One of the major challenges many of us face in life is the ability to focus – to concentrate our energy and attention on a limited number of things. For many of us, life provides us few opportunities to focus on one thing at a time. In the first place, we are busy people: there are many demands on our time and energy. It starts young: because we want our children to be well-rounded and because advancement to higher education demands much more today than good grades, our children constantly juggle academic work, sports, church, music, special interest activities, service days, and more.

In the second place, the variety of our technological opportunities makes multi-tasking almost expected. We sit in a meeting but we are also checking email and social media. We are stuck in traffic, so we get on the phone. We are on the computer but have several screens open at once moving back and forth between work and personal communication.

None of those things is bad. It’s great for young adults to have multiple opportunities to learn and grow; to discover who they are and what they are good at. It is hard to imagine our personal lives let alone most types of work without access to electronic communication. But all of these good things make another good thing very difficult: the ability and opportunity to focus.

Lent is the season of the year when we are invited to focus – to go deeper into our faith. In particular, we are invited to reflect on who Jesus Christ is, what it means that he was called to suffer and die and rise again, destroying the power of sin and death. If Jesus is our window into the heart of God, how do his living and dying and rising help us go deeper into our relationship with God?

Where to start? Start simply. Find five minutes each day to sit and focus on that question. Re-read last Sunday’s scripture passages. Read the passages for the Sunday to come (which you can find on the website). Read the Lenten devotion for the day (the booklets are at church or you can ask the church office to sign you up to receive one meditation every day from now until Easter). Read. Reflect. Be quiet. Expect God to be present to you. Listen. Rest in God. Go deeper. Meet God who is ready to meet you.

Cynthia M. Campbell, Pastor

THE GOOD FUNERAL WITH THOMAS LONG & THOMAS LYNCH

On Sunday April 12, Highland will welcome the pastor and theologian Rev. Dr. Thomas Long and funeral director Thomas Lynch for a presentation and conversations on their book “The Good Funeral: Death, Grief and the Community of Care.” They are two of the most authoritative voices on funeral practices in the United States. In anticipation of this experience that will offer perspectives on grief, faith, and care in our community, we invite and encourage you to read their book with us. Long is a renowned preacher and professor at Emory University and Lynch is a bestselling author previously nominated for the National Book Award. Welcoming Long and Lynch means opening our community to some of the more important conversations that we can have around grief, loss, and dying well.
“GOING DEEPER” with Cynthia Campbell – a conversation about the readings for Lent. On Sundays and Mondays during Lent (except March 8 and 9) Cynthia Campbell will lead a discussion of the Sunday lectionary readings in this year when we focus on God’s covenant promises and Jesus’ identity as Messiah. What do these texts say to us today? Texts are: March 1 and 2: Genesis 17:1-7 and Mark 8:31-38; March 8 and 9: NO MEETING; March 15 and 16: Exodus 20:1-17 and John 2:13-22; March 22 and 23: Jeremiah 31: 31-34 and John 12:20-33; March 29 and 30: Mark 14:1-15:47. Sundays in the Session Room of the Pleune-Mobley Center; Mondays at 11:45 at Bristol Bar & Grill, 614 W. Main Street (no host lunch). All are welcome!

EMBODIMENT THEOLOGY— On Sundays March 1 and March 8 at 9:30 in the Memorial Lounge, church member and family therapist Jack Copley will teach a class on Embodiment Theology. The subject explores what God’s incarnation implies about us as humans and what human sexual nature implies about God. This particular theological thinking offers perspective on sexuality, God, human relationships, and the church in the 21st century.

ST. MEINRAD’S ABBEY TOUR—On Saturday, March 14, Highland will travel to St Meinrad’s Archabbey in Indiana for Noonday prayer in the Monastery, lunch with the monastic community, and a tour of the grounds. The trip costs $25 and includes lunch and transportation. RSVP by Monday, March 9 to the church office at kathy.barnett@hpclouisville.org or 502-451-2910.

