

# The Deer Parker

February 23, 2017



## From the Pastor

Last Sunday we experienced a stirring and uplifting hour of worship together. We all know that our nation is deeply divided nowadays. It's someone or some group versus someone else or "that other group." But our church family (and a number of guests) set aside time to pray for our country, sing and hear music that brushed through our pained hearts with God's gracious peace.

Let me especially commend our Minister of Music and Worship, Albin Whitworth, for planning, arranging and leading us in this memorable and needed time of worship. Time and again Albin provides the finest and most effective designs for our worshipping together. Many kudos to Albin!

Please take note of the article below on "Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation." We will be giving this as our central focus in coming weeks. Yes, it's almost Lent and we will give daily attention for 40 plus days to our spiritual with the Lord. But we need to seize the moment and zero in on what basic practices make for a church that bears fruit for Christ. Will you pray for "new life" and this emphasis on what makes for a healthy congregation? Let's pray every day, every night for our beloved Deer Park.

David Platt

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### Sundays

9:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study

10:15 a.m. - Choir Warm-up

10:45 a.m. - Worship

### Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. - Supper

6:15 p.m. - Midweek Prayer Svc.

7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, Feb. 26

12:00 noon - Mental Health

First Aid Training

### Wednesday, Mar. 1

6:15 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

### Tuesday, March 7

2:00 p.m. - Highlands Court Devotion and Prayer

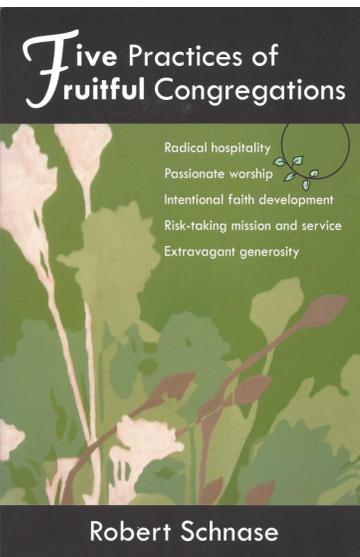
## Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

What does a vital, growing, fruitful congregation look like? Imagine one that displays these five practices: 1) Radical hospitality; 2) Passionate worship; 3) Intentional faith development; 4) Risk-taking mission and service; 5) Extravagant generosity. Being committed to these five practices can stimulate and empower the church to move to new levels of excellence and fruitfulness—all to the glory of God.

The Deacons and Church Council have reviewed the material presented in Robert Schnase's book, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. At last week's Business Meeting we voted to implement this focus in order to help us in our efforts to be renewed and to grow once again as a church.

The five principles listed above will be the focus of the sermons soon. Devotional materials will be provided to every household as well. This focus period is designed to help us improve upon the healthy ministries we already are doing and to be motivated to improve our overall work in the Kingdom of God.

A steering committee was appointed by the Moderator to oversee the planning and follow-up necessary to make this effort effective. Members of the church's Prayer Team will work in concert with this church-wide emphasis. By next week, we will announce the actual dates of this very special season in the life of Deer Park.



Dear Friends,

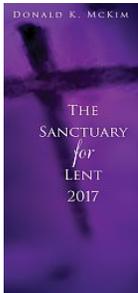
You all have become very dear to me during these 18 plus years at Kentucky Refugee Ministries. I will be retiring from KRM on March 3rd. I'll miss planning with you as we waited excitedly for new families to arrive.

Since I joined KRM in 1998, KRM has welcomed over 5800 refugees. Many of these refugees came to Louisville to join family and friends waiting for them. Some of them, however, arrived knowing no one in the community, hoping that someone would be at the airport to assist them. Many families in this latter group have profited from your warm welcome. I'll have to confess that I've been a little jealous of you because you really get to know the families that you co-sponsor. I knew your families mainly through their bios and my conversations with you about them. I have been proud of being a member of a community that leads with love rather than fear. Please continue to do exactly what you do best – by welcoming the stranger.

After March 3<sup>rd</sup>, my position as co-sponsorship developer, will be filled by two of my co-workers, Stacy Bailey-Ndiaye and Maha Kolko. Stacy and I have been working together for several years, first through her leadership of a group of U. of L. students who co-sponsored through KRM. Maha Kolko, originally from Damascus, began working at KRM a year ago as a case worker. Please contact them with questions and let them know when you are ready to welcome your next family. Maha can be reached at [mkolko@kyrm.org](mailto:mkolko@kyrm.org), 502-479-9180 x 513 and Stacy can be reached at [sbailey-ndiaye@kyrm.org](mailto:sbailey-ndiaye@kyrm.org), 502-479-9180 x583.

