

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | MAY 2025 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 5



## 30th Annual Highlands Flea & Boutique

Mark your calendars! Our 2-day event is happening:

**Friday, May 2, from 8 AM to 2 PM**

**Saturday, May 3, from 8 AM to Noon**

Highlands Church, it's time for you and your friends to **dig deep** and part with some of those clean, sellable treasures.

**Donations** may be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall between **April 28 and 30, between 9 AM and Noon**. Need help with large items? Contact **Sue Benson** to schedule a pickup. **Please note:** We cannot accept books, electronics, large appliances, shoes, or clothing.

**Bakers**, we need you too. If you've signed up to bring baked goods, please deliver them to the church kitchen in **disposable containers** on **Wednesday or Thursday, April 30 or May 1**, so they can be packaged and priced by volunteers.

In addition to furniture, household goods, tools, jewelry, collectibles, and garden items, we are excited to bring back our **Boutique Shop**. This special area features fashionable and nearly-new treasures such as purses, scarves, wallets, wraps, handmade quilts, quirky art pieces, and unique accessories. These items are stylish, fun, and affordably priced.

**This weekend is your last chance to sign up to volunteer before preparation week begins.** Please stop by the table in the Gathering Area on Sunday to add your name to the list, or pick up a flyer with more information.

Let's make this a great event for the **Bella Vista community**. All net proceeds will support **local women's and children's charities**, a mission of the **Highlands Methodist Women**.

**Questions?** Call Sue Benson at 620-960-9185.

# From Bro. Jim's Desk

I sit at my desk this morning considering a great disconnect at work among God's people at Highlands Church—this church is active in many ways connecting people in fellowship and good works, but all the while overlooking the primary task that a church is engaged to perform. Simply put, Jesus tasked his disciples with making and teaching new disciples about God's good news and changing their lives. The Great Commission in Mathew's gospel is our marching orders.



I don't think that anyone purposely overlooks this task, but so many feel inadequate to the task that they do what comes naturally, which is busying themselves with the things they think that make a church friendly. The apostle Paul has some relevant advice for us: "And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." (Romans 13:11, NIV)

Please don't take this wrong, because fellowship and outreach in our community are great avenues of sharing the love of Jesus, and reaching the underprivileged and needy. However, as Christians, our primary work must be drawing closer to Jesus as individuals, and drawing others into saving relationship with our Lord. I see us as very active and busy with many things, but asleep when it comes to our primary task.

Mr. Wesley can help us reclaim the work he set before the early Methodists. He called it "going on to perfection." In so many words, Mr. Wesley was describing the work of sanctification, or putting it simply, "maturing in our faith." What he did was emphasize that a Christian's calling doesn't stop at coming to faith, or the point of justification, that is only the beginning. What he did was band people together in small groups where they could hold one another accountable for their Christian walk, pray for one another, worship and study together, and eventually grow spiritually strong. For John Wesley, salvation was an individual act between one and their Lord, but sanctification necessitated a group accountability. It was precisely such accountability and spiritual growth among his bands that caused the rapid multiplication of the Methodist movement that eventually put a church in every county in our land.

Where did this movement lose its way? The spiritually strong bands eventually devolved into Sunday school classes that studied together, but very seldom became places where spiritual growth took place. Even now, many Sunday school classes have dwindled into meetings where people learn about Jesus, but aren't being challenged to change their lives. It is as if people have begun to think that being a Christian is being a member of an organization, among many other organizations that do social good, and that is enough!

The Global Methodist Church wants us to get back to the work of the early Methodists. My belief is that that task will take a paradigm shift in our thinking. I don't want us to stop having fellowship or doing good works in Jesus' name, but I do want us to find our first love in Christ Jesus and regain the spiritual fervor of the early Methodist movement. Therefore, I will be challenging our congregation to be more involved in small groups (we don't have to call them bands, societies, or class meetings as Wesley did) where we do the hard work of drawing closer to Jesus, and seeking to follow him. I will be starting a model group for our women and men's group soon, and I invite you to "come and see" even as Jesus invited his first disciples to learn a new way of living and loving God and their neighbors.

Blessings, Bro. Jim

# Highlands Youth Group Under Construction

**We Thank God for Answered Prayer**

**We Thank Highlands Trustees for their Support**

**We Thank Highlands Church Members and Friends for Praying and Giving**

## Progress in the Construction Zone:

- All members of the Youth Committee have completed Safe Sanctuary training, background checks, and have been approved.
- New security cameras have been installed in the Youth Group room.
- Donations of furniture and games have been made for the Youth Group room.
- An initial Youth Group Sunday meeting time of “Disciples and Donuts” schedule is being planned. Our launch date will follow ASAP.



## Upcoming Prayer Requests:

- For our Highlands Youth to finish this 2024-25 school year successfully, and experience God’s grace and peace.
- The right adult leader for “Disciples and Donuts.”

***On Easter Sunday, our Youth Group hid the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.  
(pictured below)***



## Children’s Worship Center

Children are welcome to visit our Nursery (0-4 years) and Kids Worship (5-11 years) on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 Traditional worship service.