FRED HOLPER CLASS ON DAILY PRAYER - Fred Holper will teach a pre-trip class about the hours and daily prayer on Thursday, March 5 at 5:30pm in the Session Room (Pleune-Mobley Building). Don’t miss this great opportunity to learn about the practices of daily prayer.

ISSUES CLASS—The March Issues Class on 3/22 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall features Laurie Kraus, Coordinator of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Kraus will share the current and timely work of PDA in border ministries that address the needs of people living on the border between the United States of America and Mexico.

SHORT STORY THEOLOGY—If you enjoy fiction, come join us on Thursday, March 12th at 7:30pm to 8:45pm at the home of Matt and Emma Nickel as we discuss faith and literature over tea, coffee, and dessert. You do not need to be an expert in either theology or literature. The story for February is The Welcome Table by Alice Walker. Copies of the story are available only in hard copy in church office or the Welcome Center. Directions to the Nickel’s home are attached to the story.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL --This year’s Lenten devotional An Abundant Hope is available in hard copy in one of the Welcome Centers, as an electronic pdf at www.hpclouisville.org, or through email. You can request to be added to the list by contacting Lynn Diebold in the church office at lynn.diebold@hpclouisville.org. Thank you to those church members who contributed reflections for this wonderful Lenten practice.

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN KIDS’ CONSIGNMENT SALE

The Highland Pres. Spring Kids' Sale is coming soon! It's time to begin collecting the items you'd like to consign or donate. The sale will be held March 20th and 21st. We can't do it without the help of lots of folks! Please consider consigning or donating your high-quality children's clothing and toys. Also, we would love for you to choose a time to volunteer to staff the event so that you can shop first at the pre-sale on Thursday, March 19th. The sale is a great way to share your gently used items, spend time with friends, and meet some new ones. All profits from the sale go directly to supporting our Nursery and Weekday School. Get all the information you need at www.kidssale.org. Please spread the word! See you at The Sale!
Children Music Ministry

From Suzanne Bowman: "Joyful Noise has been making quite a JOYFUL NOISE lately as we've explored drums! The children have played a variety of drums in a "drum circle", then talked about their favorite drums and why. They have created rhythm patterns for their friends to echo back. Finding the steady beat to "Kum BaYah" has been a fun culmination of our drum experience."

The Hallelujah Choir made two big blankets for the mission project along with their music exploration and preparation for singing in worship on Feb 15th. Their song, with lyrics created by the children's thoughts, gives us inspiration for how to live "Under the Shining Love of God":

"You gotta be kind,  You gotta make people laugh,  You gotta be strong,
You gotta give love,  You gotta have hope,  Under the shining love of God".

Amanda Boyd: Ten children are participating in a hand chime ensemble for worship on March 1.

The Lyric Choir is preparing music for worship on March 15. Also some children are preparing to sing in the Choristers Guild Children's Festival at Christ Church United Methodist at 4614 Brownsboro Road on March 7. The choir is made up of about 100 or so singers from area churches. This year Heather Potter from Charlotte, NC is our guest clinician. The worship service/concert is at 12:30 at the church and will last 30 minutes. In the past several members of Highland along with parents have attended this joyful concert to support our children at Highland, and also personally experience a beautiful service of music and worship. Please, come if you can to this event! As of this printing the following children are participating: Noa Gambrell, Miriam Gambrell, Harper Hall, and Amelia Connally.

Thank you for your continued support of this music ministry at Highland.

Dorissa Falk

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**Arts on the Corner**

March 22, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR & Instrumental Ensemble

present

Raquiem

by John Rutter

Opens with Sing Me to Heaven by Daniel Gawthrop

Babysitting provided if you RSVP by 12:00 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2015

502-451-2910 or kathy.barnett@hpclouisville.org.

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**YOUTH CHOIRS**— The Alpha & Omega Choirs lead worship Sunday, March 15 at 11:00 a.m. Pre-Service Preparation begins at 10:35 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Please watch the bulletin and the website for more calendar information!!! Contact Frank A. Heller, III at fahiii@aol.com or 451-2910, ext. 239.
Finance Committee is pleased to report the Church’s year-end financial results & the Session-approved 2015 budget.

