travel on Thursday, while others will leave the day before. After arriving in London, we will have couple of days to get our bearings, and then start a very intense rehearsal and performing schedule. We ask for prayers of safety and good health through this life changing and life-giving time.

~ Paul Henderson



Deacon Nominees

Beginning this Sunday, 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.

Those nominated are: Randy Biery, Diane Brewer, Mary Cooksey, Scott Gunter, David Hartley, Becca Jagers, Larry Marcum, Vicki Runnion, Becky Smith, and Tyler Swim.

We are excited about the gifts each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity. We will vote on these folks on August 17 by paper ballot.



MARY COOKSEY

I first visited Highland while I was a college student at Bellarmine and I was immediately drawn to Highland's inclusive message. What I loved most was the emphasis on thinking - on questioning, learning, and growing. I soon became a member and jumped right in.

Over the years, I've served in a variety of roles here at Highland and served twice as a deacon. I've also found deep connection and lifelong friendships here.

It's safe to say that Highland has supported me through every major adult milestone. Noah and I were married here 20 years ago. We dedicated our three children- Hannah, Isaiah, and Simon - here. This community has walked with us through sickness, the death of parents, job changes, unexpected tragedies, and countless celebrations of life's joys.

Now, I feel called to serve again as a deacon. I hope to offer the same love, care, and steadfast presence that this community has so generously extended to my family and me.



LARRY MARCUM

As a youth, I regularly attended a Methodist Church with my Dad. We never attended a church service as a complete family unit. My eldest sister suffered from cerebral palsy and epilepsy. I was angry with God because I could not understand why this happened. I also thought that I was somewhat inadequate. These reasons, or excuses, sufficed to postpone my baptism.

Six months after I married the love of my life, Betty, the Baptist, I was drafted into the U.S. Army and later served in Vietnam. There, I did plenty of talking to God. I came to the conclusion that some questions would only be answered in God's time. Upon my return home, I was baptized at the age of 21.

Betty and I joined Highland in 2009, after a long following of Pastor Joe Phelps' editorials. At previous churches, I've served as pastor search chair, moderator, and as a deacon, among other roles. We are now members of the Seekers Bible study group. I invite you to come join us and I look forward to serving as a deacon here at Highland!

~ Robin Ramsay Lee, Deacon Chair



Thank You!

Thank you to our outgoing deacons

Kathy Belcher
Amber Burke
Phil Collier
Robert Davis
Roz Heinz

Doris Hornbuckle
Robin Ramsay Lee
Karen Park
Chet Watson

**Please visit the Commons this Sunday to sign a
thank you card for each person listed above**



Cream of the Crop Sponsored Mission Opportunity

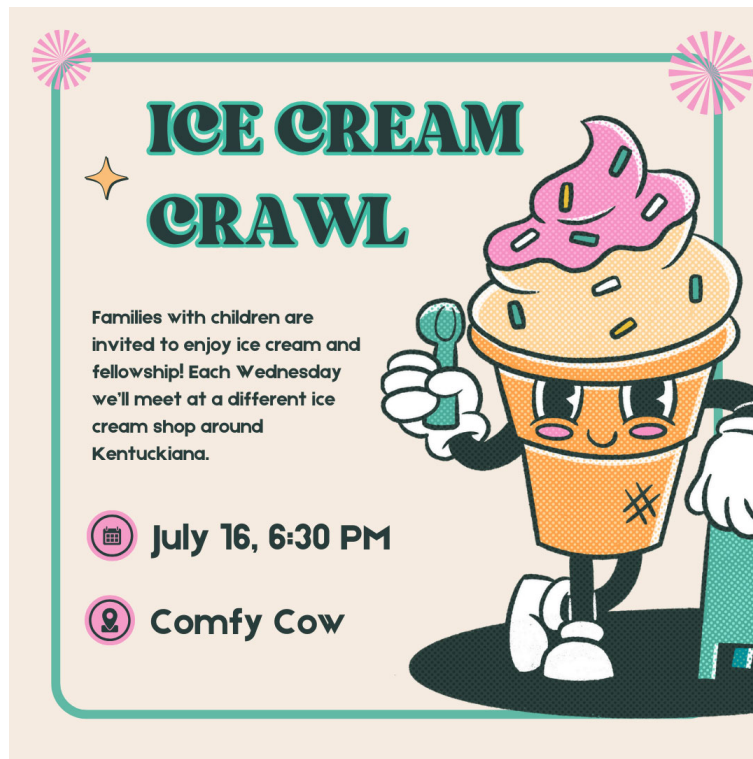


Here is a mission opportunity for everyone! Join Ginny Sims and others Monday, August 11 from 10:00-12:00 at [SOS – Health and Hope](#) to learn about this organization and sort supplies. SOS transforms discarded medical items into useable items for both local and international needs. SOS is located at 1500 Arlington Ave.

If you'd like to help, contact Ginny Sims [by email here](#) or phone (812) 987-2665 by August 9.



Highland Families with Children



Seeking Language Partners

We are looking for language partners for immigrants and refugees who are learning English. Very flexible. You would FaceTime or use WhatsApp to communicate once a week with English language learners. If interested, [please email me here](#). Thanks for considering!

~ Denee Walsh

[Click Here for Church Signup Links](#)

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

July 14-17:	Children's Advocacy Camp
July 17-24:	England Trip, <i>Coro Louisville</i> including members of Highland's Sanctuary Choir
August 3:	Justin Sizemore's Final Sunday with Highland
August 10:	Gather 'Round
August 13:	Wednesday Evening Activities Resume and Cloud of Witness
August 17:	Ballot Vote for Deacon Nominees



Financial Reports Return Next Week

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

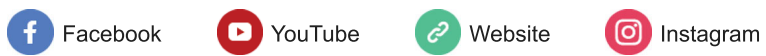




Louisville Homicides

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.

- Achilles Seward, 16, killed June 23
 - Susie Offutt, killed June 30
 - Craig L. Willis, 50, killed July 6
 - Amia N. Cox, 22, killed July 7
 - SonTia R. Simmons, 26, killed July 7
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