

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | JULY 2026 | VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 7



Samaritan's Feet Shoe Event

The Samaritan's Feet Shoe Event in Gravette will be held Saturday, August 1, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM in the Gravette Middle School Cafeteria. Highlands Church is again providing 200 pairs of shoes for students in the Gravette School District.

This outreach is about much more than shoes. For many families, a new pair of shoes is a significant blessing as children prepare to return to school. During the event, volunteers take time to welcome each child, wash their feet, and help them select a new pair of shoes. It is a simple act of kindness that reminds children and families that they are seen, valued, and loved.

We hope you will consider volunteering for this special event. Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas, including registration, shoe runners, foot washing, and shoe fitting. No special experience is required, just a willing heart and a desire to serve. The students are always grateful, and it is hard to describe the joy on a child's face when they receive a brand-new pair of shoes. Many volunteers say they receive an even greater blessing than the one they give. The photos from last year's event tell part of the story, but experiencing it in person is something truly special.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please watch for additional information coming soon in the Weekly Update email or contact Sara Sherman, Outreach Team Coordinator.

[Click Here to Volunteer at Samaritan's Feet Shoe Event](#)



Under-Shepherd Udderings

I am so grateful to have served Highlands Church for one year. You are a blessing!! We are grateful to serve with you and see the Lord at work to create a new, positive, hopeful culture in our church, receive 32 new members in one year, and be debt-free. All glory to the Lord!

I hope you are preparing for a grand celebration of America on July 4. John Hancock was the president of the Continental Congress. Hancock's signature was the first and most prominent on the Declaration of Independence. It's worth noting that the Declaration refers to God four times, including in its very first paragraph, "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," which were used to justify the United States' separation from Britain. In his book, "We Hold These Truths," David Barton explains that the preeminent law book at the time of the founding, William Blackstone's "Commentaries on the Laws of England," expounds on the meaning of the two sources of law referenced in the Declaration.



"Upon these two foundations, the law of nature [established by God and observable in creation] and the law of revelation [found in the Bible, directly revealed by God, including the Ten Commandments], depend all human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered to contradict these," Blackstone wrote.

Without the divine law revealed all the way back to Moses (including the Ten Commandments circa 1500 BC), the Great Awakening that happened for 30 years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and Christ our Lord Himself, America would not exist. We must remember our freedom is the work of Almighty God. So, as we celebrate, let us humbly pray for our nation, under God, that we may continue to receive His grace and mercy, and that there would be a new awakening in our blessed country.

Pastor Rick

Trinity Annual Conference Report

The Power of Personal: Inviting Others to Christ Through Personal Stories

Submitted by Bill Williams, Lay Leader

Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you." (John 20:21)

Personal evangelism was the theme of the 2026 Trinity Annual Conference held June 3-5 in College Station, Texas. As the Global Methodist Church is putting renewed emphasis on evangelism, Highlands Church is building a culture of evangelism, inviting others to Christ and making disciples for Jesus Christ by telling our stories to the world that so desperately needs Him.

Those who attended the conference had the opportunity to listen and learn about personal evangelism. All were invited to practice praying with strangers. All were also invited to develop and "try out" our personal witness by telling our stories to one another. Highlands Church will be offering resources to help us all be equipped to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

In Romans 10:15, Paul writes, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

The Global Methodist Church and the Trinity Conference are taking big steps in evangelism with the addition of three new Global Methodist Churches in Arkansas: Little Rock, Nashville, and Jonesboro.

The General Conference of the Global Methodist Church, with delegates from around the world, will convene in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 30 through September 5, 2026. Please be in prayer for the people attending and the work they will accomplish.

Mission Ministry News

Thank you Highlands Church, for your love and support of Bright Futures, Samaritan Community Center Snack Pack Program, and Samaritan's Feet. Our church family is amazing! You are GOOD SAMARITANS!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to pack Snack Packs at Samaritan Community Center for the 2025-2026 school year. We packed approximately 7,200 snack packs at 4 events for food-insecure Gravette School District (GSD) students. We will again pack snack packs at the Samaritan Community Center for GSD students for the 2026-2027 school year. Dates and times will be announced.

Listed below are upcoming dates this summer and fall for volunteer opportunities at Care and Share Thrift Store in Gravette. Watch for more information as the dates approach in the Weekly Update emails.

