

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
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FROM YOUR PASTOR'S HEART: VISION 2016 AND BEYOND! COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP

Heritage is poised to make an impact in this River Valley like never before! In order for this to happen, I am asking everyone who is a part of Heritage to make a covenant to be in accountable discipleship during 2016. If we are going to reach our mission field in 2016 and make strides in **"becoming the church of God's dreams,"** this is essential. Don't miss my message on January 10th when I lay out this vision and plan! January 17th I am asking all Life-group leaders, Sunday School and Heritage U teachers, and those interested in becoming leaders to join me for lunch after church as I lay out what is going to need to happen.

Along these lines, I have two **"WILDLY IMPORTANT GOALS"** for 2016: 1. Have 51% or more of our adult and youth congregation signed up for **Covenant Discipleship** by September 18th – that is, submitted and committed to accountability, discipleship and outreach to the community. 2. **Break ground** on expanding our available multi-use space and parking by the end of the year. This will enable us to make room for the people we will reach through our covenant discipleship! A recent study of our area found that on any given Sunday, 72-75% of the people are not in church! We have a huge mission field!

In support of these goals, we hope to add a part-time leader of Witness Ministries. This person will help plan and resource our outreaches locally and beyond. Early in the year we will **wipe out our debt** from the land acquisitions, Student Life Center, and new parking lots. We will have a mortgage burning celebration and dedication of the debt-free facilities!

During the summer or fall we will have a church-wide emphasis on **The Truth Project** to ground each of us in the truth of God's Word and to equip each of us to understand and defend the faith against the assaults of secularism and Islamic terrorism.

I continue to challenge us as a congregation to lead 100 people to saving faith in Jesus Christ and membership in the Heritage family! In 2015, we had **over 61 professions of faith!** Praise the LORD!!! Will 2016 be our year to top 100?!! Adding members to the family of God blesses the Father's heart! Let's make Him leap for joy! "To win for the Lamb the rewards of His suffering!"

Bishop Gary Mueller is calling upon United Methodists in Arkansas to press-in for revival in 2016. I love it! He is calling for **40 days of prayer and fasting** to start the year! We will be a part of this! We will preach on revival in January. February 6th and 7th, evangelist Dr. Janice Gilbert from Beaumont, Texas will be here to **bring the fire of God!** She has been endorsed as a candidate



for bishop by the Black Methodists for Church Renewal! I have heard her preach. Folks, she can bring it! You won't want to miss this! Services will be SATURDAY evening and Sunday morning since Feb. 7th is Super Bowl Sunday J.

More is coming! 2016 is going to be a wonderful year! Read on in this newsletter to see the directions God has given YOUR staff for 2016!

Pastor Wes

Heritage Happenings is published weekly
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JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Ushers

8:05 am
John Poole
Gary Podgurski
Eddie Prince
Alexis Booster

9:30 am
John Symonds
Tom Konert
David Alexander
Andy Williams
Carol Ray

11:00 am
Chris Christensen
Justin Lovett

Greeters

8:05 am
Friends for Life Life Group

9:30 am
Margo Symonds
Joe and Patricia Johns

11:00 am
Jason and Tiffany Parks
Barry and Shawna Mason



In Hospital:

At Home:

Saylor Ables, Mary Ellen Weidman-Burris, Lee James, Jeri Nash, Gary Pittman, Carolyn Scott, Linda Seubold, Maria Sullivan, Tim Treece, Stacey Walker, Ken and Sandy Weifenbach, Mary Wrisinger

Assisted Living:

Mary Coble (Crawford H & R)

Gerlinda Dibble (Willowbrook)
Geraldine Hurst (Pink Bud Home)
Jean Stratton (Crawford H & R)
Maxine Fahrner (Ashton Place)
Warren Taylor (Methodist Village)
Vi Herring (CC Rehab)

In Thanksgiving:

C.J. and Kim Mumbower in the birth of their daughter, *Emma Dawn*. Proud sister is Ava.



Monday, January 4
RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY PRAYER
AT 1ST UMC IN ALMA
7 PM

Wednesday, January 13
WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES RESUME

Have an Announcement for the Bulletin or Newsletter?
Email it to office@heritage.church.

My major goal for 2016 is to increase the percentage of our congregation that is involved in ministry. At the **present time approximately 10%** of our membership is involved in some sort of personal ministry. It is our opinion that everyone should be using their Spiritual Gifts in ministry through Heritage. **We are praying that as many as 35% of our people will soon be using their talents for the Lord.** We plan to more actively help you understand your giftedness Through **SHAPE** in the coming year. We also are praying and working to help



develop systems to help us utilize the information we discover about your spiritual gifts. Hopefully we will be able to have training classes for everyone to help them know how to use their **Spiritual Gifts**.

