

# TIDINGS

*Highlands Presbyterian Church*

October 2015

Greetings friends,

Football is back, it's getting dark before dinner and I've finally pulled the duvet down from the attic. All of this can mean only one thing – Fall is here! And along with fall, we are entering that time of the year during which we make our plans for the next church year. Before you know it, November will be here and with it, Advent, snowy nights and the promise of the holidays to follow. Before we get there, we have work to do to form our 2016 budget and to plan our financial resources for the year. So, once again, we enter stewardship season.



I've mentioned this in years past but it bears repeating: Many pastors I've encountered (and many Elders, for that matter) are squeamish about discussing money. In some ways, talking about tithing (which ultimately touches upon one's annual salary) touches on one of the last great taboos in our culture. I have never understood this taboo and I certainly don't mind talking about money. In fact, I love to talk about money! Imagine how a family would function if no one in the family was able to discuss the family finances! Our church family is no different. And if we honestly look to scripture to direct our lives, we find that Jesus was hardly squeamish when it came to discussing money – nor were the prophets. Money is essential to live and to our common ministry and there is no getting around that!

Stewardship within the church is about making choices, as individuals and in community, as much as it is about money. It is more than giving money to the church. Stewardship is about being faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us. Stewardship is not just one part of Christian discipleship; it involves every aspect of life in all the stages of life.

Stewardship is the grateful response to God's grace and goodness. It requires a consideration of how our choices affect us and others, of how we can be good caretakers of the created world, and of how we can best serve God as disciples of Christ.

I hope you will join me this month in casting aside this taboo and in engaging in a serious and honest conversation about Stewardship and the choices we make as a congregation. As we huddle down in our warm sanctuary and we contemplate all of the ways that God has been good to us, let us prayerfully and truthfully consider how God calls us all to give.

Grace be with you all,

Greg

The Tidings is a monthly publication of the Highlands Presbyterian Church. Articles for inclusion should be submitted to Beth Tracy at [highlandspresbyterianchurch@comcast.net](mailto:highlandspresbyterianchurch@comcast.net) by October 22nd for the November 2015 Tidings which will be published October 25th.

1902 W. 59TH STREET LAGRANGE, IL 60525 708.246.1911  
HIGHLANDSPRESCHURCH.ORG

### A Thank You from the Bride & Groom Families

Dear Friends,  
The Reihsmann and Fattaleh families thank you for your love and support of us and our children. We were moved that so many of you joined us for Katy and James's wedding on Sept. 5th. It was the most overwhelming feeling to walk into a place that feels like home and see it filled with family and friends you love.

In every respect, HPC offered its very best in terms of appearance and friendliness and a beautiful, meaningful ceremony.

We wish you all could have heard the compliments and praise that we received on your behalf. Our special thanks to Pastor Greg, Perry Johnson and Tom Kohrs whose contributions made the day unforgettable, and to John and Margaret Rhine for making certain everthing was back in order for worship on Sunday.

Lovingly yours,  
Laura and Mike



### Jean Spencer Turns 90!

On September 13th, the Women's Association hosted a special coffee hour in celebration of Jean Spencer's 90th birthday. We were also honoring her for many years of dedicated service to the church, Women's Association and to the choir.

Thank you, Jean, and here is to many more!

Thanks to Jean Wass for the pictures of the event located on this page.

### Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

The kids are back to school and your job is less demanding, so what better way to spend those extra minutes that are now free than by hosting coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. It can be simple or extravagant but always appreciated by all. If you have an extra Sunday in your schedule to help, please place your name on the sign-up sheet located outside the Lounge on the bulletin boards.