July 7–11

September 29–October 3

November 10–14

Thank you for your continued support of the GSD Food Pantry. We help fulfill a need for food-insecure families in the GSD. Other needs besides food include detergent, dishwashing liquid, paper products, and personal hygiene products. Place your donated items in the marked bins located at all church entrances for delivery to the GSD Food Pantry. This project is co-sponsored by the Celebration Worship Team and Highlands Methodist Women (HMW).

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Annual Highlands Car Show on Saturday, September 19.

Blessings, Sara Sherman, Outreach Missions Chair

Fifth Sunday Fund: The Finance Committee has established a new fund, "The Fifth Sunday Fund." The purpose of this fund will be to cover unforeseen expenses which occur. The July 31 Fifth Sunday was used to support the Rio Bravo Mexico Mission Trip which we adopted this year. The next Fifth Sundays will be August 30 and November 29. Both of these Sundays we want to support the Grounds Care Group who are so faithful to care for our beautiful landscape. Their equipment is in need of repair and some replacements which exceeds the planned expenditures for this year. Please note these dates and plan to support our Grounds Care Group.

Church Library News

Thank you for your recent donations. We appreciate them. If you have any children's books in good condition, jigsaw puzzles, or board games, please consider donating them as well. We do have several jigsaw puzzles in the Annex that you may take home and return when you are finished. There is no need to fill out any cards to check them out.

Recently, I visited the Bella Vista Public Library and picked up a bookmark that had some tips on taking care of books you borrow:

- Keep books clean and dry.
- Don't fold pages; always use a bookmark.
- Keep books away from pets.
- Find a special place at home for storing books.
- Never write in books.
- Return books on time.

We have several checkout cards on file for books that were checked out some time ago and never returned. It would be great if you could bring them back so others can enjoy them as well.

And by the way... have you read a book recently that you would like to recommend to other readers? If so, please write a short paragraph about the book and email it to Sofia Bartmus (gsb1@quixnet.net) by the 15th of each month. We will feature it in a future edition of the church newsletter. One of our committee members will be doing just that for the August newsletter. —Library Committee

MY FAVORITE



BOOK IS... Please Tell Us!

My Witness Story

“In the End, We Win”

by Claudia Williams

When my doctor called me at work to tell me she'd call me at home that night to discuss the results of a biopsy, I knew it couldn't be good. That was March 18, 2013, when I learned I had Merkel cell carcinoma, cancer in the cells below the surface of skin. Merkel cell carcinoma is a rare and aggressive type of cancer. At the time I was diagnosed, there were less than 2,000 cases in the United States, and in more than 90 percent of them, death occurs within 2 years. (The statistics have improved greatly now with understanding of Merkel Cell.)



I spent my days during chemotherapy and radiation treatment listening to The Message radio. The station had launched a 30-day challenge: listen to only Christian music and see what happens. What happened to me was God said to me about my cancer, “I got this.” This was when I truly, finally realized God's dominion over my life, and I accepted it tearfully—and I no longer feared what was ahead for me.

Here I am, 13 years later, cancer free. I get anxious when it's time for a check-up, but I'm not afraid. God led my husband, Bill, and me to Bella Vista, where we are following his continued leading. I'm so grateful that God has allowed me to live long enough to tell this story.

On the evening of my diagnosis, I said to Adam, our San Antonio pastor, “I don't want to die.” He responded that I had an uphill climb ahead. “The truth is,” he said, “you might die.

“But,” he said, “we've read the Book. In the end, we win.”

If you would like to share your “Witness Story” in a future edition of the newsletter, please contact Susan Cafferty.

GriefShare Support Group—Next Session Begins Aug 6

Over the course of 13 weeks, participants find comfort and support as they learn what to expect and discover healthy ways to navigate the grief process. Each session includes a video with guidance from respected counselors, teachers, and healthcare professionals, followed by a small-group discussion for sharing and encouragement. Our next 13-week session begins **Thursday, August 6, from 1:00–3:00 PM** in the John Classroom. Participant workbooks for this session are \$20 and payable to the church at your first meeting. Past participants are welcome to repeat the class or pick up where they left off. Call the church office to RSVP or sign up here... griefshare.org/groups

Free CPR Training Opportunity—July 15

There will be a CPR Class offered for Highlands Church members and Cooper School teachers on **Wed, July 15 at 9:00 AM**. Classes will be held at the Bella Vista Fire Department Training Center, located at 7 Carlisle Dr., Bella Vista, AR 72714 (on Highway 71 near the Bella Vista sign). The class is free, and the instructors are excellent! If you prefer to attend independently, city-wide CPR classes are also offered on the second Friday of each month. For questions, contact Sue LaHood at 479-855-0937. If there is no answer, please leave a message and she will return your call as soon as possible. Sign up at the Information Station or email Sue to RSVP suelahood@currently.com.



