

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 9

7th Annual Charity Car Show & Cruise-In Saturday, September 28, 2024

Car Show Meal Tickets:

- ◆ Everyone should have received their car show meal tickets by now. Please let us know if you have not.
- ◆ As you are able, buy or sell your meal tickets (\$10 each).
- ◆ Nearly half of the money we raise from the car show comes from congregational sales of these meal tickets.
- ◆ Included with the tickets is the Sponsor Directory listing those businesses that have contributed to the show. Please give your support to these businesses as you are able, and please thank them for their support.
- ◆ Money from ticket sales and any unsold tickets may be dropped off at, or mailed to, the church. There will be a collection box in front of the Office on weekdays and in the Gathering Area on weekends.
- ◆ There is no cost to attend the show; it is open and free to everyone. No ticket is required.

Volunteers:

- ◆ We will need help the day of the show with greeting and assisting people in parking their vehicles for display; help with spectator parking - including transporting spectators from the back and Baptist lots to the main front HGMC lot; preparing and serving lunch; general help; clean up, etc.
- ◆ An online signup is available on the church website and a signup sheet is also available in the Gathering Area.
- ◆ There will be a meeting in mid September for volunteers where we will confirm assignments and show plans.
- ◆ Printed 2024 Car Show shirts will also be available for purchase: Volunteers - \$15; Others - \$20.

Over the last 6 years, due to the continued support and participation from this congregation, the HGMC Car Show has been able to distribute over \$90,000 to the three charities it supports that help children in the Gravette School District.



SAMARITAN'S FEET

Thank you for Your Support!
Highlands Church Missions Committee

Highlands Church

Charity Car Show & Cruise-In

SPONSOR EXPO | LUNCH | LIVE MUSIC

FREE!

TO PARTICIPANTS
& ATTENDEES

September 28 | 10 am - 2 pm

371 Glasgow Rd, Bella Vista, AR

www.hgmcbv.com/car-show

VEHICLE REGISTRATION
BEGINS AT 9AM!



2024 Car Show T-Shirts for Sale



We are taking orders for Car Show T-shirts. The order form is in the Gathering Area at the Car Show signup table. The t-shirt is gray and the design on the back is as pictured. If you are a volunteer working the Car Show, cost is \$15. For everyone else, cost is \$20. It is not required to pay for your car show t-shirt(s) in advance. However, if you would like to go ahead and pay, please make sure you indicate on your check 'car show t-shirts' in the memo line. Questions, call the church office or contact Flip Smith at 479-263-2922.

EXERCISE PROGRAM



Begins Sept 2
8:00 - 9:00am

Highlands Church
Bella Vista, AR

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

SEPT 25

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

BLOOD DRIVE

Give life
to your
community!



Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

Recently, I read an article by Rev. Shane Bishop, a GMC pastor in Illinois. He talked about "going fishing." He wears a unique cross necklace and heads out into the community with it on. If someone comments on it, he stirs up a conversation and invites them to church. When he wrote the article, he admitted that his recent fishing trip into the community came up with zero conversations or invitations. This wasn't a failure on Rev. Bishop's. Why? Because Jesus said to follow Him and that He would make us fishers of men, but notice that Jesus never said we'd always catch. As it is famously said, "fishing is called fishing and not catching for a reason."

When I came into the ministry years ago, the statistics showed that a regular church attender attended at least once a month. In a post-COVID world, I'm not sure there even is a standard for average church attendance. There are various factors at play currently in the country, but as a nation, we no longer prioritize church. We simply don't hold Christianity as a priority any longer. This understanding leaves us with some options as Christians. One approach would be to argue with the facts, but the facts are still the facts. Another approach would be to get upset and flustered about the situation and then keep getting upset and flustered about the problem, but that doesn't do any good. Yet another approach would be to point fingers and say that it's up to somebody else to fix the whole situation, but that would be putting a lot of impossible pressure on someone or a group to change the hearts of a nation. We do have the option to blame. And there is always the option to give up. Do you see what those options all have in common? They put nothing in God's hands, achieve nothing, and require no personal responsibility. In short, these options are all options entirely counter to the way Christians are to live.

