

# RIDGE RIDER

## Dear Highland UMC Family,

Stephanie generously offered me the opportunity to share a few words with you via the newsletter before I arrive. I'm so glad she did. I want you to know that this Duplin County girl, born and raised, is excited to be moving to the big city of Raleigh. Even more exciting, I will soon be joining the Highland UMC family!



Over the last few weeks, I've had the opportunity to meet with Highland's worship staff twice and the full staff once. Together we prayed, planned, and laughed (a lot!) I also had the joy of meeting some of the wonderful Women in Faith who happened to be gathering on one of my staff meeting days. Every conversation has made me even more eager for this new chapter, and I look forward to meeting and getting to know each one of you.

Highland's Staff Parish Relations Committee is currently working on setting up listening sessions where you and I will have the opportunity to meet in small, intimate groups. These gatherings will be a chance for us to get to know one another and for me to hear your stories, your hopes, and your vision for Highland's future. Sessions will be offered at a variety of times and locations to make them as accessible as possible, and I hope each of you will plan to sign up.

My first day in the office will be July 9. Bishop Shelton and the Cabinet have designated July 1-8 as "transition week," giving George and me time to unpack, settle in, and begin making Raleigh feel like home. Once I arrive, I'll establish regular office hours as I learn the rhythms of life at Highland. And, of course, you are always welcome to schedule a time to visit. Fridays will be my Sabbath day and will generally be my day away from the office and technology.

As these final days before our arrival tick by, please know that Highland is already in my prayers. I am grateful for the warm welcome you have extended, and I cannot wait to worship, serve, laugh, learn, and grow alongside you.

Until we meet, may God's grace and peace be with you.

Pastor Tuck

## WELCOME, TUCK!



**JULY 9**

First Day at  
Highland



**JULY 12**

First Sunday  
in the Pulpit



**TBD**

Small Group  
Listening  
Sessions



**JULY 24**

Tuck's  
Birthday!

*Help us welcome our new  
Senior Pastor!*

## REV. KEV PUBLISHED in National Handbell Journal

Our Minister of Music, known affectionately as "Rev. Kev," was recently published in *Overtones: The Official Journal of Handbell Musicians of America*. In the article, he shares his approach to incorporating handbells into congregational hymns—a practice Highland members have enjoyed for years and one that helps bring fresh energy and color to familiar songs in worship.

It's always exciting to see members of our staff recognized beyond the walls of Highland, and we're proud that Kevin's work is being shared with handbell musicians across the country. His article offers a glimpse into the creativity and thoughtfulness he brings to our music ministry each week.

Congratulations, Kevin, on this well-deserved recognition! We're grateful for the many ways you help make worship meaningful, engaging, and joyful.

### *Handbells in Worship*

Coordinated by Mitchell Eithun

### **Handbells in the Hymns**

Simple Ways to Add Bells to Worship with Just a Few Musicians

by Kevin Quick

When I first began at my current church, I was just in charge of handbells. The group played about six to eight times a year, but I was thinking about how to incorporate handbells into our worship more regularly. I was heard

we Methodists use for the hymn "Take My Life, and Let It Be."

But just because I can use either an F or a C in every place - doesn't mean that I should. That's the problem.



The Rev. Kevin Quick is the Minister of Music at Highland UMC in Raleigh, North Carolina. An ordained deacon in the UMC, he leads the handbell choir, sanctuary choir, praise band, and orchestra, in addition to special music ensembles that accompany services.



**FUN FACT:** Before being published in a national handbell journal, Rev. Kev was featured in a viral handbell video on TikTok!

*Scan the QR code for links to the article and the TikTok!*

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**On Senior Sunday, five outstanding graduates were recognized with scholarship awards totaling \$5,500!**



Our newest scholarship, the Seaton Family Scholarship was established this year by Bob and Lacey Seaton to support Highland students who demonstrate a genuine passion for mathematically-based sciences and a real connection and desire to understand how the world works. Andy Schemitsch was the first recipient of the Seaton Family Scholarship.