THE HIGHLANDERS METHODIST MEN



HIGHLANDERS BLOOD DRIVE

Our May 20 Blood Drive had a goal assigned by the CBC/Ozarks of 24 successful donations. We had 30 potential donors registered to donate. However, the "iron deficiency bug" bit us, allowing only 21 of the 30 to donate. This has been a problem throughout the U.S. since the standard for blood components was tightened by the FDA in 2015. We understand the frustration of being turned down. Your time and effort are important... and very much appreciated.

Highlands Church and its Blood Drive sponsors, The Highlanders men's group, would like to recognize and thank our attending representative for this drive, Larry Bassett, for his generous donation of time, energy, and a very fast donation of blood products. You get an "Attaboy," Larry!

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Our Highlanders representative for July's drive will be Jeff August.



HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY HMW

Highlands Methodist Women proudly support a variety of local ministries that serve women, children, and families facing difficult circumstances. Through fundraisers, special events, service projects, and generous donations, HMW helps provide resources, shelter, recovery support, counseling, education, and hope to individuals throughout Northwest Arkansas and beyond. While many people hear that "all proceeds support women's and children's charities," we wanted to take a moment to share more about a few of the organizations and ministries supported through HMW giving and outreach efforts.

ACCEPTANCE TREATMENT – Darleen Olson, coordinator

Based in Northwest Arkansas, Acceptance Treatment is a state-licensed drug and alcohol treatment center offering tried and true medical evaluations, leading clinical programs, and evidence-based programming. They specialize in treating substance use disorder, eating disorder, co-occurring mental health diagnosis including, but not limited to, general anxiety disorder, depression, bipolar 1 and 2 disorders, ADD, ADHD, PTSD and all other trauma related cognitive and personality diagnoses.

OASIS OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS – Billie Hall, coordinator

Oasis of Northwest Arkansas is a transitional living program for women in recovery and their children. Oasis provides safe housing and resources while walking alongside women who are ready to reconstruct their lives. They are dedicated to restoring individuals, rebuilding families, and transforming communities! Oasis of Northwest Arkansas is a transitional living program for women in recovery and their children.

SAVING GRACE – Jean Galloway, coordinator

Saving Grace serves young women ages 18-25 who have aged out of foster care or are facing homelessness. They provide safe housing in a dorm-style setting and offer each young woman educational assistance, career guidance, coaching, counseling, and more. Girls in our program are taught essential life skills like money & time management, cooking & meal planning, relationship skills and car care. They also provide personalized coaching that can help girls achieve milestones like getting a driver's license, getting a job, purchasing a car, getting an education, starting a savings account, and more!

THE CHILDREN & FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER (CFAC) – Jean Galloway/Darleen Olson, co-coordinators

The Children & Family Advocacy Center remains steadfast in their mission that began over 35 years ago – to restore the lives of those impacted by trauma. CFAC will always provide clients a chance to begin their life anew through an environment that offers restorative healing to their mind, body, and soul. The center offers services for women and children who have experienced, and have been impacted by trauma, moving them forward on a path to offer comprehensive, individualized trauma-informed care to all clients. They focus on children experiencing suspected child abuse in Benton County and provide long-term housing for women, and their children, in the midst of crisis. Beyond shelter they offer ongoing case management, mental health counseling, and group sessions to help break the cycle of abuse.

Highlands Youth Discipleship

SEEN – Known by God – Connected to Others

Highlands Youth Discipleship (ages 11+) meets Sunday mornings from 9:00–9:45 AM for real-life conversations, Bible study, and video-based lessons. Our current study focuses on the character trait of compassion. The best example we have of living with compassion and understanding is Jesus. We are looking at what the Scriptures have to say about valuing and caring for children and the elderly.

We are putting our faith into action by supporting a Filipino deaf child named Clarence, who attends a Christian School for the Deaf in the Philippines (IDEA). Our weekly offering helps cover the cost of his tuition.

LESSON 8 - REMEMBER VERSE

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."
Matthew 10:42

LESSON 9 - REMEMBER VERSE

"The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love."
Psalm 33:5

LESSON 10 - REMEMBER VERSE

"I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy."
Psalm 140:12

Games & Grub Update

Youth, youth leaders, and parents had a great time at Games and Grub at the church on June 14. The chicken and mac and cheese were amazing... and the games were pretty good too! If you were unable to make it, we missed you and look forward to seeing you at our next Games & Grub. Youth and parents are welcome. Parents may also drop off their youth if they are unable to attend.

