

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

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

Periodical
 Postage
 Paid
 At Van Buren,
 Arkansas 72956
 Permit 24448



Heritage Happenings is published weekly
 Office Hours: Mon - Thurs: 8 am - 5 pm; Fri: 8 am - 12 pm
 Phone: 479-474-6424
 FAX & E-mail Address: 474-8549; office@heritagevb.org
 Church Web Page: www.heritagevb.org
 Arkansas Area Bishop: Rev. Gary Mueller
 District Superintendent: Rev. William Bud Reeves
 Lead Pastor: J. Wesley Hilliard, wes@heritagevb.org
 Pastor Emeritus: Bill Kelton, bekelton@sbcglobal.net
 Director of Ministries: Roger Goins, rgoins@heritagevb.org
 Congregational Care Pastor: Max Goins, max@heritagevb.org
 Worship Arts Minister: Chuck King, cking@heritagevb.org
 Organist: Renee Baldwin, rbaldwin@heritagevb.org
 Accompanist: Rick Endel, rendel@heritagevb.org
 Youth Minister: Brian Seewald, brian@heritagevb.org
 Associate Youth Minister: Brad Martin, brad@heritagevb.org
 Middle School Minister: Bob Odiome, BobO@heritagevb.org
 Children's Minister: Debbie Marsh, dmarsh@heritagevb.org
 Early Childhood Coordinator: Anna Utz, autz@heritagevb.org
 Preschool Director: Erin Reeves, ereeves@heritagevb.org
 Newcomer Coordinator: Becki Kneeland, bkneeland@heritagevb.org
 Financial Secretary: Ruth Ottinger, rottinger@heritagevb.org
 Publications Secretary: Kathy Goins, kgoins@heritagevb.org
 Staff Secretary: Pam James, pjames@heritagevb.org
 Newsletter/Bulletin Announcements: office@heritagevb.org
 Maintenance Superintendent: Wayne Weege, maintenance@heritagevb.org



Volume 27 Issue 50
 December 12, 2013

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

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S HEART... WE'RE GIVING CHRISTMAS AWAY!

Allison and I have had twelve wonderful Christmas Eves here at Heritage -- minus the one I was with the troops in 2002. Each year, we've had two "Candlelight, Carols, and Communion" services with the Heritage family then gone home to be with family. The last few Christmas seasons we've had wonderful outreach productions such as "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," "Narnia," and "Scrooge."

This year we have no theatrical production; however, inspired by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, we feel led to do something different this Christmas Eve ... And we invite you to join us in making it the most wonderful Christmas Eve ever. We believe the LORD is asking us to "Give this Christmas away!" We'll still have the same "Christmas Eve Candlelight, Carols and Communion" services; but we are adding some things.

We are adding a community Christmas Eve dinner with seatings at 4 and 6:30. Come and serve or come and eat with our guests. Help us provide warm hospitality to our brothers and sisters from across the community. Invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers who don't have a church home! Let us feast and fellowship! Jesus' helper, Santa Claus, will be there with a gift for each child, 5th grade and under. Also, if anyone needs groceries, we will be giving away bags of food.

Risk reaching out and introducing yourself to people you don't know! If they don't normally come to Heritage, welcome them as family, offer to eat with them, show love and compassion and get to know them. Invite them to sit with you in worship, ask them to come back for Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Find out their needs and pray with them ... If they need groceries, offer to go with them to the food pantry after the service!

We ask as many of our members and regular attenders that can, please come to the 7:30 p.m. service! Be willing to give up your seat if needed and sit in the overflow area in the Welcome Center or Fellowship Hall. Also, please bring a dessert if you can. Renee Baldwin is organizing the dessert tables. Please let her know if you can bring something: rbaldwin@vbsd.us or call the church office, 474-6424.

It may be a little more noisy and crowded than usual, but I believe it will be wonderful and beautiful! Give away your service, your comfort, your routine, your money, your love to others this Christmas. We're giving away Christmas! We are giving away Jesus! Jesus says, as you give your life away, you will truly find it! I think Jesus will be blessed by Christmas Eve at Heritage. Sounds like something He would do!



Blessed to spend this Christmas season with you!

Wes

P.S. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call Pam or Becki in the church office: 474-6424. I really would like to have several greeters outside in the parking lot – some jolly, joyful folks!

P.P.S. Dr. Elliot Hayes will bring a Gideon Report to us Sunday and we will receive a special Christmas offering for the Gideons ministry placing Bibles worldwide.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

In Hospital:
Margene Bules, Jim and Gerlinda Dibble, Jeanette Elkins, Allison Hilliard, BJ DuVall, Myron Kirksey, Jeri Nash, Margaret Pugh, Linda Seubold

At Home:
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)

In Thanksgiving:
Brad, Audrea, Judah and Deacon Martin in the birth of their son and brother, *Finnlen Ray*. Proud grandparents are Elliott and Sherry Hays.

In Sympathy:
Marti Salisbury and Family in the death of her brother, *Chris Holman*.

December Volunteers

Ushers

8:05 am John Poole Eddie Prince John Vinson Cyndy Rogers	9:30 am Tom Konert John Symonds David Alexander Andy Williams	11:00 am Kip James Craig Ballegeer Terry Furr Scott Neidecker Jon Talley
---	--	--

Greeters

8:05 am:
Christina Fontaine
Mary Dempsey

9:30 am:
Darrell and Rhonda Shook
Burl and Debbie Carter

11:00 am:
Barry and Shawna Mason

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 18:
 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 24:
 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL
 4:00 PM & 6:30 PM
 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 5 PM & 7:30 PM

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In honor of **JEANETTE ELKINS** by:
The Unity Class (BF)

In memory of **EDWARD HILLIARD**
(uncle of Wes Hilliard) by:
Sue Stranathan (BF)

In memory of **WAYNE WRISINGER** (father of Terry Williams)
by:
M/M Bill Thomas (FP)

In memory of **BUD BELL** (brother
of Marilyn Goins) by:
M/M Bill Thomas (FP)

In memory of **JOHNNY PARKER**
by: Robert Bell (BF)
Kathy Hubbs (BF)
Erin Waterman (BF)
Jean Sabatier (BF)

FP - Food Pantry BF - Building Fund

BAPTISM HELP NEEDED

We have been so blessed here at Heritage to have so many people come to know the Lord and to follow through with baptism. If God is calling you to serve and you're not sure where, please consider the baptism ministry. Contact Becki Kneeland at 474-6424, for more information.



We have many Life Groups just waiting for you to join. We encourage you

to pick up a brochure in the Great Hall and browse through the different groups and then contact Becki Kneeland, our Welcome Minister, to get you connected. She can be contacted at 474-6424 or bkneeland@heritagevb.org.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,
It is so difficult to express the depth of my appreciation for your many acts of kindness and caring during Johnny's illness and passing into heaven. Johnny loved his church family and you loved him back. What a blessing for both of us. My gratitude to those that led the "Celebration of Life" service...Wes, Chuck, Becki, Marti, Roger, and Kathy. It was perfectly Johnny. Thank you to the ladies who prepared and served at the reception and to Pastor Max for his faithful presence. For the cards, food, hugs, and comforting memories of Johnny, I will be forever grateful.
My love and thanks,

Donna Parker

HEALTHY CONGREGATION DAY

Come to the Resource Center this Sunday, December 15th, between 9 and 11:15 am and have your blood pressure and sugar level checked.

THE TIME HAS COME

From Vickie Elmore, Crawford County Rehab resident (friend of Monica Steele)



Violent storms rock our world today. We'd better get down on our knees to pray. The Bible tells us what must come to be; Yet, so many are blind, they just can't see. No longer can you tell one season from another, sister against sister, brother against brother. This generation has become so full of evil and hate, an ungodly nation, about to meet a horrible fate. So many hearts are full of dread and fear. Can't you see the last days are here? Our basic freedoms are now being taken away, all because from God, our souls have strayed. Wars, famines, floods, twisters and earthquakes terrorize the land. Christians, arise! It's time to take a stand! God has tried for years to shake us awake! Now I ask you, what more is it going to take?

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE DESSERT WITH OTHERS

We are looking forward to serving others on Christmas Eve and need your help. If you are able to prepare a dessert that will serve 8-10 people, please email Renee Baldwin at rbaldwin@heritagevb.org. All desserts need to be at the church by noon on Christmas Eve. Please pack them in disposable containers or clearly mark them with your name. Renee will be at the church at noon on the 24th to receive the desserts.

FOOD PANTRY JARS

Please return your mason jars with your loose change to the church office. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

SAVE THE DATE



Rubies' Women's Conference is scheduled for February 28th - March 1st here at Heritage.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM RESCHEDULED!!

Wednesday, December 18th
6:00pm

Join His children at Heritage as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

You will be blessed!

Punch and cookies to follow in the Fellowship Hall!

PRESCHOOL PRAISE

We will have our *Happy Birthday, Jesus* Party on Sunday, December 22th at 11 am. Please bring a small wrapped baby gift for your child to give to Jesus! The gifts will be donated to someone in need.

BIRTHDAY LIST

A list of December birthdays is available in the Great Hall.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET CONNECTED?

We have a new life group for young couples starting this Sunday, December 15th at the home of Elliot and Sherry Hays, 2106 Lexington Drive, Van Buren. It's a great way to build lasting relationships. Contact bkneeland@heritagevb.org for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement for the newsletter, please email it to Kathy at office@heritagevb.org by 9 am on Monday mornings.



Third Sunday of Advent: HEALING

God's desire is for healing and reconciliation. The flame of the third candle reminds that God calls us to be part of the healing of the world.

HERITAGE ANGELS



We support DHS and the foster children in our area by collecting Christmas gifts. After you choose an angel from the wall by the Children's wing and the office, return the gifts to the stage in the Fellowship Hall by this Sunday, December 15th! All gifts must be unwrapped and in a bag with their angel number attached to the bag. If you have any questions contact Debbie Thomas at 651-0810 or the church office at 474-6424.

THE WELCOME CENTER

When you are greeting our guests, don't forget to bring them by the Welcome Center to meet our welcome team. They are there each Sunday to provide ministry, answer questions, give directions....whatever the need may be. We want the guests of Heritage to know that they are loved.

BAPTISM SUNDAY

If you are interested in being baptized at church Sunday, December 15th, please contact the church office at 474-6424.

ISRAEL 2014

Join Chuck and Louann King on a journey to the Holy Land, coming mid June 2014! An organizational meeting will be planned for those interested in learning more. Please notify Chuck via email if you would like to be informed as details develop: cking@heritagevb.org

HERITAGE PRESCHOOL



We still have a few spots left for ages 1 year to 5 years. Stop by the Heritage Preschool office for more information or email Erin Reeves at ereeves@heritagevb.org.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary during the month of December in honor or in memory of someone, please complete this form and return it to the church office with payment of \$10 per poinsettia.

Placed in (circle one)

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

By: _____