

Mission Statement: To Love and to Lead
The Mission of Heritage United Methodist Church is to
Love God and people passionately and to **Lead** people
 into a passionate relationship with Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY!

8:05 AM
Awakening Service

9:30 AM
Traditional Service

11:00 AM
Contemporary Worship

Nursery provided for all services.

Sunday School for All Ages
 9:30 & 11:00 AM

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| Heritage United Methodist Church 1604 East Pointer Trail Van Buren, AR 72956-2326 | Periodical Postage Paid At Van Buren, Arkansas 72956 Permit 24448 |
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Heritage Happenings is published weekly

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Heritage Happenings

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FROM YOUR PASTOR'S HEART ...
THE STATE OF HERITAGE CHURCH ... AND LOOKING AHEAD

I don't have all the figures yet, but in my book, 2013 has been our best year ever at Heritage! We've led more people to Christ, had more baptisms and professions of faith and have had more people join Heritage than in any other year. Our worship attendance on our campus is higher than it has ever been; but more importantly to me, the atmosphere of love, joy, and peace among us is growing deeper and deeper. I truly see our church family maturing in the things that really matter!

We are pursuing the vision God gave us to **become the church of God's dream with 1) teaching that's life changing, 2) fellowship that goes well below the surface, 3) love that is like Christ's, 4) faith that prays for and expects miracles, 5) sharing and serving that's extravagant, 6) worship that is joyful, reverent and engaging, and 7) team that seeks and saves the "lost"!**

We are daily focused on our mission **to love God and people passionately and to lead people into a passionate relationship with Jesus Christ.** And we are embodying our **core values** more and more: loving, leading, laughing, learning, lasting, and leaving a legacy!

We continue to passionately pursue true **Biblical revival** – that is, God manifesting His presence objectively among His people so that changed lives of believers results in **spiritual awakening** city-wide among nominal and non-believers.

We have several exciting outreaches and opportunities for spiritual growth planned for 2014. Read the ministry plans of the Heritage staff in this edition of the Heritage Happenings; however, **I want to ask every Heritage member to commit to doing one thing: Lead, at least, one person to faith in Jesus Christ and to become a part of the Heritage family -- Each One Reach One!** If we can pray and work toward this goal, we will be running over 1000 in attendance by the end of the year! We had over 870 December 15th ...



Christmas Eve we had over 900! Each number is a person of inestimable worth to God! 2014 is going to be a year of God's Glory! I've never been more excited!

Anticipating the miracles to be seen in 2014!

Pastor Wes

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

In Hospital:
Donna Pape (Mercy)
John Luckaw (Sparks)

At Home:
Margene Bules, Jim and Gerlinda Dibble, Jeanette Elkins, Myron Kirksey, Jeri Nash, Margaret Pugh, Linda Seubold

All Military Personnel all around the world

Assisted Living:
Billie Jacks (Alma Health Care)
Mary Coble (Crawford H & R)
Lena Mae Smith (Crawford H & R)
Jean Stratton (Crawford H & R)
Maxine Fahrner (Ashton Place)

January Volunteers

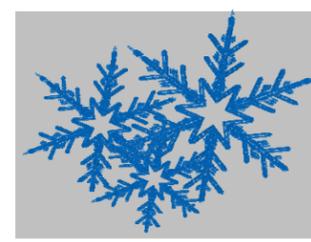
| <u>Ushers</u> | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 8:05 am | 9:30 am | 11:00 am |
| John Poole | Wayne Stewart | Wayne Stewart |
| Benton Cone | Connie Mendenhall | Connie Mendenhall |
| Bill Ottinger | Mark Stafford | Mark Stafford |
| Rick Moore | Mark Evans | Mark Evans |

| <u>Greeters</u> |
|--------------------------------|
| 8:05 am: |
| Alexis and Michael Boster |
| Buster Colbert |
| 9:30 am: |
| Carolyn Loyd and Margo Symonds |
| Mark Wilkerson and Anita Dowty |
| 11:00 am: |
| Judy Bowen |
| Kelly Nash |