Upcoming Games & Grub Events:

Sunday, July 19 – Meet at Tiree Park and Boat Dock, 18 Tiree Park, Bella Vista, for a great time together. We will be grilling hot dogs and brats, going for boat rides, swimming, and paddling kayaks. Bring a life vest if you have one.

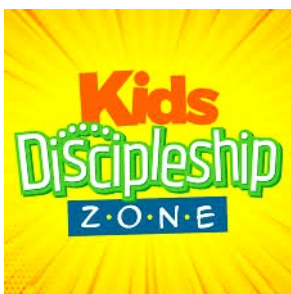
August – Passion Play in Eureka Springs. More details to come.



Photos from our Games & Grub event on June 14

Children's 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



In July, the Kids' Discipleship class will be exploring the New Testament, learning about Jesus' ministry and miracles. For the next twelve months, we will again dedicate our weekly offering to Brother Jim Benfer's mission work in Mexico. This offering supports "Bibles and Books" for children and schools.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! "Blessing of the Backpacks" will take place during the Sunday morning service at 10:00 AM on August 9. Children (or anyone who is going back to school) will receive a special blessing. A sack lunch will be served immediately after church, with carnival games to follow. All are welcome, but reservations are necessary. Sign-ups will be available on the weekends of July 25 and August 2.

Children ages 5-10 are welcome at Kids' Discipleship. We meet from 10:30-11:00 AM following the Children's Sermon. We do not meet on the first Sunday of the month. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (479) 619-8654. In God's Love, Kitty Knight



Kids Worship students present donations to Bro. Jim and Cindy Benfer for the Rio Bravo Mission Trip.

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3– 4th of July, Office Closed	4– No Celebration Worship
5– Combined Worship at 10AM – First Sunday Cookies	6	7– Compassionate Care Meeting – Care & Share Volunteer Week	8	9– Trustees Meeting	10	11
12	13– Care & Share Trailer– parking lot	14	15– Blood Drive	16– Library Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22	23– Care Group Leaders Meeting	24	25
26– All Church Event (ACE)	27	28	29– Summer Choir Rehearsal	30	31	Aug 1– Samaritan's Feet Event



Trinity Conference | Global Methodist Church

School of Ministry

Have you ever wanted to deepen your understanding of Scripture, strengthen your prayer life, or grow in your ability to serve Christ and His Church? The Trinity Conference School of Ministry offers an excellent opportunity for lay members to receive practical ministry training and spiritual encouragement.

On Saturday, September 12, 2026, the School of Ministry will host an in-person workshop at Stuttgart First Methodist Church in Stuttgart, Arkansas. The event will run from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and includes lunch. Registration is \$15 per person.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn from experienced pastors and church leaders through classes on Prayer Ministry, Global Methodist Doctrine, Basic Preaching, and Basic Bible Study. The day will also include a devotional and worship session led by Rev. John Mark Moore.

The School of Ministry is designed to equip lay people for effective ministry and discipleship while providing a pathway toward a Certificate in Lay Ministry. Whether you are currently serving in a leadership role or simply desire to grow in your faith and knowledge, this workshop offers valuable training and encouragement.

Additional information and registration details are available at www.trinitygmc.org. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office or visit the Trinity Conference website for registration information.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn, grow, and be equipped for ministry alongside fellow believers from across the Trinity Conference.



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

CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL: office@hgmcbv.com
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am—4:00pm
Friday, 8:30am—Noon

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

OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observation of the 4th of July Holiday.

CHURCH T-SHIRTS: T-shirts are available to order year-round for \$20 each. If you would like to purchase a shirt, please contact the church office for ordering info.

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*
CELIA CHERNOTA, *Nursery Attendant*
AMEY BURKETT, *Office Admin*
DRU MATTHEWS, *Business Manager*
MONICA REDMON, *Custodian*



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Operating Budget Report - May 31, 2026

	YTD Budget	May Actual	YTD Actual
Income	198,850	35,665	193,846
Expenses	198,850	40,251	189,820
Net	0	(4,586)	4,026

Thank you for your continued support.

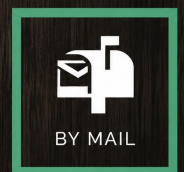
3 ways to give
to Highlands Church



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 Outreach Ministry.



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