



# Highlands Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Volume 60 Issue 15 May 1, 2018

## Monthly Updates

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Tuesday, May 1, 2018

9-12 p Quilters

9-11 a Kindermusik

#### Wednesday, May 2, 2018

4:00 p Kindermusik

#### Saturday, May 5, 2018

9 a-12 p BPCA Open House

5-8 p All Church Cinco de Mayo  
Celebration at HCC hosted by

Crusader Class

#### Sunday, May 6, 2018

8:30 a Highlands Bells rehearsal

9:30 a Fellowship 15

9:45 a Sunday School

11:00 a Worship Service

12:10 p Chancel Choir rehearsal

1:00 p Brookdale

3:00 p North Texas Area

Assembly—Northway Christian

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Tuesday, May 8, 2018

9-12 p Quilters

9-11 a Kindermusik

6:00 p DWM @ Denise's

6:00 p Girls Scout Troop #7802

#### Wednesday, May 9, 2018

4:00 p Kindermusik

#### Thursday, May 10, 2018

6:15 p Chancel Choir rehearsal

#### Saturday, May 12, 2018

11 a—1 p DWM Chocolate  
Strawberry Tea

### LORI'S MUSIC NOTES



This Sunday (May 6), the Highlands Bells will play the prelude, "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Bells—we will rehearse at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 6.

The Chancel Choir will be singing the anthem, "Folk Hymn Tapestry," which combines the hymns, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" with "On Jordan's Stormy Banks."

Chancel Choir—we rehearse immediately following the worship service this Sunday at 12:10 p.m. We will also be rehearsing on the following Thursdays — May 10, May 17, and May 24, as well as immediately following the worship service on Sunday, June 3.

If anyone has special music or knows someone that would like to provide special music this summer, please let me know.



LaDonna Durham	May 8
Lori McCommons	May 8
Marla Richardson	May 15
Scott Peterson	May 28



# Journeying Notes: On the Brink

## Giving Bad News

Pastors naturally have a tendency to look for the good in people and situations. It is both by nature and training. So, when it comes to delivering bad news, pastors tend to pull their punches and soften the blow.

This past Sunday was one of those instances where it was tempting to try and soften the blow, to somehow not deliver the bad news after all. I thought that it would be hard, but I didn't know just how hard that it would be. When the time came after church to announce my resignation, I couldn't quite get the words at first. My heart and Spirit felt heavy, felt saddened, and wanted to just not say it at all.

But, that's probably a good thing. Delivering bad news shouldn't be easy. It shouldn't just roll off the tongue. However, it is necessary to do, particularly when you know it's the right thing to do. In the letter from James, Chapter 5 verse 12, he says, "above all, my beloved, do not swear either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation."

This is a text that reminds me of how important it is to let things be as they are. As I told the many of you who were here on Sunday, this decision didn't come lightly, nor did it reflect the way that I felt about Highlands Christian Church. It really came about because of a definitive need for my Spirit and a continued calling by God. When the decision came, there was nothing left to do but to share the news.

Sometimes, it is difficult to share such news. You've probably had to deliver news that was hard for others to hear before. You know that while it is difficult, it is often necessary. To avoid the difficult conversations is to avoid our yes being yes and our no being no. Instead of clearing things up, it often makes things muddier.

Though I'll no longer be serving as Pastor at the end of June, I am still here serving until that last day. I will still walk beside you and with you, and I will leave my door open so that you can be heard and share what you need to share.

I understand some of you will need time to process, and some will need to share how they feel (both good and bad). I encourage you to share. My door is open. And for us to send each other off into the next chapters of ministry, it is integral that we continue to share, be honest with one another, and let our yes be yes and our no be no.

Know that I care for each of you and I continue to strive to be the best pastor that I can be for Highlands Christian. I have learned so much from each of you. And I pray that you have learned from me.

By the grace of God, we have grown together. Through the love of Christ, we have shared with one another. Through the Holy Spirit, our journeys will continue to share the grace of God and love of Christ.

