

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

Troy Antle

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

Richard Brundige

Matt Thompson

Adam Litmer

Bill Morelan

Jim Parsons

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

**In need of prayers**

Janice and Elizabeth, Gary Brown,  
Jackie Litmer, Rick Small, Bobbie  
Atkisson, Edith Huffman, Diane  
Thompson, Karen Spivey, Jeff  
Howerton (also his aunt), Rhonda  
Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Paul  
Atkisson, Lois Weatherholt, Cassie  
Neel, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige,  
Valerie and Barry Boyd, Erlene  
Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron,  
John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul  
Lyda, Annie Allen, Elijah Ossege,  
Chassey and Paisley Seabolt, Tammy  
Goble, Veronica Bowman, Cindi  
Bradbury, Jennifer Strutz, Steve  
Stewart, Linda Humphrey, Karen  
Eifler and Chery Botts (aunts of  
James' Weatherholt), Roy Daniel  
(Adam's uncle)

# University Heights Messenger

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## **The Lasting Spiritual Legacy of Jim Parsons**

John Thompson

A simplistic definition of “legacy” is that which one leaves behind for others. But I don’t think that does sufficient justice to what a legacy really is. The dictionary would define “legacy” as a gift handed down, endowed, or conveyed from one person to another. It is something descendible one comes into possession of that is transmitted, inherited or received from a predecessor. This definition is more precise because it ties together the three essential components of a legacy. Legacy is a gift; legacy is inherited (passed on and on); and legacy is possessed by those to whom it passes.

Jim and Janice Parsons, like so many at University Heights Church of Christ, have been exemplary workers for the Lord. We are all heartbroken as we anticipate life without him. His family at University Heights will experience his loss in one way, and Janice and Elizabeth and his other family members will grieve in other ways. But he is not totally gone from us because we have a huge, God-given ability to remember. Those memories will become ever more important as time marches on.

Jim will remain vivid in our minds and hearts because of his legacy, that which he has bequeathed to us, that which we inherit from him which he inherited from faithful Christians who preceded him and which he intends for us to pass on to those who follow us. Jim has passed on to us the legacy he received from his brothers in

Christ: Garry Banks, Louis Harrod, and Bill Osborne, and others too numerous to mention.

Remember Garry? Garry might pull a practical joke on you and always seemed to wear white short-sleeve shirts even in the dead of winter, but who can doubt his sincerity and his love for the Lord when he would begin opening announcements with, “Now let’s all settle down and think about why we are here.” Garry sang Faith Is the Victory with such gusto that you could not help but attempt to match his enthusiasm.

Remember Bill? Bill was a quiet man; one I wish I had gotten to know better. It was only after he died that I learned of his artistic talents and teaching abilities. I remember a coworker of his saying that he had learned more from Bill at work in 3 years than he had learned in the 15 or so years before that. Bill passed on a legacy of humility and steadfastness, never putting others down so he could get ahead and getting the job done and done well. The church needs members who will possess Bill’s legacy of humility now more than ever.

Remember Louis? If I asked him a question, he was seldom quick to answer, but answer he would and you soon learned to be prepared for a longer answer than you had anticipated, because Louis would often begin to add extra information that soon turned into interesting stories. In all of his stories, though, I never heard him talk bad about anyone. I never observed him treating anyone with anything other than respect and kindness. Louis bequeathed us a legacy of considering others better than ourselves.

Remember Jim? Jim was the one who had his own special way of recognizing the college students in our midst, saying to them, “You are an encouragement to us as we are to you. Jim and Janice were the ones who took care of the printing needs of the church and they did that job timely and with precision. I never saw an ink smudge, nor

were print jobs ever delivered late. If there was any lateness involved it was those of us who asked Jim to print something we needed the very next day for Bible class. I don’t think they ever profited from what they printed for the church, and I know some of it they bore the cost themselves. Jim received from Garry a legacy of joyful service to the church and now he has passed that legacy on to us. Will we possess it?

Those of us who have preached sermons or delivered Wednesday night talks can remember times when Jim told us how much he appreciated the lesson, sometimes adding how much he needed to hear it. His sincerity was evident and it made us feel really good inside that he liked our lessons so much. Although he would never have admitted it, he could have been a preacher himself. His bible talks usually began with some incident that had recently occurred or some thoughts he had been working on and he could capture your attention right away. His talks were straight from the Bible and his heart and delivered with the same humility we saw in Bill. Now Jim has bequeathed us with what it takes to be a humble servant in the Kingdom of the Lord.

Jim has also passed down to us the legacy of kindness and respect for others he received from Brother Louis. If Jim was hard on anyone it was himself. For others he had praise and encouragement. His presence at the services of the church, especially after his health began to decline, brought us all joy because we could see *his* joy at being there. We will miss that presence, but he will live on in the legacy he has bequeathed to us. Our task is to accept that legacy, possess it, make it our own, and be ready to pass it on to those who come after us.