The late Bob Gardner established the Gardner Family Endowment Fund at Highland to provide scholarships for students pursuing post-secondary education. Gracie Brewer was this year's recipient of the Robert R. and Betty M. Gardner Scholarship.

The Grace George Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by the Upper Room Sunday School Class and the George family for Highland students who are pursuing a degree in Education. Kenley Myers received the Grace George Memorial Scholarship.

Earleen and Hal Barnes established the Mulwee Scholarship Endowment in memory of Earleen's parents, Juanita and Earl Mulwee, for Highland graduating seniors who participated in music during high school. This year's Mulwee Music Scholarships were awarded to Maddie Townsend and Peter Baucom.

**Congratulations to each of these very deserving young people, who will represent Highland well as recipients of these scholarships.**



## JULY PREACHING SCHEDULE

DATE	PREACHER	SCRIPTURE	SERMON TITLE
JULY 5	Rev. Kevin Quick	TBD	TBD
JULY 12	Rev. Tuck Taylor	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	The Extravagance of God
JULY 19	<b>HSP Sunday</b> One Combined Service at 10 AM Rev. Tuck Taylor	TBD	TBD
JULY 26	Rev. Tuck Taylor	Genesis 28:10-19a	Hemmed In

# HSP Sunday

## JULY 19

ONE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE  
10 AM • POTLUCK LUNCH

### What is HSP?

HSP (Highland Service Project) is a 41-year tradition at Highland. High Schoolers will work with WARM NC to make home modifications that help local residents to age safely in place.



**CAN YOU HELP WITH LUNCH?**  
Contact amy@highlandumc.org



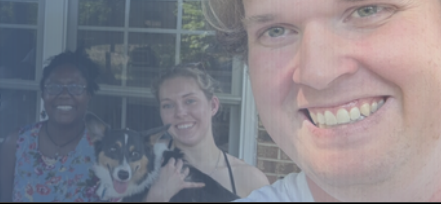
Let's come together during one worship service to celebrate the work of our Youth during their service week in Wilmington, NC. Stay after for a potluck lunch.

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE!**

# FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

## YOUNG ADULT small group

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays | 7 PM



## Young Adult Small Group

First, Third, & Fifth Tuesdays, (July 7 & 21), 7 PM

Young adults (~22-40) are invited for fellowship, Bible/book studies, and occasional social events. Contact Rev. Kevin Quick for more information:

[kevin@highlandumc.org](mailto:kevin@highlandumc.org).

## Pub Theology

Tuesday, July 14, 7 PM, Buffalo Brothers

Join us for faith-filled conversation, pizza, and a pint! All are welcome. Let Rev. Janet Baucom know you're coming and she'll save you a seat: [janet@highlandumc.org](mailto:janet@highlandumc.org).

## Pub Theology

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros. on Lake Boone

## Stonewall LGBTQ+ Fellowship Group

Thursday, July 16, 7 PM, Library

Please join us every third Thursday for discussions with friends, family, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Questions? Contact LJ Coward at [ljcoward@gmail.com](mailto:ljcoward@gmail.com).

THE STONEWALL  
FELLOWSHIP  
AN LGBTQIA+ & CHRISTIAN GROUP

## Methodist SASS

(Summer Adult/Youth Sunday School)

June 21 - August 16, 10 AM, Conference Room

All youth and adults are invited to join us this summer for a Sunday School series exploring the character and distinctives of our United Methodist faith and practice. Each week's lesson stands on its own, so come as often as your summer schedule allows.

### S.A.S.S. Leader Schedule

**July 5** - Kevin Quick

**July 12** - Allison Morgan

**July 19** - HSP Sunday (no meeting)

**July 26** - Janet Baucom & Annual Conference delegates



## Stay In-the-Know!

Subscribe to our weekly E-News to receive updates about these and other Highland events in your inbox every Wednesday.



Highland  
United Methodist Church

## Music AND Arts CAMP

August 3-7  
9 AM-5 PM

Learn More & Register



### Music & Arts Camp August 3-7, 9 AM-5 PM

Music and Arts Camp is back! After a great first year, we're coming back with a full-day offering for children who love to express themselves through the creative arts!