Pastor Jonathan



## JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRY TEA

**Highlands Christian Church**

**MAY 12, 2018**

**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Tickets: \$12.00 in advance or  
\$15.00 at the door**



**Quilt Raffle Tickets:**

**One (1) for \$1.00**

**Six (6) for \$5.00**

**Fifteen (15) for \$10**

As in previous years, the monies raised will benefit global outreach, community outreach and Highlands Christian Church. **Our global outreach is Friendship Bridge**, who work at creating opportunities that empower Guatemalan women to build a better life of their choosing. They do this by providing education, good health and business training.

**Our community outreach is For The Nations: Refugee Outreach** located in Garland. They offer a variety of educational programs to help refugees of adapting to life in the United States. They also help families adjust to life in America by advocating for them. Most importantly, they share the good news of Jesus Christ. Their goals are to teach English and literacy, life skills to children and adults; connect refugees with the community; share the gospel and teach the Bible and the Christian faith. They offer children's programs that include tutoring and reading programs which help prepare them for preschool and swimming programs. Most refugees live in apartments with pools and do not know how to swim. It is very important to teach the children how to swim for their safety. As we know, refugees are people who have fled their country of origin and who cannot return home due to fear of persecution.

Entertaining us this year will be **Accordion Fusion** with members that include Reverend Kim Clowe, former chaplain at Fowler Communities, his wife Susan and two others.

There will be plenty of shopping opportunities for Mother's Day gifts, so come early!! We will have handmade cards, jewelry, mosaics and Turner Woodworks so you don't have to leave empty handed.

## CHURCH OFFICE

214-348-2805

**Monday through Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm**

SENIOR MINISTER: REV. JONATHAN BRINK 832-620-2000  
ASSOC. MINISTER: REV. RHONDA TRACY 214-649-4579  
BOARD CHAIR: PAT PITTMAN 817-781-2043  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: LORI MCCOMMONS 214-350-8125  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CLAIRE SCHMITT

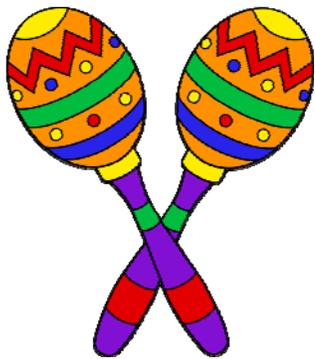
## North Texas Area Assembly

### Guest Preacher

*Rev. Dr. Andy Mangum*  
Southwest Regional Minister

**Sunday, May 6, 2018**  
**3:00 p.m.**

Northway Christian Church  
7202 W. Northwest Hwy.  
Dallas, TX 75225



Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with an All Church party this Saturday, May 5, hosted by the Crusader Class. The party begins at 5:00 p.m. and runs until 8:00 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. Also, any volunteers to do the Mexican Hat Dance?? See you there!

### FELLOWSHIP 15

#### *Balaam's Donkeys*

May 6 – Tom and Elena Stephens  
May 13 – Kevin and Cindy Payne  
May 20 – Erik Pfeifer and Tonia Smith  
May 27 – Brian Miller and Tonia Smith



\*Thanks to LaDonna for unlocking the doors and making coffee.

## Prayer Corner

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” —Acts 4:31

**Let us not forget those who are Homebound: “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need.” -Romans 12:13—Betty Zelios, and John Kennedy (Lake Highlands Brookdale)**

**Health Concerns: “For, I was sick, and you took care of me.” - Matthew 25:36 - Gabby Iezzi (granddaughter of the Lester’s), Marian Walker (Mother of Renee), Scott Nesbitt, Denise Acra, Gloria Clayton, Taffy Wehe (friend of Chris Baumann), Larry and Cathy Patton, Chad Kane (Extended family of Adelle Read), Bill Davidson, Kris Tinsman, Larry Huguen, Terry Raskinski, Andy & Burr Cain, Patsy Collier, Ginny Robinson, Shirley, Carl, Chris Baumann, George Trauth, Jim Campbell, David Whisennand, Bob Dobbs, Sheila Marable, Bill Davidson, Pat Barton, and Mike Bobbitt.**

**Non-Health Prayers: “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 - Craig Davidson (son of Bill Davidson), & Craig Lyons (son of Irvin Lyons)**

