

## Believe!

### Spiritual Mentorship at HACC

Here it is the start of the year, a time for setting goals. One of those goals might be centered around growing more *spiritually*. If you are seeking a mentor to hold you accountable for any of your goals, keep reading!

We see mentors all over the world, in fiction and in reality – whether it is Luke Skywalker learning from Yoda, or Jackie Chan modeling his career after Bruce Lee. Mentorship existed in Jesus’ day between a rabbi and his disciples. Jesus was considered a rabbi ... in other words, teacher. His apprentices were disciples or learners. A disciple’s job was to follow their rabbi until they absorbed what they could from them. Jesus came so that his followers ‘*may have life, and have it to the full*’. Jesus is our ultimate mentor.

If you are seeking a spiritual mentor to guide you in particular areas of your life, then you have come to the right place. This mentorship program will link you with a person who will partner with you through your journey. Your mentor might help you with some of the following:

- Developing specific habits based on the life teachings of Jesus, considering questions like ‘*What do I do?*’, ‘*How do I do it?*’, and ‘*Why should I do it?*’
- Identifying an area of need and providing specific assignments and ongoing accountability.
- Providing the apprentice with motivation, perspective and skills to enable them to achieve effectiveness and change. They focus on developing specific arenas, such as spiritual disciplines and relationships.
- Offering specific advice at appropriate times. Mentors are impartial observers who provide valuable outside perspective.
- Bringing knowledge, resources, and motivation for growth in specific areas such as parenting, career, or other identified areas of need.
- Guiding – using their own relational connection to help gain opportunities and experience.

The mentorship relationship is designed for a pre-determined length of time with specific goals set. It is important to understand that mentors are identified by the pastoral staff and will be matched prayerfully with each mentee based on their life experience, skill, and personality. Mentors are not expected to be therapists, job recruiters, etc. The program is designed for those seeking mentorship to be matched with someone who will provide encouragement, advice, expertise, resources and accountability through prayer and spiritual guidance.

Simply fill out the form located at <http://www.hacctulsa.org/wordpress/connect/resources/> (*Click on the website article/title to expand the copy*). Once submitted, you will be contacted within the next two weeks by your mentor. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Dyer.

PRISCILLA SHIRER

### Armor of God Bible Study...SIGN UP TODAY!



*Starting to plan for next year already?* Priscilla Shirer’s Armor of God will be a seven week Bible Study allowing us time to learn to be strong in The LORD and in the strength of His might. The study starts January 19 and runs 7 consecutive Thursdays ending on March 2. We will meet in the Believer’s classroom upstairs at 12 noon. Books are available at the Peake Commons Welcome Center for \$13 (*checks made payable to HACC*). You can pick up your book today and pay on January 19th. Jessica Dyer will facilitate this class ([jessica@hacctulsa.org](mailto:jessica@hacctulsa.org)).



## Be Loved!



### Thank You:

I would like to express my deep appreciation to my church family for the love and care extended to Susie and me, as we deal with the challenges of Parkinson's. The choir members are so very patient and caring in helping me to maneuver the path to my chair in the tenor section next to my kind and helpful friend, Jim Womack. Every Sunday I feel blessed by so many expressions of friendship.

In November at the last *Next Man Up 7-Minute Serve* of 2016, Scott Booren, Clint Briggs, Ryan Buell and Lance Goll arrived with their leaf blower, ladder and other tools and proceeded to clean out our gutters - a chore that sorely needed to be done - and to bag up leaves and generally raise our spirits. I was proud to tell my neighbor that those strapping young men were from our church. Thanks to them and to all the dear caring servants in our HACC family. *Gratefully, Rex Daugherty*

### **Gospel of John Bible Study**

Part II of the Gospel of John Bible study beginning January 19, Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm is a 12-week course that covers the private ministry of Jesus to His disciples. Completion of Part I is not a prerequisite.

