

**University Heights Church
of Christ**
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

Garry Banks, David Collins,
John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,
Matt Thompson, Adam
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam
Daniels, Jamie Powell

I'm Encouraged, Too! (Continued...)

-Your willingness to fulfill your ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). Some brethren misunderstand the relationship between the evangelist and the congregation with whom he labors. Some conclude that because the congregation supports him financially that the relationship is that of an “employer and employee”. Such a concept is unbiblical and contrary to God’s pattern. This church understands that we work together to accomplish the Lord’s goals. So many of you actively engage in the work with the brethren and do your own work for the Lord when alone. What an encouragement that is!

You mean so much to me viewing things solely from my perspective as an evangelist. Of course, that is not the only way you encourage me. Read John’s list again and hear my hearty “Amen” after each point.

This is a unique congregation in many ways. There is much Bible knowledge here. While that is not unique in itself the fact that this knowledge is not academic but continues to be a very active and living force within the heart of even the most weathered of saints *is* more unique than you might think. We’re always in need of growth but any true spiritual growth must be based upon love for truth and a willingness to hold to it no matter what. This congregation possesses such love in spades. You are such an encouragement to me!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Vina Krissow, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Wilma Lawson, Jannett’s mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Doris Baker, Lyn Kincaid, Bernard Larch

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I Am Encouraged

John Thompson

Needless to say, courage is needed among Christians, young and old, today. But such is not new. God’s people have always needed courage. Biblical examples of failed courage provide learning opportunities so that we might do better when faced with similar circumstances. Peter’s repeated denials of Jesus during His arrest and trials help us understand our own weaknesses. On the other hand, we have examples of courage at its best in the stories of Joseph’s dealings with Potiphar’s wife and Daniel and his friends in Babylonian captivity. Their courage sets a very high mark and their stories encourage us to establish that mark as our own standard of courage.

Wikipedia says that courage is “the ability and willingness to confront fear, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation. Physical courage is courage in the face of physical pain, hardship, death, or threat of death, while moral courage is the ability to act rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal, or discouragement.” The factors that go into why one individual seems to have an ample supply of courage while another does not are too numerous to consider at this time, but it is a truism that no one always has sufficient courage all of the time. Even the Apostle Paul understood that there are things outside of ourselves which help supply courage to us. Thus we speak of being encouraged, that is, of having courage put into us by something external. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10, *But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?*

Experiencing the assaults against the Lord’s church can be quite discouraging and even debilitating if we let it. It is so important that our courage not fail us at such critical times. Here are some things about the church here at University Heights that encourages me.

-University students who regularly attend our scheduled worship and bible study assemblies and even more encouraged when they place membership to be identified with this body and share in its work.

-Young men who give Wednesday evening invitation talks and occasionally preach on a 3rd Sunday evening of the month.

-Young women who help teach the younger children in their Bible classes.

-Young children holding their song books and singing at the top of their lungs and dropping their dimes and quarters into the collection basket.

-Older members who take such good care of their elderly parents, or their grandchildren.

-Members who come back from vacation and tell about the congregations they visited and those with whom they renewed friendships.

-Members who speak up in Bible class, adding to the discussion.

-The interactions between members that show us to be a loving family of God's people, and sometimes makes me wonder if everyone is just going to stay around talking until the next time we meet.

-The behind-the-scenes help and doing for one another that goes on. No doubt there is much of this that never becomes known.

-The depth of Bible study, the quality of delivery, the integrity of the scholarship, and the plainness of speech that is clearly and consistently evident in the preaching of God's word from the pulpit.

-The good work done by our deacons and the willing attitude with which they carry out their duties.

You know, when you get right down to it, there is so much about University Heights Church of Christ that encourages me.. Maybe you are encouraged to prepare your own list?

I'm Encouraged, Too!

Adam Litmer

In reading brother John's article I found myself greatly encouraged. That was the point, right? He asked me if I would be willing to write a similar article from the perspective of an evangelist. I am very happy to do so as there are so many things about the church here that I find to be encouraging. Brother John touched on so many of them and I will not repeat them here. Instead, as requested, I will focus specifically upon the relationship between the congregation and myself as the evangelist. While you are able to view this relationship from your side, I'd like to tell you a little bit about it from the other side. In so doing, it will become abundantly clear why you are such an encouragement to me.

It is hard to quantify the impact brethren can have upon the evangelist laboring among them. They can make the assembling periods such a wonderful time of praise and worship to God, a time of tremendous joy and excitement to the man working with them. They can also make it a time that, as odd as this may sound to you, the evangelist comes to dread. I do not say this to claim that the evangelist is ever correct in viewing things this way, but merely to show you the impact his brethren can have upon him. I have known preachers who feared to discuss certain Bible topics because they knew it would not go over well in the congregation they labored with and they would be asked to leave. While it is easy to say that he should have the courage to speak truth anyway (and he should, Galatians 1:10), it is sometimes difficult for those who are not evangelists to remember that his ability to support his family is tied directly the congregation's willingness to support him. Because of this, some evangelists who have been hurt by brethren in the past become very timid and too frightened to preach the whole counsel of God (Acts 21:18-20, 26-27). It is not right, but neither is as uncommon as you might think.

I know for a fact that many of my preaching brethren long for that which I have enjoyed here for more than five years now. From my perspective as an evangelist, here is what I am so thankful for and encouraged by working with you here at University Heights.

-Your love for the truth. If there were nothing else this would be enough. Not once have I been warned against preaching on a topic. Not once have I been cautioned to avoid a topic. Not once have I been told to leave a portion of the whole counsel of God out. Should it be that way everywhere? Yes. Is it? No. But it is here and for that I am so encouraged.

-Your willingness to hold to the truth even when it is uncomfortable. Not once has anyone at this congregation approached me after a sermon and said, "I know what the Bible says, but...". If the Bible says it you accept it. I love you for that.

-An eldership that stands upon God's truth. Those men love the Lord and hold fast to his name (Revelation 2:13). They have never done anything but encourage me to preach the truth and they strive to lead this congregation based upon it. What an encouragement they are!

-Your encouraging words. Some preachers grow to dread being approached after a sermon because they know if a brother or sister has something to say it will be in the form of a complaint or criticism. Because this congregation delights in truth, you are amazingly encouraging to the one who presents it. This congregation understands that just as it is important to correct a man who presents error, it is equally important to encourage him when he preaches truth. You do this not just for me but also for every man who stands in this pulpit. Thank you.

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