

**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

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

Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

NOTE

Troy Antle has expressed his desire to serve this congregation as one of our shepherds. Troy is a godly man who has been part of University Heights for a long time. Both he and Amy have been examples of love and service. The plan is for Troy to take up these new duties the first Sunday in October. If you have any questions for Troy, please use the opportunities September affords to ask them.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Declan Weatherholt, The Banks' family, Richard Brundige, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Jake Spivey, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family, William Roberts

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More Than This World

Alexander Banks

As Christians, we often speak and remind one another of the purpose we have during our lives. We realize there is a task to be done here in this life, and a race to be run. Although each of us is accountable for his own actions (Romans 14:12), we nevertheless are all on the same journey together, and that certainly can, and should, be a very encouraging thought. We all are hopefully aiming towards heaven together, an exceedingly better home. *But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.*

Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. (Hebrews 11:16) That journey, however, is different for each of us individually.

We each must endure experiences that test us (1 Peter 4:12-19). We each must pass through, to obtain our prize. There are those that teach the message that if you become a Christian, then you will never have to worry about such times. However, quite the opposite is found in the Word. We read of many biblical figures going through tremendously difficult situations, and in the end, receiving a reward. Hebrews 11 teaches through the example of those who overcame their trials by faith. Verses 32-34 of Hebrews 11 should resonate with us and thrill us. If by faith kingdoms were conquered; justice was administered; mouths of lions shut; flames quenched and the edge of the sword escaped; weakness was turned to strength; foreign armies routed; and women received back their dead, then what test is there that we cannot pass? All that is done by individuals who belong to God is accomplished by faith.

The next few verses in Hebrews 11 show the various sufferings endured by Christians: the jeers, the floggings, even the imprisonment. They endured even to the extent of death by stoning, or being sawn in two, as well as with the sword. They, being faithful servants to God, went about destitute, persecuted,

and mistreated. We all suffer as Christians. We might not experience being physically attacked, but it was a reality for past Christians. We may not undergo being thrown into a den of lions. We may not go through being stoned to death. We may not be faced with any of the obstacles described in Hebrews 11. Who can predict what lies in the future of any Christian who stands for the truth? Whether we suffer threats, attacks, or simply a cold look from someone we speak to, we all will go through something.

During challenging moments, my mind goes to many verses. I find comfort in God's Word. I find a place where I can lean on God, because I realize He has promised succumbing to temptation is not the only option. Paul wrote, *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.* (1 Cor. 10:13). With every trial, and every difficulty, there is a choice. A choice to turn away from God, or a choice to come even closer. This relationship that exists between God and a Christian is far more than a figure of speech, or simply something positive that keeps us encouraged. For a Christian, the relationship with God is as literal and authentic as possible. On Earth, the closer we stay to God through his Word and through proper service, the better chance we are to be with God one day in Heaven.

Along with God, we lean on one another (Heb. 10:25). We make a variety of bonds in this world. We connect on severely deep levels with those close to us. We can provide help, support, and encouragement when we see a need (1 Thess. 5:11, 14). There is a saying, that, "joy shared is doubled, and sorrow borne is halved". Fellow Christians have proven over and over to me that this saying is true. It can be difficult to accept the events in our lives, or in our society. But repeatedly, we can remember that the Word reveals our goal is not to be concerned primarily with this world, but our hope of a future with God should be in the forefront our minds. We are not to be conformed to this world, but instead, do the will of God (Romans 12:2). And most importantly, we find a statement in verse Hebrews 11:38, which hopefully one day can be said about each and every one of us, that "*The world was not of worthy of them...*".

This And That

-Perhaps you've noticed that several men of the congregation have written articles lately. David Collins, Paul Fox, and Matt Thompson have contributed well thought out and abundantly biblical articles for our spiritual consumption. Today's front page article is by Alexander Banks. The thoughts expressed in his fine article will benefit all of us. I appreciate very much the efforts of these men and their willingness to submit articles. By all means, keep them coming!

-Thus far a large number of college students have been visiting with us as the new semester gets under way. It is always exciting to see so many young faces among us. Let us resolve to encourage them even as they encourage us. Note also that several of the students who have visited are not Christians. There is opportunity there so let us be aware and eager to help lead a soul to Christ.

-Luke Ramey has chosen to identify with this congregation while attending the University. I note that Matt has wasted no time in adding Luke to the duty roster for September. If you've not yet had the opportunity to meet Luke, make a point of doing so. We encourage all the Christian students attending one of the local schools to follow the example of Paul and join the brethren here at University Heights (Acts 9:26). Though away from your physical and spiritual family "back home", you've got family here in Lexington. Join your extended family while in town!

A Passage To Consider

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel...Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:22-24, 28-29