Campers from last year will remember how much fun they had learning from choral clinician Tom Shelton, and we're thrilled to welcome him back this year! We're also excited to welcome Carrie Rivera, art teacher at Carver Elementary in Cary, as our Artist-in-Residence!

Cost: \$225 for the week, with discounts for multiple children (\$200 per sibling). For kids rising first grade and above! Register today! (QR above).

Highland  
United Methodist Church

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

Friday July 17	5:30 PIZZA	6:00 MOVIE	RSVP BY NOON ON JULY 17

RSVP to [amy@highlandumc.org](mailto:amy@highlandumc.org)

## Service

**HSP: July 12-17**

High School Service Week in Wilmington

**City Servants: August 10-14**

Middle School Service Week in Raleigh



## Highland Youth Summer

### 2026

## Bible Study

— June 17 & 24 —

— July 22 & 29 —

— August 5 —

5 PM



## FUN

**King's Dominion: TBA**

8 AM-8 PM

**Traveling Game Night: July 26**

4-8 PM

Frankie's, bowling, trampoline park, & dinner

**Beach Day Trip: August 1**

8 AM-6 PM



Come by the church for  
**Milkshakes**

— June 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11 —

11:00 - 4:00



## YOUTH

JUL 12-17 2026



**HSP**  
High School

## SERVICE

**SIGN UP NOW!**

**City Servants**  
A week in Raleigh filled with service and activities



**Highland Service Project (HSP)**  
One week in Wilmington, NC working with WARM NC



## WEEKS

AUG 10-14 2026



**City Servants**  
Middle School



## TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES IN NC

A MESSAGE FROM THE MICAH 6:8 TEAM

The Budget and Tax Center in Raleigh warns that North Carolina is not generating enough tax revenue to meet its growing needs, even as the NC General Assembly continues to implement automatic tax cuts.

A decade of tax reductions for corporations and the wealthy has left the state lacking essential public funds.



**YOU'RE URGED TO CONTACT YOUR SENATOR TO DEMAND A PAUSE ON ALL SCHEDULED TAX CUTS AND PROTECT NC.**

Contact info for your state senator is available here.



**Community Victory Garden**

Saturdays, 9 AM

1,500 lbs of produce donated so far in 2026!



## GROW WITH US!



Our beautiful Victory Garden is in its 17th Growing Season!

We'd be delighted to have you join us on a garden workday! We're there every Saturday from 9-11 AM to tend to God's creation, enjoy each other's fellowship, and make a difference in our community.

We've donated over 1,500 pounds of produce to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle so far in 2026!

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through May 31, 2026

Thank you for your faithful generosity that supports Highland's ministries and mission.



**38.37%**  
BUDGET RECEIVED

of Annual Operating Budget



**39.38%**  
BUDGET SPENT

of Annual Expense Budget



**(\$15,172)**  
CURRENT DEFICIT

Expenses exceed revenue

2026 FINANCIAL SUMMARY	AMOUNT
Annual Operating Budget	\$1,506,281
Revenue Received (as of 5/31/26)	\$577,951
Revenue Goal Through May (42%)	\$632,638
YTD Expenses (as of 5/31/26)	\$593,123



As of May 31, Highland has received 38.37% of its annual operating budget and spent 39.38% of its annual expense budget. Revenue is currently **\$54,687** below the projected giving pace for this point in the year, while expenses exceed revenue by **\$15,172**.

*Your continued faithfulness makes a lasting impact on the ministries and mission of our church.*



## Questions about Finances?

Contact Finance Director,  
Deanna Clack:  
deanna@highlandumc.org or  
919-787-4240 ext 108



## Give Online



Your giving  
makes ministry  
happen!

# CHURCH FAMILY

## July Birthdays

07/01	Chet Mottershead	07/15	Mary Anderson	07/22	Jeanne Shorter, Marilyn Mudge, Carol Sexton
07/02	Karen Copeland, Megan Townsend, Gabriel Adamson	07/16	Joe Hall	07/23	Brady March
07/05	Kevin Quick	07/17	Beth Deaton, Owen Griffin, Cooper Griffin	07/24	Tuck Taylor
07/09	Linda Hutton	07/18	Bynum Driggers, Jim Stuart, Corrine Lusic	07/25	Lee Smither, Thien Tran Hot Lieng
07/10	Donna Wolcott, Olivia Knight	07/19	Wanda Easley	07/27	Fiona Lockett
07/11	Gay Brothers	07/20	Joe Haseman	07/28	Whitney White
07/12	Peter Capriglione, Lawson Cope	07/21	Emily Saunders, Meg Smither	07/29	Susan Hughes
07/13	Nancy Klein, John Eric Shutt			07/30	Mike Horn, Caleb Lear, Lynda Mottershead

## Please Remember In Prayer

Bill Babcock  
 Brady Beck  
 (Bev and Keith Beck's son)  
 Brenna Bennett  
 (Chet Mottershead's sister)  
 Henri Braun  
 Paul Braun  
 Mary Kathryn Brewer  
 Bart Bridges  
 (Betty Bridges' stepson)  
 Mark Brownie  
 (Cecil & Cavell Brownie's son)

Archie Clark  
 Vance Clayton  
 Bill Correll  
 Beth Deaton  
 Linda Edwards  
 Phyllis and Alex Edwards  
 Ben Franklin  
 Dennis Goodson  
 (Brenda Hudson's brother)  
 Judy Hagwood  
 Glenda Johnson

Richard Johnson  
 Hugh Liner  
 Jeanine Lueke  
 Georgie McKenzie  
 Mary McLeod  
 Linda Moran  
 Floyd Morgan  
 Brenda Murphy  
 (Joyce Hicks' sister)  
 Kenley Myers  
 Robin Pendleton

Billie Poole  
 Betsy Pridgen  
 John Robinson  
 Harriet Roland  
 Bill Shelton  
 Jeanne Shorter  
 John R. Shutt  
 Inabelle Sides  
 Janet Stuber  
 Conor and Sarah Mann Willcox



**We pray for families in the Raleigh community and beyond who are being deported by ICE.**



**We pray for peace, we pray for wisdom for world leaders, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, and we pray for all those impacted by war.**



**Please also remember in prayer those serving in our military:**

Erich Dix, James Noneman, Matthew Bawden, Ryan Shorter, Margarita Shorter, Gabriel Doub

# CHURCH FAMILY



Youth Pool Party • Last Day of School Ice Pops • John's Farewell Reception

Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

# CHURCH FAMILY



Youth Pool Party • The Highland Choir • Last Day of School Ice Pops  
John's Farewell Reception • Senior Sunday

 Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*



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### Pastoral Emergencies

During church office hours, please call the church office to contact one of our ministers. If you are unable to reach a pastor or if it is after hours, contact the Rev. Tuck Taylor at 919-787-4240 ext. 103 and leave your message (after July 9). She will contact you as soon as possible.

### Don't Fall Prey to Scams!

Highland staff will NEVER send you an email or text asking you to purchase gift cards on their behalf. These messages are from scammers impersonating people you know. Any such messages should be ignored and reported to the FTC.

## CONTACT US

Main number: 919-787-4240

Pastor: **Rev. Tuck Taylor**  
tuck@highlandumc.org | ext. 103

Minister of Discipleship: **Rev. Janet Baucom**  
janet@highlandumc.org | ext. 105

Minister of Music: **Rev. Kevin Quick**  
kevin@highlandumc.org | ext. 102

Director of Children's Ministry: **Amy Takahashi**  
amy@highlandumc.org | ext. 104

Director of Youth Ministries: **Neil Smith**  
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Director of Communications: **Stephenie Sanders**  
stephenie@highlandumc.org | ext. 122

Director of Finance: **Deanna Clack**  
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Facilities Manager: **Tom Lamb**  
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Office Administrator: **Karen Winters**  
karen@highlandumc.org | ext. 106