

heritage church

11 November 2021

Heritage *LITE* News

Love. Introduce. Teach. Equip.

This month's *Christianity Today* reported the average age in American religious groups. The average age of a Southern Baptist church? It's fifty-five. That's bad news for Southern Baptists. The group with the youngest average age is Pentecostal at forty-seven. That's bad news for the Church in America. Barna, Pew, and other research groups have been reporting on the youth flight from Church for several years now so the results aren't surprising. I don't know what the average age at Heritage is, but it is MUCH lower than fifty-five. I'm one of the older people at Heritage and I haven't reached 55 – yet. If you just look around the auditorium on a Sunday morning, you'll see that a lot of the faces are twenty-two or younger. The college ministry is thriving at Heritage. If you are in that “older adult” category and don't know who our college students are, take some time to get to know them. They are the future of the Church in America.

Our children's ministry is thriving as well. Also in this month's *Christianity Today*, a short commentary on Sunday School is included. CT reports, “‘By the mid-19th century,’ historian Timothy Larsen wrote in CT, ‘Sunday school attendance was a near universal aspect of childhood. Even parents who did not regularly attend church themselves generally insisted that their children go to Sunday school.’ Compulsory public schooling ended the church's leading role in education, but not the priority parents gave to shipping their kids to church. (The moral formation of children is still one of the top reasons Americans say they attend church, just above ‘to make me a better person.’)” I don't know if that is the “right” reason to attend on Sunday morning but it is a reason that many attend. Take some time to thank the teachers and staff that are pouring into the kids on Sundays and Wednesdays. Like the college students, those children and youth, *our* children and youth, are the future.

David Houghton, *Elder*

"I want to say a big 'THANK YOU' for your compassionate prayers and visits over the last week. It has been a roller coaster to say the least, with work yet to come! As of this writing, I am at about 60% health, and that is only because of the grace of God, and His hands working through people like Dr. Lara Mashek, and Christi Prescott's sister, Dr. Anderson. If you need a guaranteed diet plan, come see me.

As we officially enter Transition Stage 7: Finding a Pastor to Lead in Fulfilling God's Future for Heritage, I want you to be diligent in your prayer life for the search committee as we were, and have been, for the Transition Team. These are big shoes to fill. By that I mean your next pastor will get to enjoy and be adaptable to our set of short and long-range transition goals that will help propel God's will for Heritage into her future. Even though this Sunday will be my last in the weekly pulpit, I will continue to serve, as needed, as a process consultant to the search committee. With an updated job description, clear Biblical view of the role of Lead Teaching Pastor, pray for the Lord's leading on the hearts and minds of the search committee and their

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evaluation of those deserving consideration. Pray for patience. We, together, must exercise patience during the search.

Think about the last time you struggled in waiting for something. What were your reasons for the struggle? Ask the Lord to use this time to produce the spiritual fruit of patience in your own life and the life of Heritage!

I am looking forward to seeing you Sunday!

In His service.... God Bless!
James Wilder, *Interim Pastor*

Any story you want to share about or announce in the newsletter should be sent to heritagechurch.office@gmail.com by the end of day Wednesday.

***If you have a specific announcement you would like us to highlight this coming Sunday, please notify heritagechurch.office@gmail.com by end of day Friday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE GROUPS

Life Group leaders will contact you about meeting dates and times. If you are not yet connected to a Life Group, please talk to one of the elders and/or deacons. It is our prayer you find authentic relationships as you spend time with others in our church family.

BAPTISM

Please let us know if you feel called to be baptized. We would love to talk to you and pray over that decision for God's glory.

HERITAGE KIDS CORNER

A big thank you to Kim Bussell, Joan Smith, Bizzy Chlouber, Trisha Houghton and Candice Jennings for helping the kids pack shoe boxes Wednesday night!! Thank you to all who donated to the shoe boxes. Because of your donations, we were able to pack 100 boxes!!

