

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 9

## Highlands Church 8th Annual Charity Car Show *Saturday, September 20*

### Car Show Meal Tickets:

- Everyone should have received their car show meal tickets by now. Please let us know if you have not.
- As in the past, we are asking members and supporters, as you are able, to help support this event, our largest charity fundraiser, by again selling and/or purchasing these lunch tickets.
- The lunch tickets are \$10 each and each is good for one meal (Brats or Hot Dog, chips, drink, dessert).
- Included with the tickets is the Sponsor Directory listing those businesses that have contributed to the show. When you can, please give your support to these businesses 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 HGMC lot; preparing and serving lunch; general help; clean up, etc.
- A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area and any help you can give would be appreciated
- There will be a meeting in mid Sept. for volunteers where we will confirm assignments and show plans.
- Printed 2025 Car Show t-shirts will also be available for purchase: Volunteers - \$15; Others - \$20.

*Over the last 7 years, due to the continued support and participation from this congregation, the HGMC Car Show has been able to distribute over \$100,000 to the charities it supports that help children in the Gravette School District*



**Thank you for Your Support!**  
Highlands Church Outreach Ministry



# Under-Shepherd Udderings

Howdy Highlands Church Family. It is a blessing to join together with you in ministry and to get to know this church family. I'm truly enjoying the "Meat and Greet with Pastor Rick" meetings after worship on Sundays. If you can't attend the luncheon with the class in the year you joined, then please come on a Sunday that works best for you.

I'm grateful to see more and more of you signing up for the daily Wake-Up Call devotional from Seedbed and Rev. J.D. Walt, former chaplain for my seminary, Asbury Theological Seminary, in Wilmore, Kentucky. One of my goals is to have every member sign up for the Wake-up Call daily devotional so that our entire congregation can share in that daily spiritual discipline.

What are some of my other goals? To learn all of your names and how you came to faith in Christ. To learn more about the history of the church. I met with the founding pastor, Pastor Jack Schaible, who provided a wonderful overview of the origin of Highlands Church. Another major goal is to prayerfully discern God's leading for our future in how to organize for ministry to make disciples. Join me in prayer for that. There are many other smaller goals, but that's the big one we should all pray about in all earnestness.

During my first sermon series (10 sermons) on the gospel, I wanted to lay a foundation to preach biblically, relationally, powerfully, and joyfully. I hope you can discern that I chose to preach the sermon series "The Gospel According to Whom?" to establish that my heart is to preach the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the gospel that unites us and that we are called to share. Salvation by grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone is the biblical gospel message I proclaim.

Karen and I are very grateful for the warm welcome and for your extra special love and care for our grandson, Jacob. Thank you for welcoming us so warmly. I hope to see you all at the car show in September. By the way, what kind of car did the Apostles drive? A Honda, because the Bible says they were all in one Accord.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rick



# Outreach Ministry Opportunities

Our 2025—2026 dates for packing Snack Packs at the Samaritan Community Center, 2910 S 8th Street in Rogers, are Wednesdays on October 1, December 3, February 4 and April 1, from 10—11:30 am. They have again been blessed with many volunteers and we will pack every other month. We pack weekend Snack Packs for food insecure students in the Gravette School District.

Highlands Church's week to volunteer at Care and Share in Gravette is September 9–13. You may sign up online or contact Connie Kiefer. Our final week to work at C&S this year is October 28–November 1. Care and Share's motto is "People Helping People". Due to the generosity of the many donations and number of volunteers, Care and Share has been able to go above-and-beyond helping those in need for nearly 41 years. In 2024, they donated over \$104,000 to various charities and nearly \$140,000 to medical and utility assistance vouchers. The voucher assistant program allows people from their community that have shut-off notices for utilities and/or medical needs to receive the help they so desperately need.