**Military: “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” -Psalm 23:4 Bill Molnar**

**Organizations in our property: “By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established.” Proverbs 24:3 - Bridge Club, Book Club, L-Street Neighborhood Assoc., Bethel Ethiopian Church, Kindermusik, LHAECPTA, Ikebana, & Blackland Prairie Conservatory and Atelier.**

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.**

**■ Serving: Sunday, May 6, 2018**

Elders at Table and Shut-Ins:	Kathy Westfall & Anne Price
Offering Counter:	Mark Read
Lead Deacon:	Meredith Brashear
Lock-up:	Nancy Friedel
Prepare Communion:	Gray Bowen & Jess McCord
Worship Leader:	Elena Stephens
Children's Moment	Rev. Rhonda Tracy

**MAY ELDERS SCHEDULE**

May 6: Kathy Westfall & Anne Price  
 May 13: Mark Read & Kim Brashear  
 May 20: Elena & Tom Stephens  
 May 27: Kevin Payne & Betty Britt

**MAY CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

May 6: Rev. Rhonda Tracy  
 May 13: Elena Stephens  
 May 20: Kevin Payne  
 May 27: Rev. Rhonda Tracy

**MAY WORSHIP LEADER**

May 6: Elena Stephens  
 May 13: Rev. Rhonda Tracy  
 May 20: Renee Bowen  
 May 27: Pam McShane

**MAY OFFERING COUNTER**

May 6: Mark Read  
 May 13: Kevin Payne  
 May 20: Renee Bowen  
 May 27: Erik Pfeifer

**ABOUT OUR PEOPLE**

**Grace Barber** was in Austin last weekend. Her friend's daughter is a music major at UT. For her recital, she sang operatic songs in German, French, and Spanish. She ended the recital with a beautiful version of the Hymn--"His Eye is on The Sparrow."

The Highlands Bells opened the service Sunday by playing a medley of hymns in an unusual but wonderful rhythmic way with some of the bells. We all enjoyed the performance. The Chancel Choir sang, "Blessed be Your Name", strong and beautiful.

Our beautiful flowers this week were provided by **Betty Britt**.

Our sermon on Sunday was brought by **Diamond Green**. She did very well on her topic--Love.

If anyone would like to donate to the flower bed renovation, please make your check to the church, but be sure to note that it is for the flower bed. Thank you. We also need some manpower or woman power. If you can help, please call **Laurie Nesbitt** at 214-394 4322 or email her at [Laurienesbitt@att.net](mailto:Laurienesbitt@att.net).

On Wednesday, a chapter of Ikebana International met in Fellowship Hall. **Jackie Brummel** is president of that chapter.

We welcomed our visitors, **John and Janet Cassidy**, during our "Pass the Peace" Sunday morning.

**Norma Gaisford** recently returned from a cruise with some very old friends. They cruised in the western Caribbean and had a great time.

At Sunday's Fellowship 15, several of us were visiting over coffee when **Kim Brashear** arrived with a beautiful handbag from Guatemala which she bought in Santa Fe. You cannot imagine all the things that she pulled out of that bag. As she explained each item, where she bought it, its usefulness, we all marveled at how she could tote that bag. Pens and highlighters of every color, an object to attach to her cell phone to make it easier to grasp, medicine kit, etc. I did not see a stapler, but she did need a pair of scissors.

The following is a note from **Helen Thompson**. "This Saturday is Cinco de Mayo, and the Crusader Class is inviting y'all--whole church-- to a party. From 5-5:30, chips and dips will be served (probably guacamole and queso also). We will have music performed by two men that you know. Y'all don't want to miss them. We will start serving the meal at 5:30. After our meal, expect some more great entertainment, and you all will be home before dark.

"Bring a friend or two (if you have that many). Dress in your brightest shirt or dress--lots of color makes you happy. (I just made that up.) We do need to know how many will be coming, so we can save you a chair. So far, we have had 4 or 5 entering the Mexican Hat Dance contest. Be sure to enter soon."



Every spring, as part of Blackland Prairie Conservatory & Atelier's commitment to our tenets and mission of the school, we plan a community collaboration.