Upcoming Events

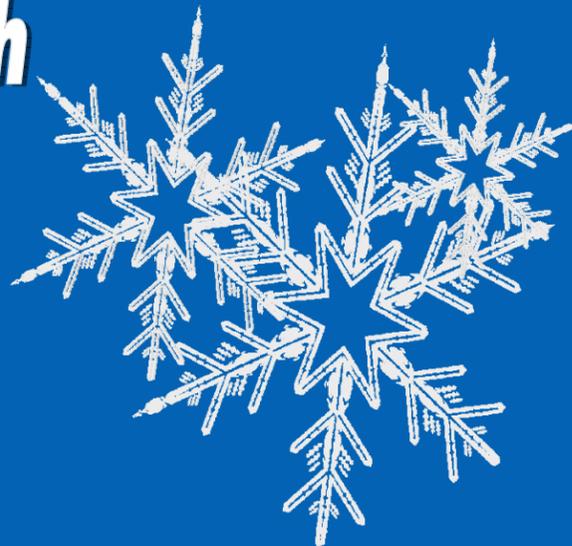
Friday, February 28 ~ Saturday, March 1:
 RUBIES' WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
January 19-21:
 REVIVAL
 WITH RICK BONFIM



P.S. I believe the LORD is calling our congregation to another **21-day fast** to start the New Year. I invite you to join us in fasting and praying as the LORD leads you from January 1-21. We have fasting brochures available in the great hall and on our website that explain types of Biblical fasts and how to fast ... along with suggested scripture readings and prayer focuses.

Becoming the Church of God's Dream... Visions for 2014



Blessings in 2014

I am blessed! And as a congregation, Heritage is blessed! How do I know? In a time when many—if not most—congregations are declining, Heritage is continuing to grow; we have added over 100 new members and MANY new regular attenders. In a time when many congregations have few professions of faith—some congregations go years without a single profession of faith, we have had sixty-two. In a time when many churches struggle to make budget, we have had surplus. The list goes on and on. I am also blessed personally and professionally. I get to come to work every day and not worry. I don't have to decide which bills to pay. I have the freedom to say "Yes" when someone asks for ministry resources. I have the freedom to spend time in prayer then step out in faith when an opportunity arises to be the hands and feet of Jesus; we spent \$20,000 for Christmas Eve and I never had one second of worry. Personally, I have a beautiful wife who stands by me even when logic says she shouldn't. My children serve the Lord, they have chosen their mates well, and our next generation is on the way. I not only get to spend time with my parents, but I get to serve the Lord beside them. I could write pages just describing my blessings but I won't bore you.

Why am I and why are we blessed? I believe it is because, like Abraham, we have obeyed the voice of the Lord (check out Genesis 22). And before we boast, I also believe that a large portion of our blessing is because our forefathers listened to the Lord. After all, Abraham's promise was that his offspring would bless the world. How many congregations can say they started from a merger? Unfortunately, many congregations today are started from a squabble. I watched my kids, my nieces, and my nephews all working together with my aunts, my uncles, and my cousins at the reception Sunday. It took me back to my grandparents farm and the annual corn harvest. I was struck by how our work and attitude was a testament to my parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. No one was standing around, no one was barking orders, and everyone was serving one another. We were blessed accordingly!

I sense that 2014 will be a year where our generational blessings multiply. Jim Collins in "Good to Great" describes the flywheel effect where doing the right things continually feeds the organization's momentum. Slowly, that heavy flywheel picks up speed until it has a power that is difficult to stop. I believe the flywheel at Heritage is picking up speed. I hesitate to predict the details of 2014. We gave away over \$91,000 in food, clothing, and other benevolence in 2013; I think we will exceed that in 2014. We received 62 professions of faith in 2013; I expect more in 2014. We saw people healed physically, emotionally, and spiritually in 2013; I know we will see more in 2014. In the immortal



words of Forest Gump, "I'm not a smart man." But, I know that as we are good and faithful servants, as we are faithful with a few things, He will give us many more responsibilities (Matthew 25:23) and we will share in His happiness. I got to share in a small part of His happiness Christmas Eve and it was amazing! I can't wait for more!

Roger Goins, Director of Ministries

The following letter was sent to Pastor Wes a couple of Sunday's ago from a couple who worshipped with us.

Wes,

I wanted to let you know how much my husband and I enjoyed visiting Heritage yesterday. We are currently members of another church but I have been wanting to visit for some time.

My husband mentioned how impressed he was with the welcome we received. A gentleman approached him during the greeting time and introduced himself, brought another member to introduce and then made sure to find us after the service and mention your welcome center. Very impressive!