### Jean Spencer's 90th Birthday Celebration



### Important Dates to Remember

Oct. 4: Worship with Communion, Sanctuary, 10AM  
 Oct. 6: Circle Meeting, Jean Wass's house, 11:30AM  
 Oct. 11: Worship, Sanctuary, 10AM  
 SPUD ticket sales, FH, after service  
 Deacons meeting, Lounge, after service  
 Oct. 13: Reach, Grow, Send Ministry meeting, FH, 7:00PM  
 Oct. 18: Worship, Sanctuary, 10AM  
 SPUD ticket sales, FH, after service  
 Crop Walk  
 Oct. 22: Tidings articles due  
 Oct. 25: Worship and UNICEF collection, Sanctuary, 10AM  
 SPUD lunch, FH, after service  
 Oct. 27: Session, Lounge, 7PM

More events can be found on our calendar on our website:  
[highlandspreschurch.org](http://highlandspreschurch.org)

### Circle Meeting

The next Circle Meeting will be October 6th at Jean Wass's house for an 11:30AM luncheon. We will begin our New Horizon Bible study program entitled "Come to the Waters." Please let Jean know if you are able to attend the luncheon and the meeting afterwards.

Jean Wass  
 684 Cadillac Circle  
 Romeoville  
 815.609.9652

### Celebrations for October

#### Birthday Celebrations

Tom Collins	7
Avery Livingston	10
Joseph Tegtmeier	17
Robert Henry	22
Katy Reihsmann	27
Margaret Rhine	28
Reagan Credit	30

#### Anniversaries Celebrations

Debbie and Gary Wibracht	10
Nancy and Steve Heinzelman	16
Mary Susan and Rick Fritz	26



### Hello from Wisconsin

On a quick trip to Wisconsin, Laura and Mike Reihsmann had the chance to visit HPC's longtime friend, Janette Cowley. The Reihsmanns found Janette to be healthy, happy and always amazing! We miss you, Janette.



### Volunteer Opportunity

**Chicago Food Depository Volunteer Day**  
 Join us on Saturday, October 31, for a volunteer day at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:15AM and carpool there. We will work from 9:30 – 11:30.

A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall if you're interested.



### Garden Harvest

On one of the exquisite late summer days, children from the Grand Avenue Preschool were invited to help harvest vegetables from our HPC community garden. Little hands nimbly picked cherry tomatoes--not the green ones, please, spied and picked green beans among the foliage, and ones they could not reach they were handed and placed in baskets. They put on gloves and excitedly rooted in the dirt to discover potatoes (as well as earthworms). Even a few remaining cucumbers were a part of the garden treasure hunt.



### Church World Service School Kits

A big thank-you to all who donated items during our school supply drive. We collected enough supplies to complete over 70 bags. The bags will be assembled by the Highlands Middle School students during their service day this spring. If you would like to help with the sewing of the school bags, or make a monetary donation for shipping, please talk to Betty Tompkin or Kathy Bloom. Once completed, the bags will be sent to children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings.

Thank you!  
Reach, Grow, Send Team



### Prayers for the People

#### Prayers

Please pray for those members who are in the hospital:  
John Schroeder

Please pray for those who are recovering from surgery:  
Amelia Lorenz

Please pray for those members who are home-bound:  
Janette Cowley (Wisconsin), George Phillip (Wisconsin), Elizabeth Rohloff (Georgia), Jean Spencer, Kirby Wilson

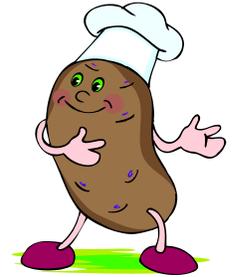
Please pray for our missionaries:  
Mark and Jenny Hare in Haiti

Please pray for those members who serve:  
Ernie Edenbeck

Please pray for District 106, specifically:  
Students and staff safety and well-being  
Students who are experiencing a difficult transition in their lives and for the teachers who support them

Students in "Friendship Club" and their mentors  
For individuals and families who live near our schools and interact with our students, especially individuals with mental or psychological needs

11th Annual  
Spud Lunch  
October 25th, after church



The Spud Lunch is a baked potato topped with any topping:

Sour Cream, Chili, Chives, Butter, Broccoli Sauce, Bacon Bits

Plus, a salad, dessert and beverage

Tickets are \$7 per person or \$8 for Carry-Out  
\$3 for children under 12 years of age  
Maximum cost per family is \$20

**You'll get a super lunch and have some fun and fellowship!**

Lunch will be served immediately following the 10AM service

Tickets on sale October 11th and 18th after Church  
Or call the church office, 708.246.1911  
Carry-outs will be available with prior reservation