Care and Share supports five local organizations with monthly donations: Billy V Hall Wellness Center, Northwest AR Children's shelter, FBC Decatur Food Pantry, 21st Century (after school program), and OutReach 58:10, a food pantry that serves our area. The donations made monthly to these organizations are possible because of the sales and financial donations given to Care and Share.

We have a new outreach opportunity to spread the Gospel of Jesus throughout the world with Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry! The Gospel is shared with the children before receiving the shoebox gift, which contains a copy of The Greatest Gift, a gospel booklet about the gift of salvation being in Jesus Christ alone. This booklet is available in more than 118 languages, with 10 additional translations in progress. After receiving these gifts, children are able to participate in the follow-up 12-week Bible-based discipleship program called The Greatest Journey. For more information about this ministry, their website is: [samaritanpurse.org/occ](https://samaritanpurse.org/occ).

We can provide small gifts in a shoebox (12 × 7 × 4.38 inches) for children ages 2–14. A donation fee of \$10 per box is critical to cover shipping costs. Checks can be made payable to Highlands Church with OCC in the memo line, or placed in an envelope with your name and OCC noted. You can also give online at [hgmcbv.com/give](https://hgmcbv.com/give) - just click the blue button and then select "Shoebox Ministry" at the bottom of the page that opens.

Our goal this first year is to pack 50 shoeboxes (boxes provided by Samaritan's Purse). Highlands Church is very generous, and I know we can easily exceed this goal! The list of items needed is below, and school supplies are still on sale, so it's an excellent time to purchase these supplies. If you purchase an item that requires batteries (i.e., flashlight or toy), please include batteries. We will have a collection bin near the nursery in the Gathering Area and will host a packing party in late October or early November. Filled boxes will be delivered mid-November to the collection location for this area, which is BV Baptist Church. As you are in Walmart, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, etc., please look for small items to include in the shoebox. Look around your home... you may have donation items either new or gently used.

I hope you will prayerfully consider participating in this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Sherman at [sarasherman@att.net](mailto:sarasherman@att.net).

Blessings,

Sara Sherman, Outreach Ministry Chair

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW A FULL LIST OF SHOE BOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR BOYS & GIRLS](#)

(OR VISIT THE INFO STATION TO PICK UP A FLYER)



- ⇒ A "WOW" ITEM
- ⇒ PERSONAL CARE ITEMS
- ⇒ SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- ⇒ CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
- ⇒ GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- ⇒ TOYS

# “Discipleship and Donuts”

## Highlands Youth Group Discipleship Experience

“So now we can **REJOICE** in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.” Romans 5:11

Sunday Mornings: 9:00—9:45 am:

- **Study and Learn:** Our youth group meets for small group conversation and Bible study, helping us grow closer to one another and to Jesus. In July, we explored our NLT (New Living Translation) Jesus-Centered Bibles and studied how Jesus treated people. We’re learning to hear the voice of Jesus through prayer and listening, and we’re paying better attention to what God says and does. In September, we’ll watch the story of a modern disciple, Dennis, in a full-length film and reflect on how it relates to our own journeys.
- **Fellowship:** We’ve had a great time playing games, going boating in July, and we’re looking forward to gathering around a campfire and enjoying a Tanyard Creek outing when the weather cools down. We’re having fun getting to know one another and growing in friendship.
- **Service:** In August, the Youth Group team organized and led the games at our Blessing of the Backpacks and Back-to-School Celebration. With sack lunches provided by our Kids Worship teachers, we all worked together to create a meaningful and joyful event for Highlands families.



*See photos on the next page of our Back-to-School Celebration.*



## Children's Worship Center

“Start the children off the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6



School has started, September is near. “Jesus is the core to a great school year” We welcome all 5–10-year-olds to our Kids Worship class. August 31, we start a new quarter. We will study the Fruits of the Spirit for the next 13 weeks.

