

**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**

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

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# Heritage Happenings

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## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

### Ushers

**8:05 am**  
John Poole  
Eddie Prince  
Jon 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**  
Justin and Katie Lovett  
Drew and Marlene Cone



**At Home:**

**Christy Anders, Mary Ellen Weidman-Burris, Ellarene Crowley, Neal and Patsy Ellison, Joe Johns, Trecia Lloyd, John Luckau, Jeri Nash, Gary Pittman, Carolyn Scott, Linda Seubold, Bob Simon, Jessica Utz, Mary Wrisinger**

**Assisted Living:**

**Mary Coble (Crawford H & R)**  
**Jim and Gerlinda Dibble (Willowbrook)**

**Lena Mae Smith (Crawford H & R)**  
**Jeann Stratton (Crawford H & R)**  
**Maxine Fahrner (Ashton Place)**

**In Thanksgiving:**

**Justin, Tracy and Talyn Mankins** in the birth of their daughter and sister, *Tabytha Jean*.

**In Sympathy:**

**Marvin and Connie Mendenhall and Family** in the death of their beloved *Billie Jacks*.



**Sunday, December 14**  
CHRISTMAS ANGEL  
GIFTS DUE

**Wednesday, December 17**  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
6 PM

**Wednesday, December 24:**  
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
3 PM, 5 PM & 7:30 pm  
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL  
4:00 PM & 6:30 PM

**Have an Announcement for the Bulletin or Newsletter?**  
Email it to [office@heritagevb.org](mailto:office@heritagevb.org).



"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." (Dr. Seuss)

How do you view Christmas? How do you celebrate the most majestic time of the year? Is it through the lenses of the past, full of rich traditions, family moments and church experiences? Is it through



*Christmas Through the Eyes of the Shepherds!*

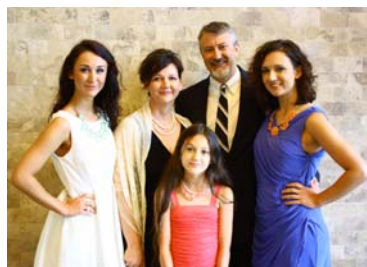
the present in the way our culture lends itself to decorations, shopping, marketing, etc.? We all have our own perspective of what Christmas is and should be like. However, I want to encourage you to go on a journey with us for the next four weeks as we look at Christmas through the eyes of a few of those who experienced the very first Christmas. Why would God reveal the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, to a group of lowly shepherds in a field? How did they see Christmas on that glorious night? How did

they celebrate the birth of our Savior? Join us this Sunday as we will be taking a look at Christmas through the eyes of the shepherds.

### IN THIS ISSUE

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR HERITAGE FAMILY



**MEET BRAD SNEED...** Marilyn and I have been married since 1991. Marilyn is a Pharmacy Tech at Coleman Pharmacy in Alma. She is a certified to teach Family and Consumer Science in Oklahoma and Arkansas along with being a certified Health Coach. We have three wonderful daughters. Laurel is a junior Secondary Education/History major at the University of Arkansas at Ft. Smith. Aubrey is a sophomore Middle Education/English major at the University of Arkansas at Ft. Smith. Gentry is in 5th grade at Alma Intermediate School.

As the Part-time Pastor of Middle School, I have the incredible privilege of partnering with Brian Seewald and a great team of volunteers in ministering to youth specifically to 6th – 8th graders. Marilyn and I are a part of a great Life Group lead by Shawn and Kim Shankle..

I am striving to be light in the market place. I am Operations Manager at ABF Multimodal in Ft. Smith. I currently serve on the executive committee for Habitat for Humanity in the River Valley.

I am a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals Fan. I am passing that on to my children. I am Crawford County boy. I attended 1st grade at J.J. Izard in Van Buren, 2nd – 8th grade at Alma and 9th – 12th grade at Van Buren Christian Academy, where I graduated in 1985. My undergraduate degree is in Theology from Hillsdale College in Moore, OK. My Master's Degree in Religious Education from Southwestern Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth Texas. My family and I spent 2 ½ years in Yantai, China working at an international school. I read a lot and enjoy gardening and hunting.

### THANK YOU

To our brothers and sister in Christ, WE want to express our gratitude for the hospital visits, prayers, phone calls, notes and support during our recent events. Please know that your expressions of kindness are appreciated. God bless you. Love, *Mike, Lucy and Angela Barry*

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### EVERYONE IS INVITED

Join us this Saturday, December 6th at 9 am to pray at City Heights Elementary School. We will walk the grounds to pray for the students, staff and their families. Mark your calendars for January 3rd for prayer at Central Elementary School.