For more information, contact Laurie Pearson at 479-256-4452 (Nursery), Fran Lovell at 571-255-0701 or Wanda Krug at 719-213-1115 (Kids Worship).

## HMM May Meeting

The next meeting of the Highlands Men will be on Tuesday, May 6 at 7:45 am. Our speaker will be Brother Jim Benfer who will be speaking about faith and other important topics. This will be our last meeting before we break for the summer and all men of the church are encouraged to attend. Please sign up in the Gathering area so we have a count for the always excellent breakfast that is served at the meeting.

## HMM Blood Drive



Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and is organized by our Highlands Methodist Men (HMM). All donors will receive a FREE T-shirt and Tickets! Appointments are strongly encouraged to manage donor flow. To schedule an appointment time, see the Weekly Update email or contact our coordinator, Jerry Snyder, at 763-639-2597.

## All Church Event



### A-C-E Event

### Hawaiian Luau Party

May 18 • Fellowship Hall • 5:30 pm  
Special Entertainment!?  
Invite your friends to join us.



Contact or ACE Coordinators, Lynn & Doug Stone (876-2260) or Katy & Bud Henkel (876-6121).

## Adult Sunday School



Try something new on Sunday morning and join us for Bible Study at 8:30 am in the Mark classroom. We will soon begin our new study on the book of Genesis using the LifeChange Bible study guide. We are a caring group of learners, and we'd love to have you join us. If you'd like a book or have questions, call Brad Krug at 719-210-6124.



# HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

## HMW May Meeting

Happy May! Please join the Highlands Methodist Women for our last meeting until September on Monday, May 12, 9:30 am as our program this month will be with Stacy Peper, a representative from the True Colors Farm by PerspectAbility. Their Mission is Bridging the gaps in residential options, continuing education, and quality support for independent living of neurodiverse adults while promoting self-advocacy, educating the public, and encouraging meaningful interactions within an inclusive community. It should be a fun time and all women from Highlands Church and friends are invited! There will be a sign up sheet available at the Information Station so we know how many to cook for and we hope to see you here for fun, fellowship, and food.

## HMW Book Club

Please join the Highlands Methodist Women's Book Club's last meeting for this year. Our book this month is What God Has Said About Jesus by Lenn Zelle -Who is Jesus, really? Can we even know the truth? Where can we turn for answers that we can believe? We'll meet on Tuesday, May 20, at 11:30 am, at Bella's Table. We will try and discuss the book over lunch and have fun to boot! The change of day and time is because of Memorial Day. For any questions, please call Sue LaHood at 479-855-0937. All women of the church are invited and there will be a signup sheet at the Information Station in Fellowship Hall for this one event. Please sign up by Friday, May 16 so Sue can make a reservation at Bella's.

## HMW Casseroles for a Year!

The Highlands Methodist Women's Casseroles for a Year drawing will take place after the 10:00 AM church service on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11. Tickets are available now for \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

## New Member



Donna Chilton became a member on April 6 in the Traditional Service. Donna relocated to Bella Vista from Lamar, MO in 2023. With a diverse career background, Donna has worked in adult education with the University of Missouri Cooperative Extension, web development, and healthcare. Now retired, she enjoys a variety of hobbies, including reading, knitting, crocheting, and walking. She has one daughter. Donna said she appreciates the welcoming community at Highlands Church.

## Food Pantry for Gravette School

We continue to collect food and non-perishables to assist food insecure families in the Gravette School District; any and all donations are welcomed! Place your donated items in the marked bins located at all entrances to the church for delivery to the Gravette School Food Pantry. We are blessed to be a blessing and your generosity and support are always appreciated! This project is being co-sponsored by the Celebration Worship Team & Highlands Methodist Women (HMW).

Egg cartons are NOT needed at this time



# Mission Ministry Opportunities

## Snack Packs:

Thank you to all who packed Snack Packs this school year at the Samaritan Community Center. The Snack Pack Coordinator let us know that, due to an excess of packed inventory, we are *not* needed to pack on May 7. Packing will resume in **September 2025**.

## Save the Date – Samaritan’s Feet Shoe Event:

The **Samaritan’s Feet Shoe Event** in Gravette will be held on **Saturday, July 26**, from **10:00 AM to 12:30 PM** at the **Gravette Middle School Cafeteria**. Highlands Church is once again providing **200 pairs of shoes** for students in the Gravette School District. **Volunteers will arrive at 8:30 AM**, and a sign-up link will be available in June. I hope you’ll consider joining us for this special outreach. Volunteers are needed to register students, run shoes, wash children’s feet, and help fit them with new shoes. The joy on the children’s faces when they receive their shoes is a blessing you won’t forget.

## Care and Share Volunteer Opportunities (Summer & Fall):

- June 10–14
- July 29–August 2
- September 9–13
- October 28–November 1

## GSD Food Pantry:

Thank you for your continued support of the **Gravette School District Food Pantry**. Your donations help meet the needs of food-insecure families. In addition to food items, there is a strong need for **detergent, dishwashing liquid, paper products, and personal hygiene items**.