I wanted to share this with you just to say thank you. We have said all along that everyone in our congregation is part of the welcome team. This letter shows that we, as a congregation, fully understand the importance of our role in building the kingdom of God. I know we will continue with the same loving heart in the 2014. Welcome Ministries will be on the move once again in the upcoming year. We are in the planning stages of developing an eight page color mini magazine that will highlight Heritage. Once completed and printed you will be able to find them in the welcome center and will be a great tool to pass out to a first time guest or friend that is interested in coming for a visit. We will be having more new comers gatherings, new life groups will be starting up, and I am sure we will be involved in a big event or two.....anything to help the body grow in a healthy spirit. Keep watch in your newsletter for further details. I pray many blessings to all of you in the New Year.



Becki Kneeland, Newcomers' Minister

Many exciting things are planned for Worship Arts in this coming year!

In January, we will be welcome James Bentley to our staff. James will be serving as an intern, providing leadership to our Technical Team. He is coming from Kingsway Fellowship in Liverpool, England. He received his formal training at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts and will bring with him a wealth of experience and expertise

For those who would like to host a PASSOVER SEDER in their homes, we will be offering training and the tools you need to experience this wonderful tradition in a more intimate setting. There is no better way to prepare our hearts for a glorious Resurrection Sunday service!

2014 will be a "dramatic" year. In April, we are partnering with Alma High School by bringing an exhibition from the Anne Frank Center in New York, to Mr. Terry McGonigle's production of *And Then They Came for Me*. This play, along with Heritage Worship Arts presentation of *Korczak's Children* will underscore a month of remembrance and teaching about the Holocaust for our schools and communities.

In June, Louann and I will be hosting a tour to Israel! You don't want to miss this experience of a lifetime! We are very excited to introduce you our Biblical Homeland!

Throughout the summer, we are hoping to be in full rehearsals for *The Feast of Tabernacles*. This year, we would like to bring *The Covenant* to the River Valley-this is a powerful musical drama which I produced for 6 years. My family and I toured with the production in Israel, Europe, Canada, and the USA. You will want to be a part of this fantastic outreach opportunity!

Most importantly, our priority remains "throne room worship". Since we are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6),when we gather to worship, we are already present in the throne room. As worshippers on earth, *we are joining with this multitude in the heavens and together we are worshipping before our King*. If the worship team, choir and a congregation see themselves worshipping before the throne and beholding their King, worship takes on a whole new dimension. It is deepened. It is more heart felt. It is more passionate. It releases more of the presence and power of God.



I'm so thankful that the Lord called Louann and I to serve in a church where our tradition allows the freedom for the Holy Spirit to move, and the freedom to express our worship to the Lord in multiple and creative ways!

Chuck King, Worship Arts Minister

Children's Ministry in 2014

The major goal of Children's Ministry is to provide discipleship opportunities for children. The Children's Ministry staff and volunteers strive to provide excellent programming opportunities for you; the parents. We are not a baby sitting service, we are intentional in the opportunities we provide for your children; infants through 5th grade.

Children are our *'heritage'*! They are blessings from the Lord. All of us parents want the best for our children; non of us are perfect parents! Most of us struggle with making tough decisions and sticking to them every day. It is hard and it is tiring! But it is an assignment given to us by God, one that transforms us as we "train our children in the way they should go".

I have raised 4 children to adulthood! Not every day was fun or blessed; some were downright tragic, but I would not trade any memory I have. If I could go back, would I make some changes? ABSOLUTELY! But the huge lesson in all these years-God changed me, He transformed me, he used every event in my parenting years to draw me closer to Him-because the truth is we can not do this right without Him!

I pray that you will seek out opportunities to disciple your child at Heritage in 2014. We have the BEST volunteers around! When you look back over this year-you will see that God is working on you as well as your precious child!



So very blessed to serve at Heritage,
Debbie Marsh, Children's Minister

Missions & Outreach

As I reflect on what I see for our middle school ministry, I also envision our church as a whole being and doing as the bible commands. It's not only about coming to church every Sunday and Wednesday, but stretching our comfort zone. It's about getting out of the four walls and into loving people outside our church. Mark 16:17 says "miraculous signs will accompany those who believe". So if we DO get out of the church and we DO believe then He will perform miracles through us, changing the lives of those around us. Mark 16:20 states that the disciples went everywhere and preached and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs. Jesus is speaking the same words to us that He spoke to the disciples... it applies to US too! We can go in confidence that He will do what He says



He's going to do. So, let's get out as a church, whether it's a local outreach right here in Van Buren or on a mission trip overseas and be the hands and feet of Jesus. Let's walk in confidence, knowing that wherever we go, The Holy Spirit is there, ready to perform miracles for those who believe, drawing others to Jesus.