August 31 – **LOVE** Galatians 5:22-23 1 Corinthians 13  
September 7 – **JOY** Galatians 5:22-23 Matthew 28:1-10 Mark 16:1-8 Luke 24:1-12 ; John 20:1-18  
September 14 – **PEACE** Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Samuel 25:1-35  
September 21 – **PATIENCE** Galatians 5:22-23; Genesis 12:1-9;15: 1-20;1 7:1-22; 18:1 - 15; 21:1-7  
September 28 – **KINDNESS** Galatians 5:22-23; Matthew 12: 9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11

As a reminder – Parents, mark your calendars! Beginning Sunday, September 14, Kids Worship will meet at 9:00 am. This will be the new permanent class time moving forward. At 10:00 am, children will join their parents in the Sanctuary for worship.

On that same morning (Sept 14), Pastor Rick has invited all parents to a special Parent Meeting in the Matthew Classroom at 9:00 am. He will share his vision for ministry to marriages and families, and will also seek input about future plans for our children and youth programs. We encourage every parent to attend this important time of connection and planning!

Thank you for bringing your children to Children's Worship. Sue Benson, Barb Zillmann, Fran Lovell, Wanda Krug







# THE HIGHLANDERS METHODIST MEN



## September Highlanders Meeting

The group formerly known as the Highlands Methodist Men met in August for hamburgers off the grill with all the trimmings, a great selection of sides and a dessert of brownies and ice cream, all courtesy of Dave Benson, Dale Simpson and special guest chef - Sue Benson. The food was great and the fellowship was even better!

After dinner we had a very meaningful devotion from Lay Leader, Bill Williams, and then spent some time going over the results of the recent survey on what the future may look like for our group, along with suggestions for changes based on the survey responses. The group reviewing the survey will now use the input from the men at the meeting to put together some specific plans and ideas to be presented to the membership for their consideration.

Also, as part of the survey review it was agreed that we should change the name of our group to what was suggested in the survey and which received the great majority of the votes. Going forward our name will be the HGMC "Highlanders."

Our next meeting will be on September 9 at 8:45 am, instead of the normal 7:45 am, and our guest speaker will be Tom Judson, CEO of the Bella Vista POA. Everyone is invited to join us.

## Blood Drive

Our next Blood Drive will take place on Wednesday, September 24, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, organized by The Highlanders. To schedule a time, contact our coordinator Jerry Snyder at 763-639-2597.



*Highlights from our Back-to-School Celebration held on August 17*





## HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

### September HMW Meeting

Please join the Highlands Global Methodist Women (HMW) on Monday, September 8 at 9:30 am. LaDonna Humphrey of Oasis of Northwest Arkansas will be our speaker. Oasis of NW AR is a women's transitional living community that provides safe, supportive housing and resources for women in recovery and their children - 95% of their beds are reserved for applicants from Benton and Washington County Drug Court and the Benton County Department of Human Services. We will have an informative meeting, food, devotional, and fun as we start our second 'term' for 2025. Hope you had a nice summer and can't wait to see you on the 8th!

## Planning Retreat – Save the Date

Pastor Rick and Allen Lovell, chair of the Church Council, invite all members of Highlands Church to join them for an important Planning Retreat on **Saturday, November 1, from 8:30 am to noon**. While we'll discuss several topics, the focus will be on small groups and a revision of our congregation's mission statement.

We especially encourage all who serve on the Church Council, those who serve on any committee, and those who serve in any ministry area to attend.

Please mark your calendars and plan to be part of this important day of visioning, prayer, and planning for the future of Highlands Church.

## Flex 'N Stretch—Returns Sept 8

Flex 'N Stretch is a wellness program of activities which provides a higher quality of life thru responsible movement that is pain free and possible for all participants. Our Mission is to challenge, encourage and promote better health through physical exercise.

The next 10 week session starts Monday, September 8. We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:00 am - 9:00 am, in the Peter classroom. The 10 week session will end on Friday, November 14.