Max Goins, Pastor of Congregational Care and Lay Involvement

I have heard that if you want to really to see what a marriage is made of... build or renovate a house. Well, Marilyn and I have been renovating a house since March 2015. That is not the total point of this article except to say that I have an incredible wife. As we got into the renovation of the house we discovered a lot of things that we did not know were there just by looking at the outside. There were rotten boards under seemingly perfect flooring, leaky plumbing behind walls, dangerous wiring, etc. One of our contractors authenticated an observation that Marilyn made about 2 months into this project....**It is sometimes easier to build a new house from the foundation up than it is to renovate an older house.**

Our Middle School Leadership Team and I are in the “new house construction” business. In conjunction with parents, we endeavor to continue the “new house” construction process that Debbie Marsh and her Children’s Ministry team begin. We love middle students. We desire to see them grow in their relationship our heavenly Father. In some cases, we have to work on some renovations. We want to strip away the “perfect flooring” to get to the foundational boards to help prevent the damage that could happen if issues are not addressed.

Our emphasis in 2016 is helping students understand who they are in Christ. As the Psalmist writes in Psalm 139:14, we want them to praise God because they are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” We will be looking at how we are “Wired” according to God’s perfect plan for us. We want each student to know, believe, and embrace that they are....loved. (1 John 3:3); accepted. (Ephesians 1:6); a child of God. (John 1:12); Jesus' friend. (John 15:14); a joint heir with Jesus, sharing His inheritance with Him. (Romans 8:17); a member of Christ's body. (1 Corinthians 12:27); redeemed and forgiven. (Colossians 1:14); complete in Jesus Christ. (Colossians 2:10) and so much more.

Thank you parents for entrusting your students to us. We want to partner with you in impacting your students as they work through these changing times called the middle school years. Be encouraged by the words of James from James 1 where he writes *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

Marilyn and I are blessed to partner in ministry with an awesome staff of called and committed (some would say that we should “be committed” because we minister to middle school students) adult volunteers. This ministry team graciously and selflessly gives of their time and resources to minister to your students. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to these servants of the Living God.



We are blessed to minister at Heritage! Thank you Heritage family for the freedom, resources, and support that allows us to fulfill our ministry calling to Middle School Students. Looking forward to 2016!

Brad Sneed, Middle School Pastor

A Discipleship Ambush for 2016...

"Jesus-shaped spirituality hears Jesus say "believe and repent," but the call that *resonates* most closely in the heart of a disciple is "follow me." The command to follow requires that we take a daily journey in the company of other students. It demands that we be lifelong learners and that we commit to constant growth in spiritual maturity. Discipleship is a call to **me**, but it is a journey of "**we**."—Michael Spencer, *Mere Churchianity: Finding Your Way Back to Jesus-Shaped Spirituality*

I love this quote! It really does sum up and simply describes what true discipleship among Christians really is. True discipleship is a **ME** calling however, it's a **WE** journey. It is a never ending search for authentic community that **works** out and **walks** the Christ life together. Therefore, I want to set goals for the New Year that will allow every believer at Heritage the opportunity to engage in Authentic Community and join the "**WE**" journey to deeper levels of communion and discipleship with King Jesus!

Getting our members and regular attenders connected in a discipleship group will be my number 1 goal for this New Year. It is essential that we waste no time to encourage each other to join in the journey of the "**WE**" and get involved in Discipleship! My second goal for the New Year is to encourage our discipleship groups to engage/ambush our community in service projects of love and being a beacon of light to it.



Let 2016 be a new journey for some and a life changing encounter for all of us.

Blessings in the New Year,

Bryan Tabakian, Discipleship Pastor



2016 begins my 25th year in ministry to children! I love where God has placed me! I am blessed every week to get to interact with LOTS of children. I get hugs, smiles, tears, and lots of questions! I get to teach about JESUS and His love. I am blessed to watch children learn to pray, to serve, struggle with goals-then achieve those goals, make friends! I get to see children plant God's Word in their hearts!

I also get to see moms and dads struggle with; leaving their babies the first time in the nursery, their strong-willed child, their shy child, their children with special needs, illness, choosing which activities are best for their children and moving to Middle School.

But I also get to celebrate with families; miracles and answered prayers, births, baptisms and dedications. But the biggest celebration is a child choosing to follow Jesus!

There is no better place to see God at work than with families! The goal of Children's Ministry at Heritage is STILL to partner with parents as they raise their children to become Spiritual Champions! A Spiritual Champion is someone who loves God and chooses to live His way.

Our focus this year and every year will always be worship and discipleship. Children's attendance in worship is vital to their spiritual maturity. Children learn as they watch and participate with their parents and the church. There are two opportunities for discipleship at Heritage. *Timothy Team* and *The Gospel Project*, our Sunday School that meets on Sunday evenings. These are two excellent opportunities for parents to use to disciple their children.



Blessed to serve in THIS place called Heritage;

Debbie Marsh, Children's Minister

Wow!

