



Highlands Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Volume 59 Issue 30 October 3, 2017

Weekly Updates

This week marks the beginning to the small changes we are making to the Newsletter! Remember, if you have any suggestions for ways we can improve our communication, just let us know!

-Church Office

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

9-12 a Quilters

9-11 a Kindermusik

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

4-6 p Kindermusik

Thursday, October 5, 2017

7:00 p Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 7, 2017

8:00 a NTA Board Meeting

Sunday, October 8, 2017

8:30 a Bells Rehearsal

9:30 a Fellowship 15

9:45 a Sunday School

11:00 a Worship Service

7-9 p Bethel Ethiopian Service

12 p Board Meeting

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

9-12 a Quilters

6:00 p DWM @ Betty's

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

7:00 p Bible Study @ Kathy's

Thursday, October 12, 2017

7:00 p Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 14, 2017

HCC Work Day

Sunday, October 15, 2017

8:30 a Bells Rehearsal

9:30 a Fellowship 15

9:45 a Sunday School

11:00 a Worship Service

12:10 p Choir Rehearsal

1:00 p Brookdale Service



October 1 Robin Friedel

October 7 Cassia Sanchez

October 9 Tom Stephens

October 11 Jess McCord

October 18 Pam McShane

October 25 Henry Payne

October 26 Tonia Smith

October 29 Cindy Whisennand

New Covenant

Fellowship 15

Oct. 8 Betty & Sue

Oct. 15 Renee

Oct. 22 Julie

Oct. 29 Jackie



Thank you to LaDonna for opening the building and making coffee!



Lori's Music Notes



This Sunday the Chancel Choir will sing the anthem *"Down By the Riverside"*. Our next three rehearsals are Thursday, Oct. 5th at 7:00, Thursday Oct. 12th, and Sunday, Oct. 15th from 12:10-12:45. We will probably be starting to rehearse our Christmas music in about two weeks, so if you would like to sing with us during the holiday season, please start to attend rehearsals then.

Highlands Bells- we play again in worship Sunday, Oct. 22nd. That Sunday we will play a Gospel Hymn Ring.

Dallas Opera is presenting the opera "Samson and Delilah" during the next month. If we got a group of 10 together we could get a cheaper discount rate. I am looking at one of the Sunday matinee performances - Oct. 22nd or Nov. 5th let me know if you might be interested in going.

Lynn Witherspoon will be our soloist Sunday, singing the Gounod *"Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee"* - with the text based on the Ruth scripture.
-Lori

CHURCH OFFICE 214-348-2805 Monday through Thursday 9:00 a-2:00 p	
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: CANDACE COFER	

■ Serving: Sunday, October 8, 2017

Elders at Table and Shut-Ins:	Noel and Pat Pittman
Offering Counter:	Mark Read
Lead Deacon:	Patsy Collier
Lock-up:	Cindy Payne
Prepare Communion:	Adelle Read & Nancy Friedel
Worship Leader:	Rhonda Tracy
Children's Moment	Julie Futral

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 Sandy Borjes, Marion Goodrich (Presbyterian Village North), Betty Zelios, and John Kennedy (Lake Highlands Brookdale)

Health Concerns: "For, I was sick, and you took care of me." - Matthew 25:36 Sandy Borjes, Gabby Iezzi (granddaughter of the Lester's), Marian Walker (Mother of Renee), Buddy Pair (father of Terry Pair), Cindy Morrone (friend of Rhonda), Scott Nesbitt, Denise Acra, Gloria Clayton, Christopher Trauth (brother of George Trauth), Taffy Wehe (friend of Chris Baumann), Larry and Cathy Patton, Sophia Revelis and Father, Chad Kane (Extended family of Adelle Read), Pam McShane, Debby Conda (friend of Rev. Rhonda Tracy), Bill Davidson, Kris Tinsman, Pam Dobbs, Larry Hughen, Don Clark (cousin of Mark Read), Kristy Studdar (niece of Pam McShane), & Cassia and Penelope Sanchez.

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, Mommy Manders, & Blackland Prairie Conservatory and Atelier.



Above: Did you miss Sunday? We had a World Communion Sunday where we celebrated the Eucharist by coming forward for an Intinction Communion Service. It was a beautiful moment, and it was wonderful to have such a beautiful table decorated for people to come forward to! Thank you to the Worship Committee for preparing the table!

Below: Did you see some of the improvements that happened to the property over the weekend? This past weekend, on Saturday September 30th, we had a group of about 15-20 of our folks gather and work in and around the church. See some of these wonderful photos and then get a closer look next time you're up at the church! Thank you to all those



A Response to Vegas

I have to admit, I've been silent on the events in Vegas for the last 24 hours. It was in part because I knew exactly how the script would play out, and in part because my soul is so weary. I've wrestled the last 24 hours with the desire to say something because silence is abdicating the Spirit in the midst of such great violence, while simultaneously struggling to say something of value that isn't already being said. The truth is, there are no words that are new, just a reiteration of those who walk before me.

When I was doing my undergraduate work there was a pericope that was rather close to my heart: Lamentations 3:1-23. I would encourage you to read it all, but I'm going to focus on the last few verses. After seeing the torment that the world has had, the lamenter says, "gone is my joy, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord. The thought of my affliction and homelessness is wormwood and gall. My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me." ... and... "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of God never ceases, God's mercies do not come to an end; they are new every morning."

I say this not to imply that somehow we can just fix this with prayer and that God is going to take care of it all with no action on our part. As several colleagues have noted, it is far beyond that; There is action that must be taken by the people of God. In addition, however, this passage reminds me that the world can be a dark place, and it can feel, in the simple act of remembering all that has happened, that our souls are bereft of joy, bowing down within us, and unable to face what lies ahead. But, it is with the confidence that God's mercies bring us a new day, that we can begin to have hope again. God's love should propel us forward to keep fighting, to keep looking for ways to bring heaven a bit closer to earth. "The Realm of Heaven draws ever nearer." Indeed it does, but we are the ones charged by Jesus to love God and love our neighbors; for this is to bring Heaven nearer. In Micah 6:8 we are given the tasks to do the work of Justice, love Mercy, and walk Humbly with our God; for this, too, is to bring Heaven nearer.

So, let us love each other, listen to each other, seek first to understand before being understood, and seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Let us take actions that show we aren't giving in to hate and cruelty, let us take actions that bring love to the stage front, and let us have hope that God is walking with us, because indeed, though the world seems like a dark place, God can be found and illuminated all around. With the steadfast love of God, I hope to stand against this kind of violence and will take actions that can help our country (our world, really) be a better place. Be it legislation, conversation, or by any other means—I will look for ways to keep revealing the Realm of Heaven, over and above my own selfish domains. I hope you will join me.

I know this will affect each of you differently. Should you need a time of prayer, or need a time for conversation, or if you need a hand to hold or a shoulder to cry on, I am here for you. I hold you all deeply in my thoughts and minds, and I know that this will linger for a bit. If there is anything I can do, please do give me a call, or a text, or send me an email. May the peace of God surround you all, and call each of us into action with the Spirit.

-Pastor Jonathan

Calendar Of Events

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

9-12 a Quilters

9-11 a Kindermusik

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

4-6 p Kindermusik

Saturday, September 30, 2017

HCC Work Day

Sunday, October 1, 2017

8:30 a Bells Rehearsal

9:30 a Fellowship 15

9:45 a Sunday School

11:00 a Worship Service

12:00 p New Member/Visitor

Luncheon

12:10 p Choir Rehearsal

1:00 p Brookdale Service

7-9 p Bethel Ethiopian Service

Upcoming

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

9-12 a Quilters

9-11 a Kindermusik

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

4-6 p Kindermusik

Thursday, October 5, 2017

7:00 p Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 7, 2017

8:00 a NTA Board Meeting

Sunday, October 8, 2017

8:30 a Bells Rehearsal

9:30 a Fellowship 15

9:45 a Sunday School

11:00 a Worship Service

7-9 p Bethel Ethiopian Service

12 p Board Meeting

New Covenant

Fellowship 15

Oct. 1 Anne & Kathy

Oct. 8 Betty & Sue

Oct. 15 Renee

Oct. 22 Julie

Oct. 29 Jackie



Thank you to LaDonna for opening the building and making coffee!

About Our People

Betty Britt celebrated her birthday recently and her son **Steve Britt** from Austin came to help celebrate the day. **Steve and Betty** were in church Sunday morning and later went to the home of **Russell Britt**. **Russell** bought a house on Lake Lewisville this past summer, so they were able to enjoy a ride on the lake.

Pat Pittman and Rhonda Tracy sang a beautiful duet last Sunday "Whispering Hope" It was lovely and so great to hear an old hymn which we haven't heard in such a long time.

Jackie Brummel has done a wonderful job in organizing our flower ministry. And everyone has come through with volunteering to fill up the calendar until Christmas season when we have the poinsettias. The beautiful flowers on Sunday were given by **Kevin and Cindy Payne** in honor of their twelfth anniversary.

Over the Labor Day weekend, **Harry Gray** went to visit his daughter **Christina** and her husband **Mike** and children, **Elsa and Harrison** in Atlanta.

Our picnic on Flag Pole Hill was so fun. The breeze through the pavilion was absolutely wonderful! Thanks to **Kevin and Cindy Payne** who furnished the brisket, sausage, and chicken! All the food was delicious.

Kim Brashear announced that her son **Chris** (17) has gotten his driver's license!

Congratulations to **Elena Stephens** who has just won 2nd place and a red ribbon at the Texas State Fair for her Sweet Figs!

Last weekend **Kathy Westfall** was in Waco for a tailgate party with family at the Baylor Game. Kathy said it was a very good game.

It is good to have Bill McMurry back in Dallas. I'm sure Lyn is very happy to have him home.

Thank you to **Travis and Amanda Pfeifer** for singing the Prelude "Someone's Knocking at the Door" on Sunday.

It was such good news that **Pam and Bob Dobbs** had to share with us Sunday. They had returned from Idaho for doctor visits and received the news that **Bob** is now cancer free. We are all so happy to hear that good news.

Lori and Jim McCommons have been traveling again. They were in New York City when President Trump was addressing the UN. **Lori** says it was crazy----so many people! They had dinner at the Nobu Restaurant and attended the opera War Stories at The Cloisters of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Crusader Class sang Happy Birthday to **Helen Thompson** and **Leon Lebkowsky** Sunday as they both celebrate birthdays this week.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Elders: Jackie & Julie</i> 8:30a Bells 11a Worship 12:10p Choir 1p Brookdale Bethel 7-9p	2	3 9-12 p <i>Quilters</i> 9-11 a <i>Kindermusik</i>	4 4-6 p <i>Kindermusik</i> 6:30 p Bible <i>Study at PVN</i> 7p Bible <i>Study @ Kathy's</i>	5 7p Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	6	7 8:30a NTA <i>Board Mtg</i>
8 <i>Elders: Noel & Pat</i> 8:30a Bells 11a Worship Bethel 7-9p	9 <i>Columbus Day</i>	10 9-12 p <i>Quilters</i> 9-11 a <i>Kindermusik</i> 6 p DWM @ <i>Betty Britt's</i>	11 4-6 p <i>Kindermusik</i> 7p Bible <i>Study @ Kathy's</i>	12 7p Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	13	14 <i>HCC Work Day</i>
15 <i>Elders: Mark & Kim</i> 8:30a Bells 11a Worship 12:10p Choir 1p Brookdale Bethel 7-9p	16	17 9-12 p <i>Quilters</i> 11:30 a Pastor <i>Jonathan's Prayer Group</i> 9-11 a <i>Kindermusik</i>	18 9-12 Book <i>Review Club</i> 4-6 p <i>Kindermusik</i> 6:30 p Bible <i>Study at PVN</i> 7p Bible <i>Study @</i>	19 7p Elders Mtg	20	21
22 <i>Elders: Elena & Renee</i> 8:30a Bells 11a Worship 12p Board Mtg 2p LHAECPTA Bethel 7-9p	23	24 9-12 p <i>Quilters</i> 9-11 a <i>Kindermusik</i>	25 4-6 p <i>Kindermusik</i> 7p Bible <i>Study @ Kathy's</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>Elders: Betty & Tom</i> 8:30a Bells 11a Worship Bethel 7-9p	30	31 <i>Halloween</i> 9-12 p <i>Quilters</i> 9-11 a <i>Kindermusik</i>				

Do you remember Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman?

You might recall he served Highlands Christian Church in 1995-1996 as the Minister of Education and Youth. Well, recently, he was called to serve as the Senior Minister at University Christian Church in Fort Worth, TX. He will begin serving on Sunday, December 3rd. If you remember his time here, this could be a great time to send him a message. In addition, this is an example of the many connections that HCC has to so many wonderful ministries.

Did You See?

Moses led the Israelites through the desert Sunday morning during children's Sunday School. Special thanks to Pat Pittman for the great costumes!



BPCA Update

Have you had a chance to walk out back? Well, over the summer, and at the early part of the school year, we had a chance to install a few new sights!

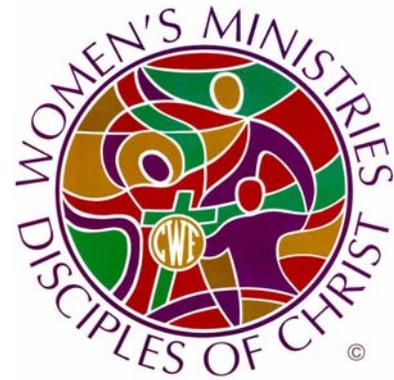
Pictured below: The Garden got an addition of a few new beds! Behind them, is a Certified Monarch...



continued... Waystation that makes the garden a sanctuary for Monarch Butterflies! Then, just behind that you can see the prairie doing quite well!

Pictured Above: This is the new play area that has been turned into a shipwrecked beach! The kids have so much fun here and it has brought a special little spot for adventure and creativity!

DWM Reminder:



The DWM is meeting at 6pm Tuesday, October 10th at the home of Betty Britt.

As a reminder, please bring small travel size shampoos for the Veteran's Hospital.

See you there

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 Mark Read.

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.