**You can attend 1 lesson, all 30 lessons, or even somewhere in-between... Whatever works for you!**

**\$45.00- 30 Sessions**

**\$30.00- 15 Sessions**

Come, join the fun and experience the benefits! Newcomers are welcome to stop by and give it a trial run. No signups required. Pick up a flyer at the Information Station and invite a friend. Contact Donna Williams at 479-659-2658 for details.

### EXERCISE PROGRAM



**Highlands Church  
Bella Vista, AR**

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1– Office Closed for Labor Day	2– Compassionate Disciples Meeting	3– Fellowship Committee Mtg	4– GriefShare Begins	5	6– No Celebration Service
7– Combined Worship at 10am – Class of '21-'22	8– HMW Meeting – Flex 'N Stretch Begins M-W-F	9– Highlanders Meeting – Care & Share Volunteers Begin	10– Stitches	11– Trustees Mtg – Car Show Volunteer Mtg	12	13
14– Class of 2017-2020 – Parents Meeting	15	16– Church Council Meeting – Kitchen Cleanup	17	18– Library Mtg	19	20– 8th Annual Charity Car Show
21– Class of 2013-2016	22	23	24– Blood Drive – Stitches	25	26	27– Scrapbooking & Card Making
28– Class of 2007-2012 – ACE Event	29	30				

**Thank you church members** for all your cards, support, and especially your prayers which greatly helped me to recover quickly from the stroke I had in late June. Fortunately I had no hospital stay. Kathy Wine



Everyone has their own favorite devotionals; I do as well. For the last decade, maybe longer, I wake up every morning and read *“Jesus Calling”* by Sarah Young. I know you have your own favorite devotional as well. For the last several weeks, I have discovered from Pastor Rick what I call the **CROWN JEWEL OF DEVOTIONALS** (my own words). It’s written by J.D. Walt, and he opens each day with this prayer of consecration, called (**Wake-Up Call**), as follows:

Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.  
 Jesus, I belong to you.  
 I lift up my heart to you.  
 I set my mind on you.  
 I fix my eyes on you.  
 I offer my body to you as a living sacrifice.  
 Jesus, we belong to you.  
 Praying in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

What better way to start your day than to offer your mind and body to Jesus?

Many of you have already signed up for this wonderful devotional, but several haven’t. Simply type in: [www.seedbed.com/wakeupcall](http://www.seedbed.com/wakeupcall), fill in your name, email address, etc., click, and you will have it instantly **FREE OF CHARGE**. Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy!

If you need help, contact Amey in the church office, or you can call me at 210-602-0212.  
 Bill Williams, Lay Leader





# HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A Global Methodist Congregation

5:30pm Saturday Celebration Worship  
10:00am Sunday Traditional Worship

First Sunday Combined Worship @10am  
(No Saturday Service)

## Office News

Amey Burkett: [office@hgmcbv.com](mailto:office@hgmcbv.com)

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The deadline to submit content for the October Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 PM (noon) on September 20. Please send all submissions, comments, or questions to the church office at: [office@hgmcbv.com](mailto:office@hgmcbv.com)

**ADDRESS CHANGE:** Peter & Mary Doyle,  
1 Highlands Crossing Drive, Apt #112, BV 72715

## Church Staff

RICK SITTON, *Senior Pastor*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELDON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

LAURIE PEARSON, *Nursery Staff*

AMEY BURKETT, *Office Admin*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Business Manager*

MONICA CLARK, *Custodian*

## Operating Budget Report - July 31, 2025

	YTD Budget	July Actual	YTD Actual
Income	255,502	37,174	260,676
Expenses	255,502	38,496	247,705
Net	0	(1,322)	12,971

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... [hgmcbv.com/give](http://hgmcbv.com/give)



Like & Follow Us  
[facebook.com/hgmcbv](https://facebook.com/hgmcbv)  
[Instagram.com/hgmcbv](https://instagram.com/hgmcbv)



Highlands Church, 371 Glasgow Road, Bella Vista, AR 72715, (479) 855-2277, [www.hgmcbv.com](http://www.hgmcbv.com)