

Common Grounds

Homer's Coffee House

www.homerscoffeehouse.com

A Ministry of Kansas City CBMC, Inc.

Homer's is a Family

I've always known Homer's is special.

My wife, Vanessa, began working at Homer's in the summer of 2003. Since then, Homer's has been like a second home for her, with the customers and her coworkers becoming an extended family. This year, I was adopted into the Homer's family when Vanessa and I took over for Jim and Louise Mathis as the full time managers.

It's amazing to me to think about the path that led us to Homer's, and I can confidently tell you it's not an accident that we're here. I graduated from K-State in December 2006 with a degree in music. I entered school with the intention of becoming a high school band teacher, but decided a few years into my course work that teaching music didn't seem like the right fit for me. I finished my BA and joined the work force. I've had three full time jobs since I left school, working nights as an assistant supervisor at a customer embroidery company, supervising a warehouse for a printing company, and testing cleaning products in a lab outside of Lawrence. Although each of these jobs were a blessing, I had yet to find a work environment that felt like home; a place where I could be creative, and a job which fit my gifts. Last spring, Vanessa and I were approached with the possibility of taking over for Jim and Louise. As soon as the opportunity came up, I knew that this was the right place for us. I have a passion for coffee, music, art, and most importantly, people. Homer's already feels like home.

The legacy of Jim and Louise Mathis is evident everywhere you look at Homer's. Great coffee,

great music, loyal patrons, and a welcoming environment are just a few of the things that Jim and Louise left behind. You can be sure that even though Jim and Louise will no longer be running Homer's, the impact they had in the time they were here will continue to be felt for many years to come. They are extraordinary people, and leave some very big shoes to fill.

When you walk in the door at Homer's, you'll notice not much has changed. It is still a great place to meet friends for coffee, use free wi-fi, or sit alone and read a book. On the weekends, we'll still have some of the best live music in town, always without a cover charge. The art on the walls will continue to rotate monthly, featuring up and coming artists looking to showcase their work publicly. If you've enjoyed coming to Homer's before, I think you'll continue to want to make a trip to Homer's a part of your routine.

I've learned a few things since Vanessa and I started managing here. I can now make a latte, bake a scone, and am becoming an expert in the art of restroom cleaning. However, the aspect of Homer's that has impacted me the most is the beautiful community of people that exists around this place. I was serious when I compared this group of people to a family, and I feel extremely blessed to be a part of it. Everyday I see people looking out for each other and working together. Homer's is a place where I see friends come to meet and where relationships are valued. It's the people around Homer's that has made it a special place. I'm honored that Vanessa and I get to be a part of it.

-Glenn Winkler
Manager, Homer's Coffee House

On the Rock....

by Byron Whetstone, Executive Director

“Come now you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain”; whereas you do not know about tomorrow. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that”. (James 4:13-16)

There seem to be two distinct philosophies of life described in James. One the human view (I can and will control my own destiny and can go wherever I would like) and the second a Christian view (acknowledging the role in our lives of a sovereign God and Jesus as the Savior). Generally, and especially for me the recognition that God has a purpose for your life is easily lost on us but from time to time we get hints, clues, nudges, promptings that provide evidence and proof of the power of the Spirit moving in us. This of course helps each of us to be faithful and more faithful.

In December 2007, I was approached by one of the board members of Kansas City-CBMC, Inc. the “not-for-profit” whose primary mission is to operate the ministry of Homer’s Coffee House, and he said “there may be a change in leadership at Homer’s”. Now I don’t drink coffee, I don’t play a musical instrument, I’m not an artist and until recently had only been to Homer’s a couple of times, yet something stirred inside of me, a feeling that God may be placing before me an opportunity to be used by him for his purpose through Homer’s.

Well as they say (whomever they are) the rest is history and on June 14, 2008, the Board of Directors of Kansas City – CBMC, Inc. appointed me to the position of Executive

Director. I have also matured enough to know that REALITY is also a great ambassador for “faithfulness” and if the James passage noted above has meaning for me as a Christian, then if serving him at Homer’s is the Lord’s will I should be happy to go when and where he directs.

Serving him is one thing but doing so meant taking financial risk and responsibility for the Homer’s ministry and Jerri my wife and I have taken a great leap of faith to facilitate the change in Homer’s leadership. You may not be aware but Homer’s has for many years existed largely by the generosity of outside donations. Donations that, have allowed the coffee house to operate with a primary concern for those in the community and not necessarily the profitable business operation. What has motivated our decision to serve the Lord here at Homer’s? We believe that God has charged us to expand the Homer’s Christian community and to humbly help God to create a revival of the New Testament church in the businesses and houses in the Kansas City area.

