

Dear Friends,

May 15, 2010

I have just returned from a two-week spiritual pilgrimage to Israel, under the auspices of Columbia Theological Seminary. We were a group of twenty-six pastors from six denominations. The short version of the trip is that we spent a week in Galilee and a week in Jerusalem, but that does not begin to capture the experience. To stand on the Cliff of Arbel and look down on the Valley of Doves and see the path Jesus would have walked from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee, to see the headwaters of the Jordan River, the excavated city of Capernaum, the remains of a boat that traversed the Sea of Galilee 2000 years ago, to walk the Kidron Valley and grasp the proximity of Bethany to Jerusalem, to visit the site where Jesus was betrayed by Judas and condemned by Pontius Pilate, to visit the tomb where Jesus' body was laid: I am deeply grateful for this opportunity.

All of us in our group read several books in preparation for the trip. One includes this bit of a poem by Anglican priest and Welsh poet R. S. Thomas:

"The point of traveling is not  
to arrive but to return home  
laden with pollen you shall work up  
into honey the mind feeds on."

This is what I've done. I look forward to sharing the feast with you.

Grace and peace,

*Fairfax F. Fair*

#### ***PIE-N-THE-FACE fundraiser!***

Our profound thanks to all of you who contributed to this particular – and fun! – fundraiser! Because of your generosity, we raised \$1012 to help support our youth on their summer trips! And the person who received the pie-in-the-face (after worship on May 16) was **????** If interested in knowing the winner, call the church office!

#### ***Issues Class***

Please join us each Sunday morning at 9:30 in the dining room through May 23 (our last class until the Fall).

**May 23** – Ron Mazzoli will be our guest speaker.

#### ***Sacrament of Baptism***

On May 9, Dr. Fair baptized Levi Jameson Gay, born January 5, 2010 to Russell and Melissa Pahl Gay; and on May 16 she baptized Mollie Anne Rich, born November 29, 2009 to Patrick and Rebecca Mauney Rich.

#### ***Special Day of Worship***

Join us on Sunday, May 23, for a special day of worship. In the 9:00 service, children's Sunday school classes will help us lead the service and we will give our thanks for their teachers and learning from this school year. In the 11:00 service, the confirmation class will be presented, and we will join in celebrating these youth who are now joining HPC.

#### ***Recognition of our First Graders***

We want to recognize the learning you have done this year and offer you a special gift. Please come to worship on Sunday, May 23, at 9:30 to receive a Bible from your church.

#### ***Picnic in the Park***

EVERYONE is invited to join us on May 23 for our annual picnic in the park, meeting at Tyler Park just after worship around 12:15. Church members, friends, and families of all ages and sizes are invited. Bring a side to share, and we'll provide the hotdogs and drinks. If you want something different, bring it, and we'll throw it on the grill. Also, bring your balls, frisbees, scooters, dogs, etc. We'll get some folks together to play a game of pick-up kickball or soccer.

### ***Let's Help Our Neighbors***

Highland has agreed to stock Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church's food pantry in May. Bring non-perishable food – canned goods, tuna, peanut butter, pasta – and fill the bins in the Fellowship hall and the church entrances. Your help is greatly appreciated!

### ***Summer Schedule***

Our summer schedule – one worship service only at 10:30 a.m. – will begin on Sunday, May 30 (there will be no Sunday School classes on that day), and will continue through Sunday, September 5. Summer Sunday School begins on June 6, which means Sunday School for all from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

### ***Vacation Bible School***

Registration forms for Vacation Bible School – July 19-22, 9 a.m. to noon in the Walker-Nevin Building – are available. Children 3 years of age (potty-trained) through rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to attend. There will be a special drama portion for the older elementary children. We will seek treasures and discover together! If interested in volunteering, please contact [melissa.head@hpc-lou.org](mailto:melissa.head@hpc-lou.org).

### ***Update***

After the Session approved a reduced church budget for 2010, at our annual meeting it presented the congregation with the painful results: cuts in many programs and a two percent reduction in the pay of all church staff members except for the office staff, Ruth Chaffins and Marilyn Nelson. Their hours were reduced to make them part-time employees. A number of church members responded generously with one-time gifts or increased pledges. The stock market also improved enough to increase investment income. The added income allowed the Session to rescind some – but not all – of the budget cuts. At its April meeting, the Session voted to rescind the cuts to all church staff members except for ministers Fairfax Fair and Melissa Head, Music Director Frank Heller, and business manager Mike Smith. (The cuts remain in place for them.) At her request, church secretary Ruth Chaffins will move to a three-day work week. Marilyn Nelson will remain a full-time administrative assistant. If more revenue becomes available, the Session plans to review the budget again. Thank you for your continued support of Highland's ministries and mission.

### ***Chartering Service and Celebration***

You are cordially invited to attend Covenant Community Church's Chartering Service on Sunday, May 23, 5:00 p.m. at James Lees Presbyterian Church (1741 Frankfort Avenue). Rev. Liz Kaznak will be preaching, and a communion meal will follow.

### ***Art Exhibit featuring Betty Meadows***

Wayside Christian Mission will present an art exhibit by Rev. Betty Meadows, General Presbyter, Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. The opening reception will be Friday, June 4, 5 to 9 p.m. at Wayside Expressions Gallery Hotel Louisville (120 West Broadway). The Gallery will also be open on Sunday, June 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibition will be on display Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (or by appointment; call 836-7661) until June 25. For more information, call Randy Webber, Wayside Christian Mission: 836-7661 or 584-3711.