After a cursory look at Jesus's public ministry, this second study of the Gospel of John picks up in John Chapter 12 with Jesus meeting privately with his disciples to encourage and teach them before He begins his last week on earth. It is an intimate setting where Jesus shows them the depth of His love and promises to send them the Holy Spirit. We will walk through the arrest, trial, resurrection and snippets of time Jesus spent on earth prior to the Ascension. It is an appropriate study as we approach the Easter Season. We invite you to join us as we study, discuss and learn together more about the Passion of Christ: The Final Week.

### ***Bible Reading Resources at HACC***

At the beginning of my faith journey, reading the bible was more than intimidating. I didn't know where to start, how to pronounce some of the words and names, or think God could reveal anything to me that I would even comprehend. As I started to open the book and pray that God would reveal himself to me through this beautiful love letter, it began to come alive.

We are flooded with a vast amount of 'counsel' washing into our lives each day. *So, why read the bible?* Here are just a few reasons:

Reading God's word allows us time to slow down and focus on the promises of scripture enabling us to take a deep breath and apply its truths to our lives. We also need to do it regularly. It is like stored energy. We can stay afloat throughout the day by making moment-by-moment withdrawals from the vast reservoir of spiritual fuel it provides. Additionally, we gain wisdom by allowing our lives to be tweaked, taking prompt and fresh mid-course correction.

Daily bible reading deepens us theologically providing space for us to think more accurately about what matters most. We are also stirred to take action in concrete ways through the text: ways that might mess with us, change us a little bit, alter our outlook, and thus impel us forward in some new step of practical obedience externally because we have been changed a tiny bit internally.

Last, but not least, bible reading is a personal experience. After all, what other book do we read where we are conscious of the author interacting with us to such a degree?

Daily bible reading requires routine and structure, but it is not mechanical. Just as the body requires a bony skeleton, the skeleton does not give the body life. We do with the bible what we are guided to do: adore God, thank Him, complain, wrestle with Him, express perplexity, trust, and all the rest.

Check out these resources by visiting <http://www.hacctulsa.org/wordpress/connect/resources/bible-reading-plan-and-tools>. (*Click on the website article/title to expand the copy*) *Jessica*



## Be Loved!

### Youth Events

The Youth Ski Trip was a great success and we are back and ready to begin our 2017 activities. Be sure to be with us on Sunday mornings at 10 am and Wednesday evenings at 6 pm (6-8 for middle school/7-9 for high school) upstairs in the Youth Center. We will worship together and fellowship together. We will have mission projects, mission trips, extra activities and retreats, and fun trips throughout the year. Make the Youth Group part of your 2017 new year resolution. *Join us!*



*Grace & Peace, Colt*  
918-691-6525    [colt@hacctulsa.org](mailto:colt@hacctulsa.org)

### **A Journey of Faith: 2017 PartnerTrip to Nicaragua**

Over the last year, Harvard Avenue has worked to establish connection with the community of Chacraseca, Nicaragua through support and guidance of the Christian-ecumenical organization, ***JustHope*** ([www.justhope.org](http://www.justhope.org)). This partnership marks an exciting expansion of HACC's ministries, engaging our faith and our neighbors in a global sense.



The partnership with ***JustHope*** and the community of Chacraseca emphasizes the important mutual benefit of shared educational experience between people of faith from different contexts and cultures, the ways that both communities are enriched by this exchange, and the amazing impact that this cross-cultural experience has on the faith journey of participants. By personally connecting with the people, culture, and reality of Nicaragua, and assisting with local development efforts there, our HACC community can expect that this partnership will cultivate a deeper understanding our human connection to all of God's children and of our faith; a faith that transcends the borders of nations!

If you are interested travelling with us on our 2017 HACC PartnerTrip to the community of Chacraseca, Nicaragua (July 24 – Aug. 1, 2017), now is the time to plan! There will be information sessions about this exciting trip on Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, January 15 at 10:00 am (FLC). You may also pick up an informational packet from Kevin Howe at his office, or by email ([kevin@hacctulsa.org](mailto:kevin@hacctulsa.org)). A trip deposit of \$500 will be due no later than January 29.