Homer’s represents an island of Christian faithfulness in the contemporary culture of “moral relevance”, an island fortified by people who care for each other, pray for each other, study the word with each other and most importantly act as Jesus to each other. God has blessed the community and now this community is ready to mobilize and advance the kingdom if that be His will. Please pray for Homer’s and the future of the ministry.

Check out our new website!

One of our baristas, Tim Andersen, has revamped the Homer's Coffee House home page. We hope the site is easier to use, and we will continue to add content to it. The website will be the best place to find information on our live music, art, and other events. The previous Homer's site will be linked from the new one for your convenience.

Also, we have started a Homer's blog for the purpose of having a place for our staff to share updates about the goings on at Homer's and their thoughts on life. We think you'll enjoy it.

Homer's website

www.homerscoffeehouse.com

Homer's blog

<http://homerscoffeehouseopks.blogspot.com/>

Homer's to host Benefit Concert and Coat Drive for the homeless

On Friday, October 31st, Homer's Coffee House will host a benefit concert for Hope Faith Ministries, a ministry in downtown Kansas City, Missouri, which serves the poor in our city. We will be collecting donations for the ministry, as well as clothing items to be given out for the winter season. Please consider spending your Halloween with us; we believe this will be a very special night. We hope that this will be the beginning of a wonderful relationship with Hope Faith Ministries.

Items to bring for donations:

Winter Coats, Gloves, and Hats
Men's Jeans and shoes
Backpacks
Monetary Donations

Performing artists to be announced soon at:
www.homerscoffeehouse.com

For information about Hope Faith Ministries go to:
<http://web.mac.com/hopefaithministries>

Homer's Overwhelmed by Generosity

Homer's was recently given a substantial amount of money to help with the financial obligations of the leadership transition. This gift was completely unsolicited and its obvious providence has given MAJOR encouragement to us. PRAISE GOD.

Since Homer's Coffee House opened in 2001, customers have always enjoyed using our stage as an additional seating area. Unfortunately, the Homer's staff had to close the stage for seating due to a few individuals falling. We wanted to reopen the stage for seating, and considered several options.

We are happy to announce that Randy Greer, a friend of Homer's, has generously agreed to install a new railing around the perimeter of the stage. We are confident that the railing will provide a safe environment for our patrons to enjoy themselves when they visit Homer's. We appreciate everyone's patience regarding the stage.

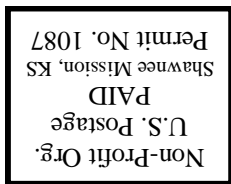
Kansas City CBMC, Inc. and Homer's Coffee House are supported by our friends who frequent Homer's and those that donate directly to this ministry. We sincerely appreciate your donations of all sizes and types. Homer's Coffee House touches thousands of lives, yet we are limited in our impact to the community by limited resources.

Please consider making Kansas City CBMC, Inc. part of your giving. Your tax deductible contribution will be used wisely.

Thank you,
Kansas City CBMC, Inc. Board of Directors

Glenn Winkler, Manager
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September/October 2008



Address Service Requested

Overland Park, KS 66204
7126 W 80th St
Homer's Coffee House

Live Music at Homer's Coffee House

September 5, Robert Houston and True Dedication
September 6, Sara Swenson
September 12, Randy Davenport
September 13, The Subs
September 19, Joey Nicholson
September 20, Sky Blue
September 26, Charles David Smart
September 27, Stan Pollmann
October 3, Lester Estelle
October 4, Electric Prairie
October 10, Ronni Ward
October 11, Kenny Gamble
October 17, Charles David Smart
October 18, Sky Blue
October 24, Bob Jenkins
October 25, Jason Parr

Oct 31, Benefit for Hope Faith Ministries, Artists TBA

November 1, Danielle Lucas & Briana Swift
November 7, Jennifer Lynn Smith
November 8, The Subs

***November 14, Land & Hildebrand**

***November 15, Land & Hildebrand**

November 21, Charles David Smart
November 22, Sky Blue
November 28, Lester Estelle
November 29, Jimmy Nickelsen
December 5, TBA
December 6, Electric Prairie
December 12, Ronni Ward
December 13, TBA
December 19, Charles David Smart
December 20, Moon City Big Band (Christmas Show)
December 26, Bob Jenkins
December 27, Sky Blue

**Ray Hildebrand is retiring from music after 40+ years. This will be his final public performance. Don't miss it!*



For more information go to: www.homerscoffeehouse.com