Although I will be leaving KRM, Al and I will still be living in Louisville and I hope that we will see each other often. I would love to stay in touch with you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the love, friendship, and support that you have offered to all of us here at Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

Lee Welsh  
Sponsorship Developer  
Kentucky Refugee Ministries



### Lenten Devotionals

*The Sanctuary for Lent 2017* is a booklet that contains one devotion for each of the forty days in Lent, plus Sundays. Donald McKim focuses on prayer -- on people in the Bible who prayed, and especially on Jesus and his prayers -- including the Lord's Prayer, which is examined phrase by phrase over several days.

Each daily devotion includes a suggested Scripture reading, a Bible verse, an inspiring message, and an uplifting prayer to keep the focus on Jesus Christ during the journey through Lent. These Lenten devotionals are now available in the church office and in the atrium.

### Welcome Back, Bethany

We welcome back Bethany Stafford to Deer Park. Bethany is a flute major at Asbury University. We enjoyed her playing last year and look forward to hearing her again this Sunday, February 26, during our worship service.

### Clothing Closet Needs

The Clothing Closet is no longer accepting winter clothing. However we are in need of:

**Men's:** sport socks; all sizes of cotton underwear; small jeans and khaki pants waist sizes 29" - 34".

**Ladies:** plus size casual spring clothes.

### HCM Lenten Lunches and Devotions Coming

Beginning on March 9 and for five consecutive Thursdays at 12:00 noon, our annual Lenten gatherings will be held at various church locations. Soup and bread will be served for free. Leaders from Highlands churches will lead the brief devotion/Bible Study after lunch. Ending time is 1:00 p.m. The first Lenten Lunch will be held at Strathmoor Presbyterian church at 2201 Hawthorne Ave.

DATE	LOCATION	MEDITATION BY:
Mar. 9	Strathmoor Pres.	Troy Burden
Mar. 16	Bardstown Rd. Pres.	Guest TBD
Mar. 23	HCM Campus	Elizabeth Kirkpatrick
Mar. 30	St. Paul UMC	David Platt
Apr. 6	Deer Park Baptist	Chris Leiberan

### Deer Park Stats 2/19/2017

Worship	66
Sunday School	38
Budget Received	\$3,049.00 (69%)
Weekly Budget Needed	\$4,427.00
Budget Needs Y-T-D	\$150,518.00
Budget Gifts Y-T-D	\$120,142.00



### Gifts Received . . . In memory of . . .

**Doris Childress:** From: Jean Abell, Libby Hamilton,

Geri Olin and Tom and Ruth Short

**Carlton Goodwin:** From: Libby Hamilton

**Dottie Schnell:** From: Elizabeth Tunks

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mar. 8 - Alice Herrington



### News and Notes

- If you would like to send a sympathy card to Carlton Goodwin's daughter Tricia Hackney, please call the church office to obtain her address.
- The complete list of our church's officers and committee members for 2017 is available in the church office.



The season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on March 1. After our 5:30 p.m. supper that night we will hold the service in the sanctuary starting at 6:15 p.m. It will be a time for worship and prayer and, for those who will, to "mark" themselves with ashes in the sign of the cross. Together we will experience a time of somber reflection and remind ourselves that we are sinners who repent sometimes even "with dust and ashes."

And so we begin our annual journey toward the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. This particular service calls us to return to God as we place our trust in Him alone.

### Dearest Deer Park family,

I am sure that these few words could never express what your love and prayers have meant to me and to our son, Adam. Ed and I always said that our best memories are of our time at Deer Park and it meant everything to him and to me for you to continue to pray for us. Thanks also for the lovely flowers.

Love, Deb & Adam Harmon

### Deacon on Call

Ron Ragsdale serves as the Deacon on Call through Saturday, February 25. He is available to minister in Christ's name to Deer Park families and individuals.



### Sunday Sermon Texts and Themes

- Feb. 26 Matthew 5:13-20; Isaiah 58:1-9a
- Mar. 5 Matthew 5:21-37; Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Mar. 12 Matthew 5:38-48; Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
- Mar. 19 Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7