

From the Pastor's Desk...

The Strong Little Church--Smaller congregations outperform larger churches in seven of eight categories, an interview with Christian A. Schwarz, who began the Natural Church Development process.

Recent studies by researcher George Barna ...say **there's hope for the smaller congregation**, as the desire among younger people for authentic relationships becomes increasingly a factor in their selection of a church home. And many postmodern congregations eschew size as a factor in their sense of purpose or success.

Smaller churches do as well as larger churches in all key areas but one. That bodes well in the future for those in the shadow of mega-ministries. "Schwarz is bullish on smaller congregations". His research tells him that's where the action is.

"We're hearing increased use of the term "church health" by those who would have until recently talked about "church growth." What will health look like in the coming decade?

I see two things. First is an emphasis on pursuing quality, not as against quantity, but as the strategic root for quantity. Once you understand what it means to set qualitative goals, to pursue them, and to measure periodically whether you have reached these qualitative goals, this will have a tremendous effect.

"Second is a shift to the relevance of small churches. One of our most surprising discoveries is that...the bigger a church grows, the worse it becomes both in quality and in its capability to reach new people for Christ. In few ways is the bigger church a better church.

"Small churches outperform large churches in the percentage of people who practice their spiritual gifts to help their church grow. In churches with less than 100 in attendance, it's 31 percent. You can say that's not much. But if you compare that with churches of over 1,000 in attendance, which average only 17 percent, you see there is a decline in quality. In all areas except one, the quality decreases with the size of the church.

Looks like we need to concentrate on Highlands becoming a 'healthy church'. We don't need to rue the fact that we're not a 'big church'; no (!) just the other way about, we can be pleased that where (when) 'two or three are gathered in His name' we are the church he would have us be!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Marjorie

Roberta Knoth's Farewell Luncheon

Wednesday, September 24, @ 11:30 am

Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway SW

For your reservation, please contact Betty, 721-1691.

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Announcing:
'The Seven Ancient Councils' Class



- As the Christian church began to grow, she needed to understand and define the meaning of faith in Christ. Decisions were made that have determined how our faith been taught ever since.
- This 7 week course will explore the different questions the church fathers were asking and the answers they found.
- Sunday afternoons
 - 4:00 – 5:30
 - Pastor's Study
- Beginning Sept 7, 2008
- If you would like to attend mention it to Pastor Marjorie

We are praying for:

Family of Nicie Robinson
Will Tillmon's mother, Esther
Tim and Jeannie Hardin
Jim Patton (cancer)
Pete Kratochvil
Millie Whalen (in Florida)
Ken Kavanaugh (cancer)
Jim Patton (cancer)

Highlands is seeking an office worker who is 'computer literate'. The successful person will be available to work 4-6 hours weekly in the mornings at Highlands UMC.

Compensation is \$10/hour.

Please contact Rita Butler 256 852 8167.



Fund Raiser Meal on Sunday, September 14. following worship.

The Hospitality Committee will furnish the food. All donations will go toward our church insurance payment.

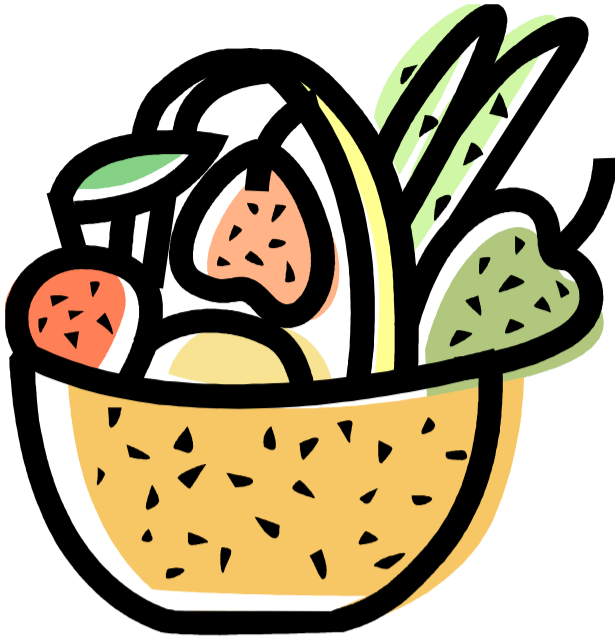


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

9/7/2008 - Kay Penland
9/9/2008 - Pat Simonin

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FOOD NEEDED!

Highlanders! We get phone calls every day from people in Huntsville looking for food! We are no longer stocking a pantry at Highlands, instead we have chosen to participate in the Huntsville Assistance Program. (HAP). It serves the Huntsville community with food and monetary help to ‘clients’ every month. These days HAP is seeing a much larger number of ‘clients’ and they have run out of food several times this past month!

Below is a list of the items that are needed. When you are out shopping if you could pick up a few of these items and bring them to Highlands our missions committee will see that they are taken to the HAP offices. Please respond with \$\$ or food!

FLOUR—2 POUNDS

SUGAR—2 POUNDS

COOKING OIL—SM

CEREAL

CAKE MIX

CAKE FROSTING

CORN BREAD MIX

CANNED VEGTABLES

CANNED POTATOES

CANNED MEATS—TUNA

CHICKEN; ROAST BEEF; HAM

CANNED RAVIOLI/ SPAGHETTI

PANCAKE SYRUP

FRUIT

SOUP —CANNED

SPAGHETTI NOODLES

SPAGHETTI SAUCE

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

BATH SOAP

DISH SOAP

TOILET PAPER

PAPER TOWELS

SHELF [LONG-LASTING]

MILK

POWDERED MILK

Highlands United Methodist Church
3921 Broadmor Road, NW
Huntsville, AL 35810
Phone: 256 859 0160

Our Website:

www.humchurch.org

(Click on this link to learn more about Highlands; to read and/or hear Pastor Marjorie’s sermons)

Pastor Marjorie E. Palmer

Cell Phone: 256 426 1567

Home Phone: 256 837 7978

Home Address: 98 Wood Creek Dr.
Madison, AL 35758

Office Hours: Mon—Wed; 9:30-11:30



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