### **Congregational Meeting – January 29 at 10:00 AM**

At this annual gathering of the HACC family, important words are shared and decisions made. How did we carry out our vision successfully in 2016? What are the challenges we face in the new year? What financial resources will empower us, or not, to meet the growing reach of the ministry we share? Join us on Sunday, January 29th at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary to hear the "State of the Church" address and vote on the budget proposal for 2017.



## Become!

### God, Us, and 2017

*What will make a difference to the future is awakening to a faith that fully communicates God's love—a love that transforms how we believe, what we do, and who we are in the world. — Diana Butler Bass*

It's 2017 to state the obvious. I'm often surprised even though this new year stuff occurs, well, every year. It seems like yesterday that we were preparing for Y2K. How can we really be seventeen years into a new millennium? But... here we are. Father Richard Rohr and a number of other respected theologians who have seen a few new years' come and go are asking hard questions of the Church in 2017. Rohr writes quite frankly, *"Our religion is not working well. Another year has ended – a new year begins – in which suffering, fear, violence, injustice, greed, and meaninglessness still abound. This is not even close to the reign of God that Jesus taught."* Hmm. Is this sadly true? It does make me ask myself a very humbling question: *"Am I contributing to the hurt or am I an active part of the healing?"*

I certainly want to be a part of the healing. I believe the Good News of the Gospel not only invites and calls us to be a healing presence but, in fact, demands it of us. God is looking for some faith among the faithful: *"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"* (Luke 18:8). Genuine faith is transformative. It must involve growth and change. The opening quote from Diana Butler Bass above invites us to experience such transformation. How will God's love transform how we believe, what we do, and who we are in 2017? I'm pondering these questions for myself and as your pastor as we embark on another adventure of a year together. Whoever we become in 2017, we will build on the shoulders of the HACC faithful who first decided in 1959 to be the presence of Christ in Tulsa and beyond. It is an ongoing honor and privilege to carry such a lineage of faithful response forward. In such a spirit, let's be among the faithful today who bridge the gap between the world's challenges and the reign of God Jesus spoke about.

What do you say? Let's show up day after day where we live and serve and love and be the presence of Christ. Let's gather for worship on the first day of every week to praise God and be filled with renewed energy to do it again and again. Let's become advocates for the voiceless who need to be heard. Let's serve with joy in the places often abandoned by the world. Let's study Christ like we've never studied before so that we might be enlightened by his discerning wisdom. Let's flip the script on a growing story that suggests religion is not working well by writing a new transformative chapter that brings the love of God into full view. Why not us? Why not now?

*Mark*



#### **Next Sunday's Message: You Have My... MESS**

*"He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure." (Psalm 40:2)*

*We've all been there.* The moment we're ready to turn in our resignation, suffocating under the stress of the job, and its only Monday. The moment we realize everything

our mom said was right. The moment our 2-year-old's vocabulary is limited to the word "No!" The moment the SUV is making sputtering noises, and the bank account is running on empty. The moment we put on a happy face because it is expected. *We've all been there.* But how do we get out of the mess? New research suggests we play in the mud... or... we offer our mess to God. (Psalm 40:1-11). Join us at 9:00 or 11:00 AM this Sunday as Mark Briley continues the sermon series, *"You Have My... MESS."* An additional blessing to the morning will take place at the 11:00 AM service as Annabelle Akins-Langenheim, daughter of Carl Akins and Sarah Langenheim, will be dedicated to the Lord. Don't miss a great Sunday of worship!

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**Handbell Choir Director** – Jerome Robinson

### Welcome Mat Deadline

Please e-mail your articles to [betsey@hacctulsa.org](mailto:betsey@hacctulsa.org), drop them by the church office or fax them to 918-742-5501. The next article deadline is January 24 before noon.