**2014 Results**—For the 2014 results, as expected revenue for the year coupled with overall operating expenses coming in slightly higher than budget resulted in a net operating deficit for 2014 of approximately $30K. Pledge receipts, undesignated gifts and cash offerings finished unfavorable to budget by approximately $4K, investment income finished unfavorable to budget by approximately $10K, and user fees exceeded budget by approximately $3K. Property and Administrative expenses finished the year approximately $44K unfavorable to budget, driven by higher than budgeted utilities expenses (remember that frigid winter!) and unexpected maintenance expenses.
Personnel expenses finished the year favorable to budget by approximately $18K. Additional expenses, which were not depicted within the operating budget as they were all funded from the Memorial Fund, include $20K spent on PMC masonry repair, $14K spent on the new modular risers (frequently utilized by our youth and children’s choirs during worship), and $8K spent to complete the new HPC website. An additional $31K was spent on other building repairs, all funded from the Maintenance Reserve. These unbudgeted expenses include much needed repairs to the kitchen, repairs to the sanctuary and PMC roofs, and new/repaired handrails around the buildings.

2015 Budget—We budgeted $1,499,083 for the Church’s operational expenses and programs for 2015, which represents a 4.3% increase over 2014 actual expenses. Our projected revenue for 2015 consists of pledges (52%), investment income (28%), user fees (11%), unrestricted gifts/cash offerings (5%), and two non-repeating revenue sources (carry-over of prior year surpluses (3%) and the challenge pledge (1%)). Based upon actual pledges received and projected new pledges during the year, we estimated approximately $771K in pledges to support the 2015 budget. This represents a 4% increase from 2014 (thank you!!!). The expense side of the budget is constructed from the budgets submitted by our various committees. The increase in total expenses from the 2014 budget is driven by $45K for Personnel (increased compensation for ordained and non-ordained staff, an increase in the cost of benefits, and the new CE assistant) and $9K for CITW/Mission. As always, thank you very much for your generosity throughout the year!

GIFTS—A gift has been given in memory of Ann Helm by Dr. John Matthews; in memory of Tim Daniel’s father by Barbara Cox; in memory of Jackie Hinds father by Barbara Cox; in memory of Susan Hall by Barbara Cox; in memory of Marguerite Hume by Nancy Renick; in memory of Pat Updegaff by Clyde & Betsy Foshee, Lee Best, David & Betty Jones, Melvin & Margaret Dickinson, Mary Ellen Harned, Bill & Marcia Murphy, Pat Wrege, Corky Sachs, Elizabeth Conklin, Jenny Dobbins, Isabell Plambeck, Richard & Gail Leonard, Charles & Joyce Plank, Tom & Janet Raderer, Dorissa Falk, Virginia Hancock, Anne & David Karem, Ray & Liz Conklin, Gail & Richard Leonard, and David & Betty Jones. Highland is most appreciative of these gifts.

WEDNESDAY CONNECT – Join us on Wednesday, March 25 for a dinner and stories from Highland’s Nicaraguan mission team (lovingly called the NUTS) and their experience with our mission partners in the town of Mirazul and capital city Managua. Dinner service begins at 5:30pm. A suggested donation of $6/Adult, $3/Children can be made at the door. RSVP online at http://www.hpclouisville.org/dinner-rsvp/ or email kathy.barnett@hpclouisville.org. Babysitting available if you RSVP to the church office by noon Tues. March 24.

FAITH AT THE THEATRE—Join the church at Actor’s Theatre on March 26 at 7:30pm to see the play *The Glory of the World*. This new play celebrates the challenging and beautiful life and work of Thomas Merton on the occasion of his 100th birthday. We’ll host an afterglow discussion of the play at Milkwood. While the deadline for group tickets has passed, you may purchase your own or join us for the conversation after if you have already seen the play. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available by calling the church office.

COMMUNITY FRIDAY MOVES TO ONE FRIDAY A MONTH - One Friday each month, people from Highland Presbyterian Church gather at Molly Malone’s Irish Pub at 933 Baxter Avenue. This month, we’ll meet on Friday, March 20. Join us from 5:30pm to 8pm for fun, friends, food, faith and fellowship. Babysitting is available in the Walker-Nevin Building between those times. Ask the restaurant’s host for Highland Presbyterian and they’ll show you to the table!

