

**The Bridge at Highland Celebrates the National Day of Prayer  
May 3, 2012**

**Welcome and Introductions:** .....*Susan Conner, Director of Admissions and Karl Eck, Administrator*

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

**1<sup>st</sup> President of The United States, George Washington Proclamation for a National Day of Prayer**

The Honorable the Congress having recommended it to the United States to set apart Thursday the 6th of May next to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, to acknowledge the gracious interpositions of Providence; to deprecate [to pray or intreat that a present evil may be removed] deserved punishment for our Sins and Ingratitude, to unitedly implore the Protection of Heaven; Success to our Arms and the Arms of our Ally: The Commander in Chief enjoins a religious observance of said day and directs the Chaplains to prepare discourses proper for the occasion; strictly forbidding all recreations and unnecessary labor." —George Washington, First President of the United States

**44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Barak Husain Obama Proclamation for a National Day of Prayer**

Prayer has always been a part of the American story, and today countless Americans rely on prayer for comfort, direction, and strength, praying not only for themselves, but for their communities, their country, and the world.

On this National Day of Prayer, we give thanks for our democracy that respects the beliefs and protects the religious freedom of all people to pray, worship, or abstain according to the dictates of their conscience. Let us pray for all the citizens of our great Nation, particularly those who are sick, mourning, or without hope, and ask God for the sustenance to meet the challenges we face as a Nation. May we embrace the responsibility we have to each other, and rely on the better angels of our nature in service to one another. Let us be humble in our convictions, and courageous in our virtue. Let us pray for those who are suffering around the world, and let us be open to opportunities to ease that suffering.

Let us also pay tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces who have answered our country's call to serve with honor in the pursuit of peace. Our grateful Nation is humbled by the sacrifices made to protect and defend our security and freedom. Let us pray for the continued strength and safety of our service members and their families. While we pause to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending liberty, let us remember and lend our voices to the principles for which they fought -- unity, human dignity, and the pursuit of justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2012, as a National Day of Prayer. I invite all citizens of our Nation, as their own faith directs them, to join me in giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy, and I call upon individuals of all faiths to pray for guidance, grace, and protection for our great Nation as we address the challenges of our time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

**The Bridge at Highland Prayer Journal:** .....*Luci Schutz, Restorative Coordinator*

**Introduction of Special Music:** *Celeste Hurt, Human Resources Director*

These words of this song come from W. W. Walford, the blind preacher, a man of obscure birth and connections and no education, but of strong mind and most retentive memory. In the pulpit he never failed to select a lesson well adapted to his subject, giving chapter and verse with unerring precision and scarcely ever misplacing a word in his repetition of the Psalms, every part of the New Testament, the prophecies, and some of the histories, so as to have the reputation of "knowing the whole Bible by heart." At intervals he attempted poetry. On one occasion, for composer William B. Bradbury, who was paying him a visit, he repeated two or three pieces which he had composed, and having no friend at home to commit them to paper, he had laid them up in the storehouse within. "How will this do?" he asked, as he repeated the following lines, with a complacent smile touched with some light lines of fear lest he subject himself to criticism. With pencil and paper William copied them down and so have they been through the centuries for our use today; Sweet Hour of Prayer. Words: William Walford, 1845. Music, *Sweet Hour*: William B. Bradbury 1861

**Music Special – “Sweet Hour of Prayer” ..Nancy Goodwin, Resident Family Member; Michael Bushey, Chaplain**

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father’s throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief  
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him whose truth and faithfulness  
Engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since He bids me seek His face,  
Believe His Word and trust His grace,  
I’ll cast on Him my every care,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
May I thy consolation share,  
Till, from Mount Pisgah’s lofty height,  
I view my home and take my flight:  
In my immortal flesh I rise  
To seize the everlasting prize;  
And shout, while passing through the air,  
“Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!”

**Season of Prayer:**

- Prayer for Residents: Chaplain**..... *Robert Goodwin (Resident), Retired Chaplain of Washington Adventist Hospital, Tacoma Park, MD*
- Prayer for Resident family and friend**:.....*Jean Frankie (Resident), Retired Chaplain of The Salvation Army, Colorado Springs, CO*
- Prayer for The Bridge at Highland Stakeholders and over prayer journal**:..... *Teresa Butts, MDS Coordinator*
- Pray for Signature/Serenity HealthCARE / SHC Construction / SHC Furniture**:..... *Okie Ellinger, minister of the Church of God*
- Prayer for Highland Academy and Grade School Campus**:..... *John Watkins, associate pastor of Highland Seventh-day Adventist Church*
- Prayer for our City of Portland**:..... *Ricky Morris, pastor of Living Free Fellowship in Portland, TN*
- Prayer for State of TN**:..... *Rich Cook, pastor of Portland Church of The Nazarene*
- Prayer for Our Nation**:..... *Mike Callis, pastor of Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, Portland, TN*
- Pray for Our World**:..... *Robert Gilman, pastor of Mt. Pleasant General Baptist Church, Cottontown, TN*

**Final Words and Closing Prayer**:..... *Michael Bushey, The Bridge at Highland Chaplain*  
Release Balloons on “all God’s people said, Amen”.

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