### *Sign Up Now for the 2017 Flower Calendar*

Thanks to all who give flower arrangements for Sunday morning worship. For \$75, you can celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one, with flowers professionally arranged and delivered weekly. You can select your week on the "flower calendar" with Betsey Owen (918-742-5509); [betsey@hacctulsa.org](mailto:betsey@hacctulsa.org). *(If you take the flowers home with you, please return the vase to the church within the week. Thank you.)*

**We also have a "Flower" notebook in the front office and you can sign up for any Sunday of the year.**

### Sunday Attendance

January 8: Rising – 151; Traditional – 269; Total – 420

### **The Welcome Mat Schedule for 2017**

The Welcome Mat is published twice a month. The 2017 article deadlines are: January 24; February 7, 21; March 7, 21; April 11, 25; May 9, 23; June 6, 20; July 11, 25; August 8, 22; September 12, 26; October 10, 24; November 7, 14; and December 5 and 19. Articles are due in the church office by noon. You may e-mail articles to [betsey@hacctulsa.org](mailto:betsey@hacctulsa.org) by noon on those Tuesdays.

### **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

January 12	Disciple Women, 1:00 pm
January 13	Parents Night Out, 6:00 - 10:00 pm
January 15	<b>JustHope</b> Partner Trip Information Meeting, 10:00 am
January 19	<i>Armor of God</i> Bible Study, noon <i>Gospel of John</i> Bible Study, 6:30 pm
January 21	Elder Orientation Meeting, 9:00 am
January 22	Elder Commissioning, 9:00 & 11 am
January 24	Adult Education Meeting, noon Newsletter Deadline, noon
January 26	<i>Armor of God</i> Bible Study, noon HACC Bridge Group, 1:00 pm <i>Gospel of John</i> Bible Study, 6:30 pm



# The Welcome Mat

Harvard Avenue Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*)  
*Be loved. Believe. Become.*

Volume 58

January 11, 2017

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### Sunday Morning

9:00 a.m.—The Rising  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship

### Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. -- Monday  
through Thursday  
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Friday

Next Welcome Mat Deadline  
Tuesday, January 24, before noon

Visit us at [www.hacctulsa.org](http://www.hacctulsa.org)

**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING &  
"STATE OF THE CHURCH"  
ADDRESS  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29  
10:00 AM  
(In the Sanctuary)**



## New Year, New Leaders

Harvard Avenue Christian Church will soon celebrate 58 years of ministry with the city of Tulsa and with partners that stretch to the corners of the globe. Reaching faithfully requires the strength of an entire faith community offering their best to see the realm of God come alive on earth. Many gifted members of our church rose to the call of leadership in 2016 to guide our vision forward in challenging times. Our gratitude for their time, energy, and wisdom cannot find adequate words. HACC has elected new leaders to carry us forward in 2017 and beyond. Please thank and encourage the leaders listed below as they help each of us rise to the challenge of becoming all God has called us to be as a community of faith.

### Executive Team Leaders

Moderator – Ryan Buchan      Vice Moderator – Darita Huckabee  
Treasurer – Sally Kelley      Secretary – Wayne Kindrick

### Ministry Leadership Team

Congregational Care	Sylvia Goen
Church Growth	Mary Magee
Outreach	Kyle Simmons
Adult Education	Bendy Gilpin
Stewardship	Bruce Cargill
Worship	Pat Maxwell
Property	Rick Young

### Elders – Class of 2019

Bob Flint	Hollie Hawkins	Jamie Jones
Roy Peters	Chad Roberson	Jane Whitt

### Traditional Deacons – Class of 2019

Carol Carter	Tracy Carter	Ashley Doyle
Mike Doyle	Jeff Kendall	Amelia Martinez
Lane Pennington	Susan Pennington	Terrance Revis
Kate Rhynes		

### Rising Deacons – Class of 2019

John Hawkins	Hannah Lollman	Justin Lollman
Pagan Regnier	Ty Southard	