*Becky Malone & Ronda Brown*

### HERITAGE ANGELS



We support DHS and the foster children in our area by collecting Christmas gifts. There are a few angels left to choose from in the Great Hall. Please return the gifts to the stage in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 14th! 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.

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Last year's Christmas Eve was AMAZING! Join us in sharing Christmas with our community again this year! Candlelight service is at 3, 5, and 7 pm on Wednesday, December 24th. Christmas dinner with our family, friends, neighbors, food pantry customers, and others will be served between services. Please invite someone and join us!

### BIRTHDAY LIST

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

### MISSIONARY OFFERING

If you have a birthday in December, you are invited to place an offering in our little church on the chancel rail during the announcements this Sunday. Currently, all birthday offerings go to support the Rupp family ministering in East Asia.

## YOU'RE INVITED

*Here Comes The Bride*

Please join us for a Bridal Shower honoring **KATHRYN GOINS AND MITCH OSBURN** this Sunday, December 7th from 2:30 - 4 pm in the Welcome Center. The hostesses are Debbie Marsh, Erin Marsh, Renee Baldwin and Sue Weege. They are registered at Wal Mart, Target and Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

### THANK YOU

I just received a check in the mail from your church. Wow! Amazing. Thank you so much for the generosity of your people. Thank you for such a huge blessing to help us with God's work. Eva and I greatly appreciate this blessing. May it return to you a hundred fold. And may God continue to bless and use you and your people in His harvest!

Blessings,

*Pastor Bakary Doumbouya*



### TRAINING TIME

There will be a training for all LifeGroup leaders this Sunday, December 7th in the Welcome Center. As a Life Group Leader please come to training at either 9:30 or 11:00 am. For any questions, contact Bryan Tabakian at btabakian@heritagevb.org.

## THANK YOU

Wes, words fail me as I sit here trying to think of how to thank you and everyone at Heritage for your faithful prayers for me and my family since I was diagnosed in Oct. 2012 with Stage 3 Multiple Myeloma (there is no stage 4!) in 97 percent of my body.

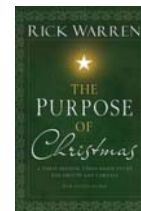
Thanks be to the Great Physician, the prayers from my Heritage family and many others, and to the good doctors at UAMS, there is only about 5 percent of the cancer now present in my body. Although my status is "smoldering," instead of "in remission," I'm getting well enough to be able to start being around people again, and I'm even beginning to drive a little. So, hopefully, one Sunday soon, I can come to the church and thank you all in person. But, please, continue to pray for a full recovery for me so that I can continue assisting my husband, Frank, with the daily help he needs due to the stroke and broken hip suffered in 2007.

My heartfelt, humble thanks, once again, to everyone at Heritage who has remembered me and my family in their prayers for two solid years now. Please know that those prayers have held me up and blessed me and my family more than you will ever know this side of Heaven. May God continue to richly bless Heritage and all its members and all the lives and souls that are being saved through your faithful prayers and service.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we thank you and ask blessings for you all, *Linda Seibold and family*

### NEW STUDY

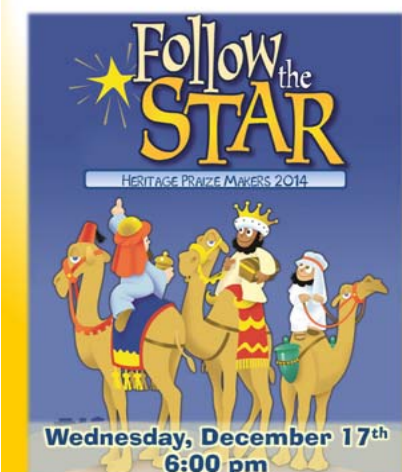
The *Do Good For Nothing* Sunday School Class (not to be confused with the *Good For Nothings* 😊) has been searching and searching and...we think we have now found help!! Rick Warren's study on *The Purpose of Christmas*



*Purpose of Christmas* might just help keep us on the spirit-filled and de-commercialized track during the Christmas season!

This is a short 3-week study and will be just perfect as we prepare to celebrate and honor Jesus' birthday. For those that are not yet regular attenders in another class, please feel free to join us in the Community Room beginning this Sunday, December 7th at 11 am. Hope to see you there! Come and *do good for nothing* with us!

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



### ROOTS CLASS

Want to better understand the Christian roots of our faith? Join Charles Reneau and Glen Wigginton on Thursdays at 10 am in room 121, Sundays at 9:30 am in room 121 or 11 am in room 133.