Last year, we worked with the *Crow Collection of Asian Art* to bring our students a six-week program about empathy, cultural awareness, and Cambodia.

This year, we are thrilled to partner with *Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center* for our six-week program about Native/Indigenous Americans.

Last week, the children learned all about cave paintings and how indigenous people used cave art as a way to communicate and tell stories. The children were able to view pictures of real cave art that has been studied by Shumla. Then we had an opportunity to mix our own paint and use it to create images on limestone, just like the indigenous people! In the coming weeks, the children will learn about native tribes, textiles, music, folktales, and agricultural practices.



## HAVE YOU SEEN?!

Girl Scout Troop 7802 recently planted a peach tree on the front side of our property. They have been utilizing some classroom space from us for a couple months now on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. And as a part of their program they decided to plant what they have dubbed as a "communi-tree"! Haha! Cute name and even cuter scouts. We are blessed to have our property continued to be used by our surrounding community.



## Sunday School at Highlands (9:45 AM-10:45 AM)



Child Care is provided by a licensed child care professional.

**Children's Class (Ages 4 years to 5th grade)** meet in Room 105 to learn Bible stories through active learning. Teacher: Rev. Rhonda Tracy

**Crusaders Class** meets across from the kitchen. It is one of the vital small groups of our congregation. Each gathering begins with the group singing a hymn and praying together. Once a short business meeting is completed (which consists mostly of checking in on the group's members), the remaining time is reserved for a Biblical Lesson. Teacher this month is Noel Pittman.

**New Covenant Class** meets across from the Fellowship Hall. This class is one of our fastest growing, and is currently studying "Paul: Apostle to All the Nations". In addition to study and discussion, the group spends time in prayer and practicing spiritual disciplines together. Teacher: Grace Barber

**Balaam's Donkeys** meets in the old Quilter's Room. This class is one that is always seeking spirituality. A fun, loving group that welcomes anyone who might be at any point in their walk of life or faith. Teacher: One Another

**Choir** meets in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am just before service. The group provide an important ministry as they lead the congregation as we all sing to God during worship. If you enjoy singing to God, the group would be blessed by you sharing your gift of music. Director: Lori McCommons



**Highlands Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
**9949 McCree Rd.**  
**Dallas, TX 75238**

### Psalm 94:18-19

When I said, "My foot is slipping," your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9-12 p Quilters 9-11 a Kindermusik	<b>2</b> 4-6 p Kindermusik	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9-12 BPCA Open House 5-8 p All Church Cinco de Mayo party at HCC hosted by Crusader Class
<b>6</b> Elders: Kathy/Anne 8:30a Bells 9:30 a Fellowship 9:45a Sun School 11a Worship 12:10 p Choir 1 p Brookdale 3 p NTA Assembly	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9-12p Quilters 9-11 a Kindermusik 6 p DWM @ Denise's 6 p Girl Scout Troop #7802	<b>9</b> 4-6 p Kindermusik	<b>10</b> 6:15 p Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> DWM Chocolate Strawberry Tea 11a-1p
<b>13</b> ASCENSION SUN MOTHER'S DAY Elders: Mark & Kim 8:30a Bells 9:30a Fellowship 9:45a Sun School 11a Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9-12 p Quilters 9-11 a Kindermusik	<b>16</b> 9-12 P Book Review Club 4-6 p Kindermusik	<b>17</b> 9-12p Ikebana 6:00 p Chancel Choir rehearsal 7p Elders Mtg	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> PENTECOST SUN Elders: Elena & Tom 9:30a Fellowship 9:45a Sun School 11a Worship 1 p Brookdale	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9-12 p Quilters 9-11 a Kindermusik 6 p Girl Scout Troop #7802	<b>23</b> 4-6 p Kindermusik	<b>24</b> 7:00 p Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>25</b> <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL—BPCA</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> TRINITY SUNDAY Elders: Kevin & Betty 8:30a Bells 9:30a Fellowship 9:45a Sun School 11a Worship	<b>28</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> <b>(Office Closed)</b>	<b>29</b> 9-12 p Quilters 9-11 a Kindermusik	<b>30</b> 4-6 p Kindermusik	<b>31</b>		