God is so good! By every account, He has greatly blessed Heritage in 2015! David's instructions to his priests (1 Chronicles 16) apply to us today, *"⁸Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. ¹¹Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."*

This year will be even bigger! I believe the Lord will use Heritage in 2016 to greatly impact His Church and His Kingdom worldwide. With Gods leading, we will disciple and equip one another. We will use our outreach ministries to reach into our community, restore relationships, and set people free. We will send people around the world for the sake of the Gospel. And, we will provide leadership in our church and our community as we deal with a culture where Christianity is no longer the "Norm."

How can you participate?

- 1) Pray! Pray 1 Chronicles 16—the whole chapter—as daily worship. Pray for Heritage, our staff, and our ministries.
- 2) Be present! Attend worship weekly. Join a Life Group, Sunday School, or other small group. Participate in Covenant Discipleship.
- 3) Give! Practice extravagant giving. Tithe to the operating budget and give to others as the Lord blesses you.
- 4) Serve! Take a SHAPE seminar and learn how the Lord has shaped you for ministry then get busy!
- 5) Witness faithfully! Live every day in such a way that others will see Christ through you!



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever!

Roger Goins, Director of Ministries



As I sit here writing, I am asking the Lord two questions: 1) What do you want from me, Lord?, and 2) What do you want to do through me, Lord? The first question has and is being answered: "I want more of your time!" As I seek to spend more time with Him can I begin to truly know what He wants to do through me. This in turn answers my second question: LOVE! As the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians lays out the definition of love, I realize I can BE and DO all sorts of things, but without love it is just that, all sorts of things. We have all heard and seen the unending headlines of terror, oppression, hate, etc. Where is the love? It is with God's people! It is with and in me and you! We must rise and show the world what radical Christianity looks like. It begins with me and my family. It then extends to my areas of influence, particularly youth and families. It then can carry into the community. What would love to the extreme look like? I bet if we all gave God more of our time, we would begin to hear and see His heart for the world and understand better how to love like Christ loved. Two things I intend to see this year through our high school student ministry: 1) A growing connection with youth and their families and 2) For love to pulsate deeper in and through our students that they may be more effective as witnesses in our community. I continue to ask, "Who will be ALL IN?!"



Blessings to you and your family in 2016!

Brian Seewald, Associate Pastor for Youth and Families

Over *THREE DECADES!* That's how long, by the grace of God, that I've been leading worship. Last year, I attended a worship workshop entitled; "Leading Over Fifty" and the woes expressed by many of the guys in attendance were good reminders to me of this fact: Heritage is a VERY healthy congregation and I am very, very blessed to still be serving among you!

Looking ahead to 2016, a few things are on my heart as we make plans for another great year:

1. An outwardly focused Worship Arts Ministry-I was very inspired by our participation in the City's recent Christmas Celebrations and I would like us to take advantage of opportunities to be more creatively involved with other community events throughout the year.
2. Dance Like David Danced-look for a week of intensive dance training/teaching/and impartation by some of America's best leaders in Worship Dance. All styles, all ages, young and old, male and female-I'd like to see our own dance team be raised up right here at Heritage.
3. Multi-generational worship-I'm so thankful that we don't struggle with the "us" and "them" attitude when it comes to contemporary and traditional worship. To me, those are just words and labels that have nothing to do with the heart of a worshipper. This year, I am going to be recruiting and grooming younger people to be involved in all of our teams. It's time to raise up the next generation!
4. Christmas 2016-this will be our year to "pull out the stops" with a major production for the Holiday Season-again, with our goal being to reach our community with the good news of Jesus!



Want to get involved? I'd love to talk to you about how you might serve in Worship Arts at Heritage in 2016!

Chuck King, Worship Arts Minister

What a great year we've had of welcoming new people to our family. We have opened our arms and our hearts to many and will continue in the upcoming year to do so. However, this coming year we are going to move beyond our traditional goals of smiling and being friendly to being intentional. There are two things the Lord says we should focus on:

1. Reach the lost.
2. Disciple and connect people so that they may grow in Christ.

There are many ways we can reach the lost but what I would like to challenge each of you to do is to pray and focus on one person in your life that may not know Him. Invite them to church, to Wednesday night Bible study, your life group, or just for a cup of coffee. Show them the love of Christ through you. (This is where all that welcoming training you have become so good at is going to pay off big!!!)

After you have loved and lived a life of Christ in front of them, begin to focus on helping them become disciples. You can begin the process by simply having a conversation, asking what their needs are, telling your story and how God showed up in your life. Help them find a body of believers where they can get connected and grow (It may or may not be Heritage and that is OK!) My friend and co-worker Bryan Tabakian and I are going to be working close together this year to begin the disciple process as people start exploring Heritage.



It's going to be a great year!!! Make it your goal to increase the Kingdom by one.

Becki Kneeland, Welcome Minister