

# The Deer Parker

February 21, 2018



## From the Pastor

Is there any doubt that life is regulated by annual rhythms? Spring invariably follows winter, and fall sneaks up behind summer. (This week it feels like summer is trying to leapfrog over spring!)

We are aware that there are religious rhythms, too. The 40 days of Lent (not including Sundays) extend from Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) through Good Friday (March 30).

Lent is for Easter what Advent is for Christmas. It is a time of inner reflection as a preparation for outer action. It is a time anticipating as a faith community the most glorious of all Christian days — the day of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

These 40 days are traditionally a time of meditation, prayer and spiritual renewal among followers of Jesus. In the often chaotic pace of living, Lent nudges us each new day to take quiet time for prayer, solitude, silence and experiencing the presence of God. Through these particular disciplines, you and I can foster our commitment to spiritual growth as we journey together toward Easter.

One possible goal during Lent is for us to live each new day with a truly compassionate heart, a heart that remains open to all people. This is more than empathy or sympathy. It is easy to get numbed by all the pain and suffering we hear of and know about every day. We have our limits.

But God's compassionate heart does not have limits. God's heart is infinitely greater than the human heart. It is that kind of heart that God wants to give us so that we can love all people without burning out or becoming numb. This is what we pray for during Lent when we pray the beloved Psalm 51: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me" (verses 10-11).

God gives his Spirit to us so that we can become participants in God's compassion and so reach out to all people at all times with God's heart. That kind of rhythm can bring glory to God. May it be so.

David Platt

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Sunday

9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal  
 9:30 am - Bible Study  
 10:15 am - Choir Warm-up  
 10:45 am - Worship

### Wednesday

5:30 pm Supper  
 6:15 pm Midweek Prayer Service  
 7:00 pm Choir Practice

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tuesday, February 27

2:00 p.m. - Devotion & Prayer  
 @ Highlands Court Apts.

### Wednesday, February 28

6:15 p.m. - Quarterly Business Meeting

## HCM Lenten Lunches and Devotions Coming

Beginning on Feb. 22 and for five consecutive Thursdays at 12:00 noon, our annual Lenten gatherings will be held at various church locations. They are sponsored by Highlands Community Ministries (HCM). 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 Deer Park on Feb. 22. Pat Pfeiffer and Doris Van Slyke are providing the meal. If you can help with set-up/clean-up please contact Pat or Doris. Thank you in advance for your help with these meaningful services.*

DATE	LOCATION	MEDITATION BY:
Feb. 22	Deer Park Baptist	Elizabeth Kirkpatrick Pastor, Strathmoor Presbyterian
Mar. 1	Highland Community Ministries Campus 1228 East Breckenridge St.	David Platt Pastor, Deer Park Baptist
Mar. 8	Strathmoor Presbyterian 2201 Hawthorne Ave.	Darren Brandon Pastor, St. Paul United Methodist
Mar. 15	Bardstown Road Presbyterian 1722 Bardstown Rd.	Troy Burden Director, Highland Comm. Ministries
Mar. 22	St. Paul United Methodist 2000 Douglass Blvd.	Mary Nebelsick Pastor, Bardstown Rd. Presbyterian

### Lenten Devotionals

*The Sanctuary for Lent 2018* contains a devotion for each of the forty days in Lent, plus Sundays. Each day author Katie Dawson explores the theme, "The Wilderness of Lent" to prepare the reader fully for the joy of resurrection.

Every day's reading includes Scripture, an inspiring message, and an uplifting prayer to keep the focus on Jesus Christ during the journey through Lent. These booklets are available in the atrium and the church office.

### News, Notes and Events

- Our Quarterly Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28 at 6:15 p.m.
- 2018 VBS will be held from Wed., June 13-Sun., June 17. Times to be announced.
- FREE: Cynthia Clawson concert - Sat., Feb. 24, at St. Matthews Baptist at 7:00 p.m.
- Rev. Billy Graham died at age 99 on Feb. 21. A compilation of some of his words is available on the table near the elevator.

### Survey Cards

Look for survey cards in Sunday's bulletin asking for everyone's suggestions about study topics to be considered during 2018. Your participation will be appreciated.

### Deer Park Stats 2/18/2018

Worship	57
Sunday School	32
Budget Received	\$2,559.00 (58%)
Weekly Budget Needed	\$4,448.00
Budget Needs Y-T-D	\$146,784.00
Budget Gifts Y-T-D	\$154,074.00

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 5 - Hannah O'Keefe  
March 8 - Alice Herrington



### Thank You from the Staff

We all wish to thank heartily the congregation for your generous Christmas love gift that each of us received last week. We thank God for the joy of serving Him with all of you at Deer Park.

*David Platt, Albin Whitworth,  
Mary Ransdell and nursery workers,  
Leigh Reesor and Mary Burch.*

### Thank You from the Whitworth's

Thank you for your concern and gracious expressions of love during these past few weeks as we have dealt with health challenges. We feel like we are on the way to better days and we are grateful.

With love and appreciation,  
*Albin and Katie*



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

*Geneva Matthews  
From: Clayanna Head*

### Deacon on Call

Tom Coursen serves as the Deacon on Call from this coming Sunday through Saturday, March 10. He is available to minister in Christ's name to Deer Park families and individuals.