## Looking Ahead:

The **Highlands Car Show** is scheduled for **September 27**.

Blessings, Sara Sherman, Mission Ministry Chairperson



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**HELP GIVE FREE SHOES TO STUDENTS IN GRAVETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT!**  
**JULY 26th**

A POSITIVE CHANGE IN ONE KID'S LIFE, CAN CHANGE THE WORLD...FOR GOOD!

**COMMUNITY SERVANT LEADERS:**  
**Please Volunteer from: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM on Sat. - July 26th** to support this annual, Back-to-School Shoe distribution, made possible by Highlands Church.

**From 10AM to 12:30 PM - 7/26**, approximately 200 Local Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, *and their older siblings*, will receive new sneakers, new socks, "Hope Totes", snacks, love, hope & encouragement, from our dedicated community volunteers.

**VOLUNTEER TIMES:**  
**Saturday, July 26th**  
**8:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

**GRAVETTE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA**  
607 DALLAS ST. SE  
GRAVETTE, AR  
72736

**A VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP LINK WILL BE AVAIL IN JUNE**

## Mission Spotlight

Connie Kiefer (pictured right) was presented with an award in honor of her late husband, Merlyn Kiefer, at the Care and Share Banquet held on April 15. Merlyn was recognized for his 30+ years of contribution and service to Care and Share.



# May 2025

| Sun  | Mon                                | Tue  | Wed                             | Thu                 | Fri                      | Sat   |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
|  |                                    |  |                                 | 1                   | 2– Flea & Boutique       | 3– Flea & Boutique – No Celebration Service             |
| 4– Combined Worship at 10am                      | 5                                  | 6– HMM Meeting – Compassionate Disciples Meeting | 7– Fellowship Committee Meeting | 8– Trustees Meeting | 9                        | 10– Celebration Service returns to 5:30pm               |
| 11– Casseroles for a Year drawing – Mother’s Day | 12– HMW Meeting                    | 13   | 14– Stitches                    | 15– Library Meeting | 16– CPR Training Session | 17  |
| 18– All Church Event (ACE)                       | 19                                 | 20– HMW Book Club Meeting – Council Meets        | 21– Blood Drive                 | 22                  | 23                       | 24– Scrapbooking & Card Making                          |
| 25   | 26– Office Closed for Memorial Day | 27   | 28– Stitches                    | 29                  | 30                       | 31– No Celebration Service (First Sun Combined Worship) |

## New Pictorial Church Directory

We’re creating a **new Pictorial Directory**, and we’d love for everyone in the congregation to be included!

### Photo Sessions:

**May 11, 18, and 25**

**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM** (15-minute time slots)

**Location:** Highlands Church, Small Chapel- located in hallway by offices

**Schedule** your photo session online **or call the church office for assistance.**



Prefer to use your **2022 Directory Photo** or submit a **New Photo of your own**? No need to sign up—just **email the church office** at [office@hgmcbv.com](mailto:office@hgmcbv.com) and let us know your preference. Deadline will be May 30 for photo submissions. Let’s help put names with faces and celebrate our church family! Questions? Contact the Church Office or our Directory Coordinator, Beth Williams at 479-619-9317.

## Help Us Keep Our Church Records Updated

Our **Office Angels** have been hard at work gathering updated information for the church office. If you received an email about updating your **Congregational Profile** or providing **Emergency Contact Information**, please reply with your updated information as soon as possible.

- ⇒ For **Congregational Profiles**, contact **Sue Benson** or **Sofia Bartmus**
- ⇒ For **Emergency Contact Info**, contact **Billie Hall** or **Vicki Mulder**

If you **did not receive an email** but believe you should have (or you’re unsure) please reach out to one of the Office Angels for assistance. Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and up to date!

**Note from Amey:** I’m so thankful for the Office Angels who have stepped in to cover the office during my recent absences... and for those already on the calendar for future dates (yay for vacation!). Seriously, it’s such a blessing to be surrounded by God’s people at work. The cheerful and caring hearts of this congregation make MY life better. And, thank you for all those who’ve taken on various special projects... or those who just offered! Your time and effort don’t go unnoticed, and I appreciate it so much. Thank you ALL!



# 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 for the June Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon), on May 20. Send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to: [office@hgmcbv.com](mailto:office@hgmcbv.com)

### NOTES OF CONDOLENCES:

Gary Rowland for the loss of his wife, Jane Rowland on April 15, 2025.

## Church Staff

JIM BENFER, *Interim Pastor*

AMEY BURKETT, *Office Administrator*

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 - March 31, 2025

|          | YTD<br>Budget | March<br>Actual | YTD<br>Actual |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Income   | 108,751       | 45,412          | 100,731       |
| Expenses | 108,751       | 36,443          | 106,258       |
| Net      | 0             | 8,969           | (5,527)       |

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)



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