PRESBYTERIAN UNION - Please join us in welcoming Dr. Karen Kayser to the Presbyterian Union on Tuesday, March 10 (please note the change in date as this is the second Tuesday of the month and not the first). Her topic is ‘Coping with Cancer: The importance of support systems’. Meet at Vincenzo’s Courtyard Room, 105 South 5th Street. RSVP to Ann Schell, 894-8440 or adschell@bellsouth.net.
**Youth News**

**Junior High Sex and Sexuality Retreat**
**March 7th-8th**

This event is for 8th and 9th graders. We’ll start at 4:00 p.m. on March 7th and end at 10:30 Sunday morning. At this event, we’ll look at topics of body image, good decision making in relationships, good decision making when it comes to sex, sexual harassment, STDs, and contraception (BUT NO PLUMBING, I PROMISE!). We’ll also have a panel of guests that will talk about their own experiences in relationships. Participants should plan to stay for the whole event. This is a free event. Please sign up with Doodle no later than Sunday, March 1st.

**March Fundraisers!**

St. Patrick’s Parade Fundraiser
We still need folks for both shifts of the St. Patrick’s Day Parking Lot Sell. The date is March 14th and we still have 2 slots available at the 4:00-6:00 p.m. sign-up time.

Bible Buddies Sign up for Bible Buddies. All slots are filled in March, but April 5th and all of May is open!

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**Bible Buddies assistants!**

Thanks to the following youth who have volunteered to be Bible Buddies Assistants during the 11:00 worship service in March:

- March 1st - Evan Holmes
- March 8th - Evalyn Head
- March 15th - Lucy Fitzgerald
- March 22nd - Jack Cullen
- March 29th - Caleb Morris

**Easter Sunrise Service**

Once again this year, the youth of Highland Presbyterian Church are putting the Easter Sunrise Service! The date is April 5th and the service begins 8:00. If you’d like to help put together that worship service, please come to the High School Sunday School class at 9:30 on Sunday, March 15th. We’ll be working on parts of the worship service as well as determining speaking parts. If you’d like a speaking part, but cannot attend on the 15th, please let Doodle know! If you’d like to help with the music, also let Doodle know.

**Congratulations 2015 Confirmands**

**Ghost Ranch Participant Meeting**

Youth signed up for the Ghost Ranch High School Mission Trip and their parents will meet right after 11:00 Worship on Sunday March 8th in the Memorial Lounge for a half hour meeting. We’ll be discussing transportation to and from Santa Fe as well as whether additional fundraising for the trip is necessary. We’ll also be setting the time and date for a longer meeting for all participants (which is mandatory). Participants also have a mandatory lunch meeting with Debra Hepler on Sunday, April 12th.
Children’s Musical!
Children in Kindergarten-5th grade are presenting *Moses and the Freedom Fanatics*, a musical about the Israelite escape from Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Experience the plagues like you’ve never experienced them before! Check out our 5th graders as you’ve never seen them before:

Tom H. as our clueless Pharoah.
Whitman B. as our timid yet determined Moses.
Sophia W. as the loud-mouthed Erin.
Miriam G. as... well... Miriam, the sensible sister.
Genna M. as Rachel, the Israelite organizer.

The performance will be Sunday afternoon, March 22nd at 3:00 p.m.! The entire performance will last about 30 minutes. A reception will follow in the Dining Room.

Family Lunch and Service Day!
Join us Saturday, March 28th from 11:30-1:00 in the Dining Room! We’ll have soup and sandwiches for lunch. After lunch, stay for a time of family (and small children) friendly service projects! By doing these hands-on activities, you’ll find out what your family can do at home to help with local service agencies such as Wayside Christian Mission, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and Portland Avenue Community Trust. Lunch is free, but we welcome your donations to help pay for the meal. Sign-ups are helpful, but not mandatory - please e-mail Doodle if you know in advance that your family will attend (doodle.harris@hpclouisville.org)

Palm Sunday
Sunday morning, March 29th, all children’s Sunday School classes as well as children’s choirs will create the Palm parade in both the 9:30 and 11:00 services. Join us in the sanctuary at 9:15 to get your spot as we shout “Hosanna” and sing an anthem the children have learned in choirs and Sunday School.