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Pictures of packing boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**



Joan and Kim



Ella, Jocelyn, Cade and Bizzy



Anna



Joshua and Cameron



Ralph and Joshua

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The kids will be singing each Sunday during service beginning November 28th.
Watch here for more details

HERITAGE YOUTH CORNER

Youth meet in the sanctuary every Wednesday night at 6:30pm for worship and Bible Study with Aaron Hembree. Bring a friend and join in!

DEFEND Conference in 2022!!

January 3-7, 2022 – Any interested youth is welcome to attend the **Defend Conference** in New Orleans, LA. Sponsors include Julianna Proctor, John Jennings, and Ralph Puckett. The cost will be approximately \$225/person. *Pass the word* that the youth will be hanging Christmas lights this year as a fundraiser for the event! You won't want to miss this conference!

HERITAGE COLLEGE CORNER

We are continuing our student of Hebrews with the Houghtons. Bring your friends and join us at 8:30pm every Wednesday night in the sanctuary.

Come join the College and Career Sunday School class each Sunday morning upstairs at 9:30am as the Chloubers teach on "Work as Worship." Col 3:23

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HERITAGE WOMEN'S CORNER

Heritage Women are continuing in our book *Gentle & Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*. All are welcome to join in the discussion every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the upstairs classroom! See you there!

Heritage Women are hosting a **Holiday Progressive Brunch** called “*Pancakes and Pajamas*” on Saturday, December 11th from 10am to 1pm. We will attend three homes and enjoy three different brunch courses at each home. A fun time of fellowship for the holidays!

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE PAJAMAS!



HERITAGE MEN'S CORNER

Heritage Men are studying the book of John! Please come and join us every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the upstairs classroom!

Inquiries about the **Young Men's Monday evening Bible Study** should go to Justin Wood. Please consider joining as the Lord leads.

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November 14 - OBU Chorale leads worship during morning service

November 14 - Pastor James Wilder's last Sunday



December 5 - *A Heritage Christmas*: Dinner @ 6pm

December 11 - *Heritage Women*: Pancakes & Pajamas from 11a - 1p

December 24 - *Christmas Eve Service* @ 6pm

CUSTODIAL CORNER

The Supreme Climb by Oswald Chambers reminds us God's command is –“Take *now*,” not later. It is incredible how we debate! We know something is right, but we try to find excuses for not doing it immediately. If we are to climb to the height God reveals, it can never be done later – it must be done now. And the sacrifice must be worked through our will before we actually perform it. Read more of the story of Abraham's simple obedience to God on the website or app **My Utmost for His Highest** (utmost.org/the-supreme-climb). It is worth the read.

Maris Goss, *Custodian*

GET CONNECTED

1. Email heritagechurch.office@gmail.com to begin receiving the weekly newsletter in your inbox.
2. View the LITE Newsletter, News & Announcements, a Calendar of Events and our weekly service on our website: www.heritageshawnee.org
3. You can now download our very own Heritage app! Want to get connected, view the Live Stream Broadcast, stay up to date on the latest announcements? All this and more is now available on your mobile device! Download the Heritage Church App now!

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HERITAGE PRAYS

1. For the future of our church body as we move forward with a search to find a pastor to lead us.
2. For our church family and all who enter in our doors; that others may see our hearts through our words and actions and that we show love like Jesus loves!
3. For our college students who are going on GO Mission trips and Study Abroad trips in January: Catherine Burgess, Caylin Chlouber, Beth Houghton, Kortni McNutt, Jessica Piers.
4. For Ashia Puckett and Jill Estep as they are attending Barnabas Prep.
5. For the Lord to send more opportunities to draw our hearts close to Him.

May we all find our foundation in Christ as we seek to *love* people unconditionally, *introduce* them to Jesus Christ, *teach* them to apply God's Word to their daily lives, and *equip* them for service in the church and in the world!

In His name and for His glory,

~ *The Elders*