Bob Odiorne, Missions and Outreach Minister

I am blessed! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of such a tremendous staff and church. God is increasing my passion for Him and this phrase continues to drive me and the heart of the student ministries at Heritage: ARE YOU ALL IN?! A relationship with God was never meant to be a one time visit each week. It is about a daily walk and pursuit of God's love. It is about being "ALL IN" in every area of life. My personal goal this year is to increase my time in His Word, my time on my knees before Him and to continue to increase my presence within the community. This same passion will be true at Pulse Student Ministries: to grow in the knowledge of His Word, have meaningful times to respond to His Word through prayer and to take His Word to the community. Our Sunday Night teaching for Pulse will be "Crash Test Dummies". We will be looking at stories throughout the Bible where others failed so we can learn from

those mistakes without failing ourselves. I am extremely excited about our spring break venture to New York and our summer mission trip to South Dakota. Finally, be ready as our MYSTERY Dinner/Game is planned for February 6th, 7th, and 8th. Much more is in store for our youth, but for all at Heritage! Will you be "ALL IN?"



Brian Seewald, Youth Minister

From the Beat...

More than anything I want to see these kids, our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, "Get It"!!! I want them to understand that they are not too young for God to move in them and through them. I've had many people come to me and say they will pray for me and my leaders because we have the "middle schoolers". I see this as a great positive! I see them at the perfect age to teach them and help them know to know and understand their identity now before the world grabs ahold of them. They are at a crucial decision making time in their lives and it's our job to make sure they have the training to make the right choice. In the new year we will be teaching on The Sermon on the Mount. Here, Jesus teaches us how we should be living, like Him. Can we live just like Him and be perfect? No, but He calls us to seek after Him with our whole heart, do what He says and not only will He bless us, He will change our lives forever. This is what I want for The Beat. I want to teach them the Word and then give them opportunities to put it into practice. I want to show them that it's more than just coming on Sundays and/or Wednesdays and then shutting Him off the rest of the week. It's living it all the time... at home, in school, on the field, and everywhere they go. Even at this young age, God wants to and will use these kids to change the lives of other people. How do I know this? One, because scripture says so and two, I've already seen it time and time again!!



Bob Odiorne, Middle School Minister

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1/7: Preschool Resumes
- 1/13: GriefShare begins
- 1/12: Newcomer's Reception
- 1/12: TT Teacher's Meetings Resume
- 1/13: Women's Bible Study
- 1/15: Wednesday Night Activities Resume
- 1/19: Revival with Rick Bonfim
- 1/20: Revival with Rick Bonfim
- 1/21: Revival with Rick Bonfim
- 2/28: Rubies' Women Conference
- 3/1: Rubies' Women Conference



The Yoido Full Gospel Church was founded by Pastor David Yonggi Cho and his mother-in-law, Choi Ja-shil on May 15, 1958. Apart from the two pastors, only Choi Ja-shil's three daughters (one of whom later married David Yonggi Cho) and one elderly woman, who had come in to escape from the rain, attended the first service. From such humble beginnings the Full Gospel Church, located in the city of Seoul, Korea, has grown to be the largest congregation in the world with over one million members and an average attendance of 800,000 weekly.

At the beginning of my ministry I read everything that was written about Yonggi Cho and the Central Church. I wanted to learn the secret of their success. All new members are urged to become involved in a personal ministry of their own choosing. As they feel led of the Lord into a ministry they are urged to seek others with heart for the same ministry. These people who feel led into common ministry form the life groups of the church. Ministry is the secret of their growth.

As Congregational Care/Lay Ministry Pastor at Heritage my major thrust for 2014 will be encouraging all of you to seek the leading of the Lord into ministry. Hardly a day passes that we do not discover opportunities for ministry in both our congregation and our greater community. Will you join us in praying for such opportunities to open which will enable you to find the ministry that God has prepared you to accomplish.

An ever growing problem in our society is loneliness. As our population ages there are more lonely people. Lonely people need opportunities to have fellowship and interaction with others. We can relieve their loneliness through telephone calls, visits, invitations to go shopping together and more.

At the same time society has this growing need, it also has a growing number of people who are retiring earlier than in previous generations. These early retirees are still healthy and vigorous and have time on their hands. Some time ago I read that following retirement it takes from one year to eighteen months for the retiree to grow tired of golf, fishing every day or even sailing around the world.

People often go back to work, not because they need the money, but to fill the available time slots in life.



Our goal for the coming year is to help you fill the times slots of your life with ministry. Are you interested?

Max Goins, Congregational Care/Lay Ministry Pastor