The best option for the current problem is nothing fancy, tricky, or new. The best option is for anyone claiming to be a Christian to go fishing. 87 percent of people who come to church do so because they received a personal invitation. So when did we last invite someone to church? I will tell you from personal experience that you will rarely get a no, but you will rarely get a yes. Most of the time, the person you invite won't attend church. And yet, sometimes, they will. The thing is, most of us were at one point the person invited to church. Maybe some of us came into a church without an invitation. However, for most of us, another person asked us to go to church, a church event, or to get to know Christ.

So, out of love for God and love for your neighbor, start fishing, and don't stop.

Robert



Pastor Robert's office hours are:
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9AM—NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE
1PM—4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Kids Worship 2024

"THE LORD IS GOOD, A REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. HE CARES FOR THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM." NAHUM 1:7

Kids Worship children sang out this Back-to-School message on Sunday morning, August 11, in preparation for the Blessing of the Backpacks with Pastor Robert. All who came forward were blessed to return to school with a backpack tag proclaiming "Let Your Light Shine!" School sack lunches and ice cream sundaes were served after the church service to nearly 60 people of all ages. Then the fun began with the Bouncy House and Games: Corn Hole, Balloon Pop, Water Orbies, Ring the Duck, Giant Jenga, and Cone Ring Toss. The prizes were great too! New friends from our community joined us and as a result our Kids Worship numbers are growing.

And for all this goodness, we have many to thank: our Church Secretaries Amey and Lori, our Sunday morning Worship Leader John Matthews, Tech help from Doug Stone, Dave Bensen, Dale Simpson and their crew of Highlands men, Betsy Cloninger, and the Kids Worship team of teachers Fran Lovell, Sue Benson, and Barb Zillmann. We can't forget volunteers, including Celia and Paxon Chernota. The Lord provides and we give thanks! Our new prayer request is for more volunteers and leaders so we can add a Kids Worship middle school group. Please pray about this need and if you think you can help, contact Wanda Krug at 719-213-1115 or Fran Lovell at 571-255-0701.



Kids Worship is growing! Leaders and helpers needed! Share your God given gifts and time with our children and youth on Sunday mornings. Contact Wanda Krug or Fran Lovell.

Mission Opportunities

Thank you to all who volunteered at Samaritan's Feet Shoe Event in Gravette on July 27! It was a blessed event. Our Annual Car Show proceeds support 3 charities and one of them is Samaritan's Feet. Highlands Church provided 200 pairs of shoes (\$25 a pair) for Gravette School students, and with your financial support of the Car Show we will do so again in 2025.

In September, Highlands Church will again be packing Snack Packs at the Samaritan Community Center, 2910 S 8th Street in Rogers. They had such a high number of volunteers wanting to serve with Snack Packs last year that they scheduled the monthly recurring groups, like Highlands, on an every-other-month basis this school year. We help provide food in-secure children with Snack Pack food for the weekend. Our Annual Car Show proceeds also help support Samaritan Community Center's Snack Pack program.

Our time slot is 10:00—11:30 am on the following dates:

September 4

November 6

February 5

April 2

May 7

The 3rd charity supported by the Annual Car Show is Bright Futures of Gravette. Bright Futures is a non-profit organization working to see that children have their basic needs met so they can succeed in school and beyond. Highlands supports the Bright Futures on-site food pantry. Collection bins for food are at church entrances and delivered to the pantry regularly. Please note the BF pantry requests we discontinue saving egg cartons for them at this time. When need arises, we will again collect them.

Volunteers are needed to work at Care and Share, 103 Huntington Street SE, Gravette, on September 10–14 and November 5–9. Their motto is "People Helping People" serving the Gravette School District. Connie Kiefer coordinates this mission for Highlands Church. Watch your Weekly Update email for the link to sign up as we get close to our scheduled weeks. Your donations of clothing, furniture, household items, etc. to Care and Share are appreciated.

Thank you Highlands Church for your servant hearts to help enrich the lives of children and families in the Gravette School District!

Blessings,
Sara Sherman



Thank you for your continued support of Bright Futures. Your donations make it possible for us to fill the everyday needs of students. We were able to distribute 105 pairs of shoes at Samaritan's Feet this year and 5 since school began. You make our mission possible. Thank you!! -Bright Futures



JOIN THE STITCHERS

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday
1:00-3:00 pm • John Classroom

Begins September 11

HAPPY LABOR DAY



HOLIDAY: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

HMMW

HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

Please join the Highlands Methodist Women for our next meeting on Monday, September 9, at 9:30 am. Our program will be presented by Founder/Executive Director Jennifer Sorey from Hub of Hope. Their mission: Healing and Opportunities for victims of human trafficking. Prevention and Education for communities. Of course there will be food, fellowship and FUN. Please sign up by Sunday, September 8, at 11:20 am at the Information Station so we will have enough food for everyone. It will be fun to see you again!

HMM

HIGHLANDS METHODIST MEN

The Highlands Methodist Men (HMM) will meet on Tuesday, September 3, at 7:45 am for their monthly breakfast meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Dale Phillips, co-president of the Bella Vista Historical Society. He will be giving an update that will include plans for an expansion and fund raising for the Museum. Dale has over 40 years experience in the National Park system including stints at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Charlotte and many other important parks of the country. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the Information Station so we are able to prepare the proper amount of food.

Fifth Sunday Loan Reduction

One of the most successful programs used to reduce the principal amount of our building loan is the special offerings by our membership and friends on the Fifth Sunday weekends throughout the year. The weekend of September 28/29, is your chance to contribute to this Loan Reduction Initiative. Your check in the offering plate designated as 'Fifth Sunday Loan Reduction' is all it takes!

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1– Communion	2– Flex 'N Stretch Begins – Office Closed for Holiday	3– HMM Meeting	4– Fellowship Committee Mtg – Snack Packs	5	6	7
8	9– HMW Meeting	10– Compassionate Disciples Meeting – Care & Share Volunteers Begin	11– Stitchers Mtg	12– Trustees Mtg	13	14
15	16	17– Admin Council Meeting	18	19– Kitchen Cleaning – Library Meeting	20	21– Scrapbooking & Card Making
22	23	24	25– Stitchers Mtg – Blood Drive	26	27	28– 7th Annual Car Show & Cruise-In – Fifth Weekend Loan Reduction
29– Fifth Weekend Loan Reduction	30					

Storm Damage

The recent storm beginning on Friday evening, August 16, caused major tree damage on our church grounds. The most significant was the large sycamore tree that fell and blocked the main office entrance to the church. Fortunately, none of the buildings on our campus were damaged.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank all who responded and assisted in the clean up so we did not have to cancel a church service. Volunteers helped to clear our parking lot, remove a tree blocking our maintenance shed, and cut up large debris.

Due to the scope of the damage, we contracted with a tree service to finish the job. The quote was a total of \$3,500 with a breakdown of \$1,800 for the big sycamore tree and \$1700 to finish clean-up and remove all logs and limbs from our campus.

Again, thanks for your help and support. I know many of you had damage on your own property and the fact that you still showed up to help the church means a lot.

Dave Hagaman, Trustees Chair



EVERYONE WELCOME!

SATURDAY CELEBRATION - 5:30 PM

SUNDAY TRADITIONAL - 10:00 AM



HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A Global Methodist Congregation

Office News

Amey & Lori: office@hgmcbv.com

Newsletter: newsletter@hgmcbv.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The Deadline for the October Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon), on September 20. Send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to this email address: newsletter@hgmcbv.com

Church Staff

REV. ROBERT CLONINGER, *Senior Pastor*

LORI HEALD, *Office Administrator*

AMEY BURKETT, *Administrative Assistant*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Bookkeeper /Treasurer*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELDON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

LAURIE PEARSON, *Nursery Staff*

MONICA CLARK, *Custodian*

Operating Budget Report - July 31, 2024

	YTD Budget	July Actual	YTD Actual
Income	298,932	42,536	262,872
Expenses	298,932	37,746	270,353
Net	0	4,790	(7,480)

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... hgmcbv.com/give

THE POWER OF
ONE

Drop a folded dollar into the offering plate to support our Mission Ministry



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