Easter Egg Hunt
This year’s Easter Egg Hunt will take place Easter Sunday morning - April 5th! Children in Church School classes and child care will have the opportunity to hunt Easter Eggs with their classes! Children should come to Sunday School or childcare at their regular time - 9:30 a.m.! No need to bring baskets! Children will create bags that they will use for the hunting! They'll also take a class picture and do other Easter crafts during the hour! Sunday School teachers and High School students will be around to assist, but parents are also welcome to join us for the Easter Egg Hunt! Please be sure that children are in the Sunday School Classes that are appropriate for their age (please no switching to be with siblings). Children will also receive Easter Surprises to help their family celebrate Easter together!
SERVE AT OPEN HAND KITCHEN – On Saturday, March 28 from Noon to 1pm, a church group will serve meals at the Open Hand Kitchen of St. Vincent de Paul. Join us for a service day to support some of our neighbors. Where: 1026 S Jackson at Old St Paul’s Church When: Arrive at 11:45am finish around 1pm Age: 15+ can serve hot food, there are jobs for younger volunteers too. Youth need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Sign up using the following link: http://bit.ly/openhandkitchen or email Matt Nickel at matt.nickel@hpclouisville.org

STITCH, Sewing Together in the Caring Highlands, continues to meet twice each week with Kentucky Refugee Ministries women. We are teaching women from Congo, Nepal, Cuba, Bhutan, Somalia, and Iraq. Our more experienced students are ready to sponsor another sale of the items they have made. STITCH SALE - Sunday, March 22, from 9:00-12:30 they will be in the Fellowship Hall selling their items. They will have their microwave bowl potholders, Easter baskets, greeting cards, children’s reversible aprons, knitted items and other items. One hundred percent of the money from each purchase goes directly to the person who made the item. Please stop by and support this ministry which our church has so graciously supported over the past 3 ½ years. Anna Gray Slagle and Janet Radner, Co-directors

KRM FAMILY SPONSOR TEAM INFO MEETING— If you are interested in participating in welcoming a family with our team, an information meeting will be held on Sunday, March 22 at Noon in Memorial Lounge (near the choir room). Each year Highland welcomes and supports a refugee family through Kentucky Refugee Ministries as they settle into Louisville. Together, the team acts as a guide and advocate for a family new to the USA and Louisville. It involved furnishing an apartment and stocking a pantry, helping find appropriate services, schools, and understanding culture. To learn more, contact Rev. Matt Nickel at matt.nickel@hpclouisville.org or 502-451-2910.

Nicaragua Mission Team (NUTS) visited and worked with our mission partners in Nicaragua in January. From a mural for a soon to be built park, a covenant renewal meeting, prayer and worship, to some carpentry projects, this group of 13 people from Highland was busy. To learn more about the experience and to see more photos, visit the church website: http://www.hpclouisville.org/ministries/mission_outreach/mission-of-the-
WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICES – Join us Wednesday mornings for prayer during Lent! We’ll be meeting in the Sanctuary from 8:00-8:30 and praying our way through Psalm 22. These services are one way to add a Lenten discipline that deeps our faith as we walk through this season of repentance and searching for hope. We’ll begin February 25th and our final service will be March 25th.

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Worship - Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship - Friday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service – Sunday, April 5th at 8:00 a.m.

Easter Communion Service – Sunday, April 5th at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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**March 2015**

**Sunday**
- 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30 Worship
- 11:00 Worship

**Tuesday**
- 9:30 HPC Staff meeting

**Tuesday & Wednesday**
- 10:00 STITCH

**Wednesday**
- 10:30 Prayer Group
- 6:15 Lyric Choir
- 6:30 Joyful Noise & Hallelujah Choirs

**Thursday**
- 12:45 KRM Book Club
- 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal