

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.

Heritage Happenings is published weekly
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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

Heritage United Methodist Church
 1604 East Pointer Trail
 Van Buren, AR 72956-2326

Periodical
 Postage
 Paid
 At Van Buren,
 Arkansas 72956
 Permit 24448



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

In Hospital:
Linda Seubold (UAMS)

At Home:
Margene Bules, Gerlinda Dibble, Roy and Fae Dyer, Jeanette Elkins, Smokey McPhail, Jeri Nash

All Military Personnel all around the world

Nursing Home:
Jean Stratton (Legacy Lodge)

Assisted Living:
Billie Jacks (Alma Health Care)
Maxine Fahrner (Hope's Creek)
Mattie Lindsey (Alma H & R)
Mary Coble (Crawford H & R)
Mary Friday (Crawford H & R)
Lena Mae Smith (Crawford H & R)
Elmo Evans (Pointer Trail H & R)

January Volunteers

Ushers

8:05 am John Poole Cyndy Rogers Jane Sanders Rick Sanders	9:30 am Wayne Stewart Connie Mendenhall Mark Stafford Mark Evans Jerry Frederiksen	11:00 am Eddie Prince Danny Chisolm Matt Oliver Russ Aikman Jon Talley
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Greeters

8:05 am:
Alexis and Michael Boster
Buster Colbert

9:30 am:
Cindy and Dennis Rice
Brenda and Jerry Frederiksen

11:00 am:
Malia Putman
Kelly Nash

Upcoming Events

January 6:
 SIGN-UPS BEGUN FOR
 HERITAGE UNIVERSITY CLASSES

January 16:
 REGULAR WEDNESDAY
 ACTIVITIES RESUME

Have an Announcement for the Bulletin or Newsletter? Email it to office@heritagevb.org.

Heritage Happenings

Heritage Happenings (USPS Periodical Permit 24448) is published weekly (except Christmas) by Heritage United Methodist Church, 1604 Pointer Trail, Van Buren AR 72956-2326. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Heritage United Methodist Church, 1604 Pointer Trail, Van Buren, AR 72956-2326 PH 479-474-6424

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EDITION
2013 COMMUNITY CALL TO FASTING AND PRAYER!



There are many area pastors feeling led to call the entire Christian community in our area to a season of fasting and prayer to start this year. We believe God is calling us to pray for a great revival of the Church and spiritual awakening among the lost. We are praying for a sovereign visitation from Almighty God!

The Bible says *One will put a 1000 to flight and two will put 10,000 to flight!* (Deuteronomy 32:30). Let us unite together in praying and watching the LORD move mightily. We believe God is going to answer with the fire of His power and love! We believe through this that the LORD is going to save people whom others have given up on. We believe the power of addiction will be broken and captives set free. We believe people are going to be healed. We believe that Christians are going to be equipped to share the power and love of Jesus with others like never before.

Will you join me in fasting and praying for 21 days from January 6th-27th? You may fast in whatever way you want, for example, a water only fast, or juice only fast, or Daniel fast (no sweets or meats), or one day a week fast, or a meal a day fast, or media fast, etc. ...

Fasting sharpens your spiritual edge. It puts you in a place of voluntary weakness and in a place of heightened sensitivity to the LORD. This world desperately needs to see God's people revived so a great spiritual awakening will occur. Let it start here in the River Valley.

We will have a community-wide prayer gathering each Monday evening from 7-8 p.m.

January 7th: King Opera House, Van Buren
 January 14th: Riverfront Pavilion, 170 N B St, Fort Smith
 January 21st: Alma High School Student Union

The Heritage sanctuary will be open for prayer (as always) during this time. We invite you to join us for prayer. Special prayer times include Tuesday morning men's group, 6:15-7:15; Thursday, noon-1 p.m.; Women's prayer group, Friday 9-10 a.m.

There are a lot of great things that each of us could or maybe have already planned for the New Year, but, we ask you to consider putting those things on hold, and prioritize uniting with us in this call to fasting and prayer.

Let's humble ourselves together, go before the Lord, and make our requests known. Together, let's ask the Lord, "Please, Father, do a mighty work of salvation, deliverance, equipping, and empowering in this city."

It is going to be an amazing year in the Kingdom of God in this River Valley!
Pastor Wes

2013- A YEAR FOR FAITH-IN ACTION



It would be very easy to approach 2013 with fear and trepidation. As a matter of fact, many of our friends and neighbors will. With school shootings, mall shootings, a crashing economy, and fear-mongering political pundits, it is very easy to become fearful. We have even invented a term (and created a "reality" show) for the most extreme fear-driven members of our society, Doomsday Preppers.

While the world around us may be fearful, I believe that Heritage United Methodist Church will be a beacon of FAITH in 2013. My Bible is filled with exhortations against fear; *God did not give us a spirit of fear* (2 Tim 1:7), *Do not worry about your life* (Mt 6:25), *Don't worry about anything* (Phil 4:6), *Who by worrying can add a single hour to his life* (Mt 6:27), *The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do to me* (Heb 13:6), and my favorite: *Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil* (Ps 23:4). As our society has moved away from GOD, fear has risen exponentially.

I believe that Heritage will rise to the challenge laid before us this next year. As we trust the Lord and step out in faith, we will be a beacon of hope and light to a fearful world. I believe that we will feed and clothe more people than we ever have; that we will attack the spirit of poverty that grips so much of our community. I believe that through Heritage, the Lord will deliver many of our friends and neighbors from addictions. I believe that as we faithfully teach our adults, youth, and children; He will make disciples. I believe our giving will skyrocket as we learn to trust Him. These increased resources will allow us to do much more ministry in Van Buren, in the River Valley, and around the world!

How will this happen? **First** and foremost, we will each individually~and collectively~humble ourselves, and PRAY, and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways; then He will forgive our sin, and will heal our land (2 Chron 7:14). We will be very intentional in developing prayer throughout our congregation and the community. **Second**, we will publically live our faith. It's just basic human nature to follow the confident. Who wouldn't follow a David who confidently says, "My God delivered me from the lion and bear and will deliver me from Goliath"? **Third**, we will go OUT. Let's face it, we are in a war and we must think like warriors. Warriors know that when you are ambushed, you must immediately face the enemy and assault through the ambush. If you hunker down in the kill zone, you will die. General Patton said, "*My men don't dig foxholes. I don't want them to. Foxholes only slow up an offensive. Keep moving. And don't give the enemy time to dig one either.*" Jesus said the very Gates of Hell could not prevail against His Church. We are that church and it is time to attack those gates!

I am looking forward to 2013 with great expectations and with hope! As President Snow so aptly said in Hunger Games, "Hope, it is the only thing stronger than fear." Our hope is not in a holster! It's not in personal safety or in our economy or even in job security, our Hope is Jesus Christ!

In HIS Service,
Roger Goins, Director of Ministries

NURSERY NEWS



In the Heritage Children's Ministry we love to watch children blossom into the full knowledge of God and our Savior, Jesus. It is such a blessing to watch, and the learning process starts even in infancy. Initially, we reach out to the "least of these" by demonstrating the love of Jesus and caring for them as if we are serving Jesus himself. As the children grow we want to come along side you, the parent, and help equip you to raise confident, spiritual warriors for the Kingdom of God. Come by anytime for a tour of our children's nursery and learn more about this rewarding ministry. It is evident that God is working in our midst and we are very excited to see what He has planned for us in 2013!

Nicole Beket, Nursery



Matthew 28:19 says, "Go therefore..."

Mark 16:15 says, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

John 17:18 says, "As You sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."

I am constantly reminded that the Church doors are not going to be busted down by people just dying to get in...many are not even seeking a church nor have any desire to walk into one...we must bring the church to them! The Student Ministries (Pulse and The Beat) at Heritage Church this year is going to be spending less time inside the walls of the church than ever before. It is time to "go out". The call is going out and just as Isaiah says to the Lord, "Here I am. Send Me!", so we too say, "Lord, send us!"

It will all begin with prayer! Praying for God to reveal how and where and what we need to be doing. However, many of us just sit and tarry and wait for God to literally push us. We will not be those people! It does not take much wisdom to know that just outside the walls of the church are people who are hurting and are in need of a Savior.

When we say, "I am ALL IN", we are going to let our lives, not just our lips, reveal this truth! As God moves us in this direction, I ask that you would pray, seek the Lord yourself, and personally come to the place that you can tell the Lord, "Here I am. Send Me!"

beat

May the Lord Bless you and may this new year be filled with "greater things yet to come"!



Brian Seewald, Youth Minister



Happy New Year friends! This New Year brings great promise and I am excited for what it will bring to Heritage. We saw great church growth in the year 2012 and I know it will continue this year. I attribute this to two things. One is the blessings that the Lord Jesus is pouring down on us as a congregation and the second is that we as a church body are starting to live as if we believe Jesus and His message is REAL!!!! We are welcoming people, we are loving people, and we are ministering to people. It is a blessing to witness. I think however, that we have just scratched the surface of what we are called to do so bear with me as I set forth a little vision of my dreams to come.

This year, 2013, I believe we need to begin to put the biblical teachings of what Todd White told us in July to use. We are going to do that by starting an outreach team that will go out once a month and begin to spread the love of Jesus through the Van Buren area. If you want to be a part of that team please contact me or Bob Odiorne. We have given it a trial run in December and we are ready to roll.

Next I want to make sure we are not missing one new person in our congregation. I would like to begin a monthly fellowship for newcomers to be held in the welcome center on a scheduled Sunday morning. So if you have the gift of hospitality and want to help with that.....LET'S DO IT!

Last, I have a future dream of a Heritage coffee house or a gathering spot where we can serve others and have fellowship. I see this place as a gathering spot for young and old. Our life groups could take advantage of it for special occasions. We could host men and women's Bible studies on site. We could open it to Celebrate Recovery Groups. We could have spring and summer concerts outdoors....and winter sing-alongs by a fire. I can even see a front porch with men playing dominoes and telling stories of yesteryear. I know there are people out there that have this same vision. It is time for it to become a reality. Please commit this to prayer.

There is so much more but not enough space. Don't miss out! Be an active part of God's ministry.

Love you all,
Becki Kneeland, Newcomers' Minister



I love serving in Children's Ministry, I will be teaching the Bible to children as long as God gives me breath! But I have to say, my understanding of this ministry has evolved over the last 23 years. In the beginning I thought it was about all the NEW and most creative ways of teaching! I went to many conferences and learned many good things. Lots of great things happened in the ministry! I saw children grow up in the ministry at our church (in Texas) and move on to Middle School. But one day my heart began to break as I recognized that some of the students who had grown up in our church were acting no differently than every other Middle School student at their schools. What was wrong? What was I missing? Why were these children making choices that did not line up with what they had been taught? How had I failed these children?

God in His sweet and ever so encouraging way showed me. My mindset was wrong! What we were teaching was not wrong ~ in fact it was good. The problem was I was doing something God never intended for the church to do. I was taking on the *parental* responsibilities of every child in the ministry where I served. I even believed that if I just brought my own children to church each week and participated in all the activities at church, my children would grow up to be good people! Oh how my thoughts were wrong!

God clearly states in the Bible that teaching children about our faith is a parent's job! In Deuteronomy 6 the Bible states that we are to "Love the Lord our God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. **Impress** them on your children. **Talk** about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up..." (I added the emphasis) In other words as you do everyday life with your children, teach about the things God has taught you.

In this Deuteronomy scripture it uses the word impress, the King James and NAS version uses the phrase 'teach diligently'. Think about those words 'teach diligently', that is not a passive activity. It requires hard work and intentional training on our parts as parents.

Now before you think that I have it all together-I do not! Let me confess here, I have by no means done a perfect job at this spiritual responsibility! And I must

say that there have been tough consequences for my children and for me at times. But once I understood that it was up to me & Rick, not the church to teach our children I had to wrestle with some tough questions:

Do my children see me 'Love the Lord with all my heart, soul and strength'?

Do my children see me worship as a lifestyle, not just on Sunday?

Do my children see me pray when things get tough?

Do my children see me praise God for all He has provided?

Do my children see me wait upon the Lord for His provision?

Do I talk about the truths of God as 'we sit at home, walk along the road, as we lie down and as we rise'?

God had to teach me and continues to teach me how to live these things before my own children.

So then one might ask; "What is the role of Children's Ministry at a church?" I believe that the role of the church is to:

- Offer opportunities for intentional age appropriate discipleship
- Provide awesome teachers who teach God's Word.
- Supply tools to parents to encourage them in this spiritual assignment we have been given.
- Provide a safe place for children
- Provide excellent facilities for children to learn
- Offer faith building events for parents & children
- Provide fellowship opportunities

What does God want for Heritage Children's Ministry in 2013? I believe God wants us to:

- continue with the intentional discipleship opportunities that we already provide (Wednesday evenings & Sunday mornings)-always striving to be better
- provide more opportunities and resources for parents to use as they "train up" their children provide age level fellowship opportunities for children
- intentionally teach about prayer
- intentionally teach children to serve

2013 is going to be a great year-I can hardly wait to see all God is going to do!

Debbie Marsh, Children's Minister



Heritage is such a special place. We worship in two distinct “styles,” yet the believers here are singular in heart in our passion for the Kingdom, and the Spirit of the Lord is no less evident in any of our services.

2012 in the Worship Arts calendar contained many highlights:

- We presented “The Living Last Supper” during Holy Week
- The Arrows International Dance Company ministered in our services
- Louann and I guided a group from Heritage to Israel
- We presented BJ Johnston as John Wesley in “The Man from Aldersgate”
- Inspiring videos were produced by Devon Parks which enhanced our worship experience
- Rick Endel launched the new “Joyful Sound” instrumental music program.
- New members were added in all layers of our music program

We mounted a production of *Mr. Scrooge* that filled the King Opera House for 5 performances.

These are only a few things that come to mind.

I’m especially excited about our direction for the coming year. It has been on Pastor Wes’ heart for quite some time to lead us in a deeper exploration of the Hebrew roots of our faith. We will do that this year by celebrating the Biblical Feasts of Israel. Once again we will host a Passover Seder for the community, and then in the Fall, we will celebrate together the joyful Feast of Tabernacles, which has great prophetic significance for “the Last Days.” After serving for 13 years as the Music Director for the Christian celebration of the Feast in Israel, I am especially excited about helping bring to you this experience.

The Lord’s presence is with us in our corporate worship experiences, and that is what it’s all about. We’ve seen His Spirit move powerfully this past year-breaking chains, bringing healing, restoration, and salvation. I expect an increase of this kind of power in 2013, as we worship Him together “in spirit and in truth.” I’m blessed beyond words to lead you in worship and serve alongside the rest of our anointed staff as we truly are becoming “the church of God’s dreams.”

Chuck King, Worship Arts Minister

A FANTASTIC FUTURE FOR 2013



As your Congregational Care/Lay Ministry Pastor, I could not be more excited about what the new year holds for our congregation and community. To begin with, I have never worked with a congregation that had so many people volunteering their time to do so many things. Words will not express my gratitude to those of you who come in to help with the everyday tasks of being the church.

Another goal of our volunteer efforts is to infiltrate our community with ministry and service. For instance, we have people serving as hospital chaplains, serving in rehabilitation facilities and nursing homes. Our food pantry and clothes closet reach hundreds of people each week. We have people working with foreign students by meeting regularly with them to speak English. As a personal note, recently a young Japanese student told me that in Japan he had felt no need for religion but since we began talking together he was beginning to feel such a need.

I must say that I have a very long wish list for future volunteers. I long to see people who can spend time each week with nursing home people, just reading to them and loving on them. Many who are there have no family or friends doing such things for them. I also envision people from our church being actively involved in civic organizations and other community clubs, holding up the banner of love and service that is Heritage UMC. There are students in every school who need special guidance and tutoring in certain subjects. What a great way that would be to touch lives for Christ. And so the list goes on, ways in which volunteers from our congregation can minister to and love on our community. As the New year opens, will you join our host of volunteers.

Max Goins, Congregational Care/Lay Minister