



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church July 14, 2026

The Commons

Time is flying, and the first of the month marks my first 100 days as Senior Pastor at Highland. When Kathey Sanders and I met yesterday afternoon, I shared what I've learned and observed in the first 100 days, as well as how I'm approaching the next 100 days. One thing that keeps coming up is the need for lay leaders who feel called by God to serve. What makes Highland great is not just its building, traditions, or staff, but its laity who say "yes" to God's nudging to love the world by serving in the church. There are several tangible needs in our community that could use your help. Here are just a few:

- Our Bible Study Classes are the foundation on which our church builds a sense of community and spiritual growth. It's impossible to get to know everyone in a worship service (trust me, I try each week!), but connection is possible in a smaller group where burdens can be shared and hope can be found. We need new teachers for our classes. The greatest need right now is for the **Generations Bible Study Class**. You can read more in an article below. They are a great, great group of people who I know will be a blessing to those willing and available for this ministry.
- **Faithful Giving Ministry Group** is getting started, and we could use a few more people called to help us unite our resources with the church's needs through inspiring generosity. Specifically, we need people who can help recruit others to share why they give, and people who can help communicate why God is calling us to give to this church at this time.
- I've loved getting to worship with **Friday Church** these past few months. The lay leaders at Friday Church faithfully show up to offer encouragement and hope to all of us who are worn out by Friday night. Their smiles and willing spirits are the best way to end the workweek. We could use some

musicians willing to lead our worship, humbly offering their skills as a balm in this informal worship service that values connection and honesty.

- I've been spending time with Reece and Sandy Little recently, and I'm reminded of the significant impact their ministry to visitors has had on countless people over the years. We need people who feel the same call to welcome and hospitality to lead our **New Members Ministry Group**. Highland is extremely blessed to have visitors every Sunday, including some who have been coming for months and others who are showing up for the first time. God calls us to offer a warm welcome, best done by a group of laity dedicated to learning new names and reaching out during the week.
- Our **Mission & Justice Ministry Group** has recognized our need to pursue more direct community engagement for the church. We're wondering how we might build deeper partnerships with local groups that meet urgent needs in our city. I know there are many people in our church engaged in tangible service throughout our community. If you feel called to explore how Highland might deepen its direct community engagement opportunities, please reach out.
- As the school year approaches, our **Children and Youth Ministries** are preparing for a school year in which we can best meet their needs, help them feel a sense of belonging within the Body of Christ, and inspire them to live as Easter People in their schools, neighborhoods, playgrounds, and city. Your gift of showing up, offering grace, and teaching the stories of Jesus is a faithful act of planting sequoias.
- With Wednesday night programming returning soon, we are looking for teachers to facilitate and lead **Wednesday Night Adult Classes**. I know so many of you have wisdom to share, born of your careers, hobbies, and passion projects. Would you be willing to share these gifts with our adults on a Wednesday night? Your voice is important in our community, and we want to hear from you.

Reach out to me and let's talk. You might feel called to these ministries, or you might know someone whose skills and heart would match this need. You might also have another way you want to support God's ministry and mission at Grinstead and Cherokee. I look forward to our conversation.

As I shared on Sunday, we exist not only for ourselves and our spiritual growth. God is generously and extravagantly sowing seeds, and we trust that as they fall into good soil, our city and future generations will be fed in love and called to justice. May it be so!

~ Carol Harston



Highland Welcomes New Members



**Buckie and Johnnie Beth Smithen joined Highland on July 12.
Buckie and Johnnie Beth are Kim Henderson's parents.**

Quarterly Church Conference This Sunday

Please join us Sunday afternoon, July 19, at 4:00 PM on Zoom for our Quarterly Church Conference. Topics and reports include the Sacred Space Project, Finance Ministry Group, Adult Education Task Force, and Congregational Engagement Ministry Group.

Check your email on Friday, July 17, for the Zoom link and meeting agenda.

Highland's Generations Class Ready for a New Chapter



Highland's Generations Class is looking for people willing to serve as teachers for its long-standing group. Jim Hawkins writes the following about his beloved class:

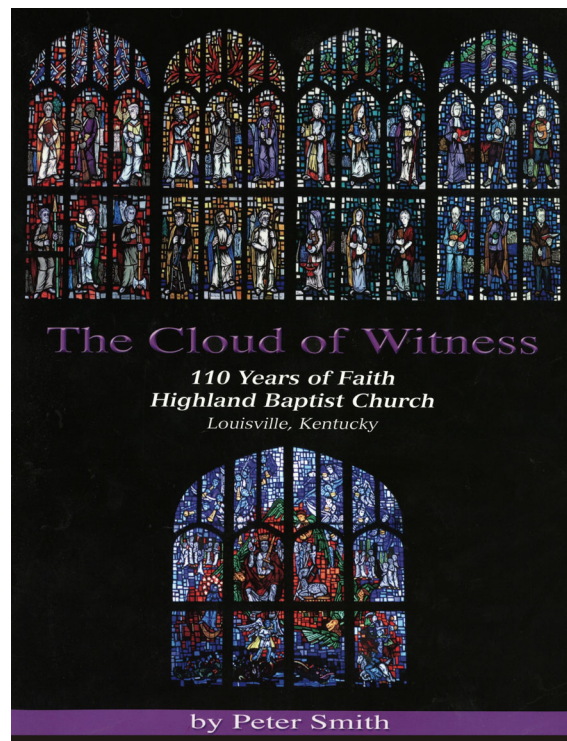
Generations says we have always been a mix of ages, experience, and faith traditions. We have learned and been enriched by this variety. Class sessions are engaging and insightful. Compassionate in caring about each other. Shared stories add familiarity and understanding. Age has bred resilience and wisdom. Connections with each other add strength and endurance over some 40+ years of friendship. We have always benefited by learning more about our faith experiences and from the teachings and model of the Christ and awareness of Spirit and Creator surrounding all of life. We are a welcoming group striving to be blessing givers.

We have grown in faith and fellowship with teachers who bring these features of personhood:

- Presents maturity of experience and learning.
- Enjoys general good health and positive outlook.
- Well-rounded Bible knowledge and always a growing appreciation for the Christ's teachings and life.
- Able to use teaching resources that deepen our HBC understandings of faith, scripture, life, and community

- Clear presentations in class that allow interaction with members. Humor, well-placed, adds flavor. We are an easy bunch!

The Cloud of Witness, 110 Years of Faith: A History of Highland Baptist Church



In 2005 Highland self-published a history of the church from 1893 to 2003, written by church member Peter Smith. With many thanks to Amber Burke and Cheryl Davis, we have scanned the book into PDF format and placed it on the church website. You may read the document online or download it for your reading pleasure! [Go here](#) or find it listed under "Resources" on the top of the home page.

~ Walter McWhorter

New Deacons Elected

During July, our congregation will have the opportunity in Sunday worship to hear from those who have been elected to serve as deacons this coming year as they share their faith stories.

We are excited about the gifts each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in

this capacity. Our newly elected deacons are: Kathy Belcher, Casey Boggs, Bob Cunningham, Larry Davis, Joey Eubank, Kimbrough Gossett, Brooke Hasl, Cheryl Priddy, and Alison Schureck.

Highland Hangouts Continue!

Dungeons and Dragons - July 15

Steve Brown will host D&D **for experienced players** on Wednesday, July 15, from 6:00 - 10:00 PM in Fellowship Hall for six to seven players. We will use the 2024 rules system in the world of Grayhawk setting. The forest of Vesve needs adventurers - will you answer the call? [Click here to sign up.](#)

Capoeira - July 16

Join us for Capoeira on Thursday, July 16 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Gazebo at Baringer Hill in Cherokee Park, hosted by Jessa Henry. Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art with elements of dance & gymnastics that utilizes kicks & dodges. It's done to music and in addition to learning some movements, we will spend time learning some call and response songs in Portuguese and playing the different instruments. There's a little something for everybody! 100% beginner friendly! [Click here to sign up.](#)

Golf - July 18

Join us for a round of golf on Saturday, July 18, in the morning at Cherokee Golf Course. We have three morning tee times now secured. For those signing up now, please contact Drew Harston (dharston@gmail.com) to find out when to arrive.

Burrito Meal Preparation and Meal Item Donations - July 19

Youth and adults are welcome to help prepare burrito meals for Highlands Community Ministries and Kentucky Refugee Ministries. We'll gather on Sunday, July 19 from 12:30-3:30 in Highland's kitchen (beside Fellowship Hall). Drop in for awhile to help assemble the meals! This hangout is hosted by Quinn Cornely. Quinn promotes healthy eating and wants to support both HCM and KRM with this project because of the all-too-common presumption that healthy food is expensive. He hopes that sharing this healthy, but also tasty, inexpensive, and easily prepared food with people who do not always have the time or resources to follow the latest healthy eating trends, can help to bring down that false belief and promote consumption of minimally processed foods. [Click here to sign up for meal preparation.](#)

Highland members can also **donate the items needed for the burrito meals.** [Click here to donate meal items.](#)



Small Group for Those Caring for Aging Parents

On Tuesday, August 4, at 5:00 p.m., we invite anyone caring for aging parents to meet in the Commons at Highland. This group will be similar to the Veterans Group that met in May, offering a space for people in our community of faith who share a common experience to gather, support one another, and build fellowship. To learn more, [email Carol](#).

Friday Church Preaching Schedule (7:00 PM)



Friday, July 17 – George Mayes (formerly of Quinn Chapel)

Friday, July 24 – Richard Lockette (St. Stephens)

Friday, July 31 – Mary Burks (Highland)

Advocacy Camp



Our 3rd-5th grade children are enjoying Advocacy Camp this week!

Grace Space Parking!



The parking place in front of the Education Building, formerly reserved for the senior pastor, has been named the "Grace Space" parking place. The sign reads "Reserved for volunteers, guests, and those needing a little extra help today." If that description fits YOU, on any day of the week or weekend, you're welcome to use the spot on a first-come, first-served basis.

Summer Fun Crawl for Families with Children



[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

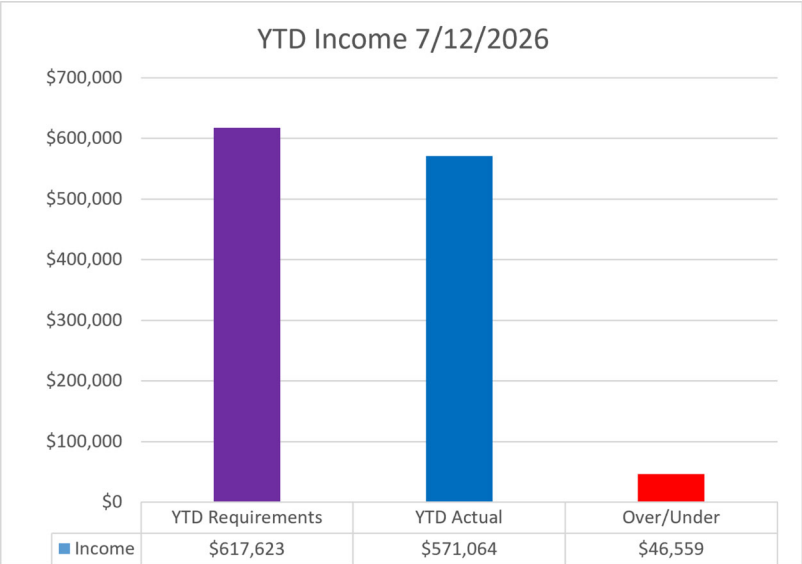
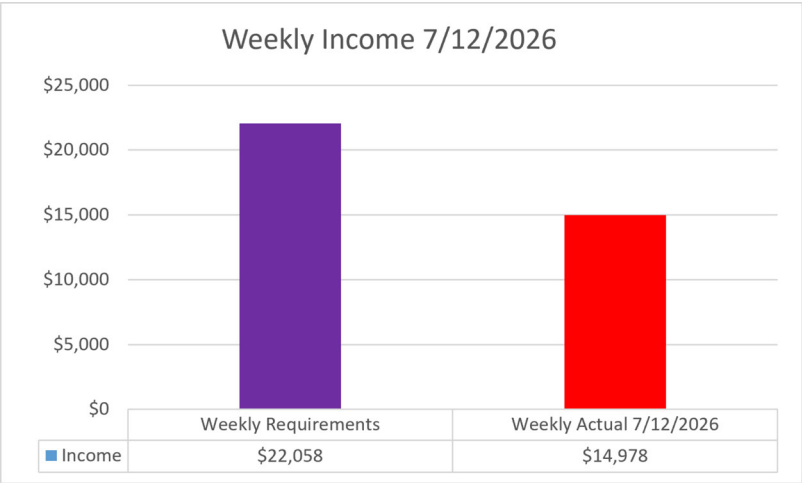


Looking Ahead

- July 15: Summer Fun Crawl for Families with Children, Hogan's Fountain, 6:00-7:00 PM
- July 15: Highland Hangout - Dungeons and Dragons for Experienced Players, 6:00-10:00 PM
- July 16: Highland Hangout - Capoeira, 6:00-8:00 PM
- July 18: Highland Veterans Gathering, Commons, 9:00 AM
- July 18: Highland Hangout - Golf, Cherokee Park, morning tee times
- July 19: Highland Hangout - Burrito Meal Preparation for HCM and KRM, Kitchen, 12:30-3:30 PM
- July 19: Youth Pool Party, 12:30-2:30 PM
- July 19: Quarterly Church Conference, 4:00 PM via Zoom
- July 22: Youth Trip to Holiday World
- August 4: Caring for Aging Parents Gathering, 5:00 PM, Commons
- August 9: Gather Round Sunday - more information coming soon!
- August 12: **Wednesday Night Dinner and Programming resumes!**



Financial Update



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

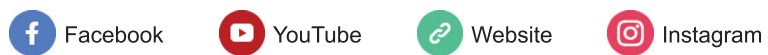




Louisville Homicides

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.

- Jason Antonio Autry, 41, killed June 19
 - Dana DuBey, 62, killed June 21
 - Isaiah Warner 19, killed June 21
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