

Common Grounds

Homer's Coffee House

A ministry of Kansas City CBMC
The Christian Business Men's Community

Priorities

It is all about priorities, isn't it? Our life is determined by the choices we make, and our choices are determined by our priorities.

I remember my first crisis of priorities. I was in the eighth grade. The eighth-grade class trip to Topeka was the same weekend as Regional 4-H Days. I had won a speech competition at the county 4-H Days event which gave me the opportunity to go on to the regional competition. But the same day was the class trip to Topeka. I had been with those kids every day for eight years and this was probably the last time we would be together. Plus, we were going to tour the Capitol, meet the Governor, and all that sort of stuff.

It was the toughest decision I had ever made up to that point. As an adult, tough decisions are a regular occurrence. I have learned that I must have predetermined priorities in place to help make hard choices easier.

If we want to know our true priorities, take a look at the calendar and the check book. How we spend our time and how we spend our money are a good indicator of what is truly important in our lives.

God has given each of us different amounts of money, but we each have just twenty-four hours in the day. Therefore time management is all about determining what is important to us and making priorities and setting time accordingly.

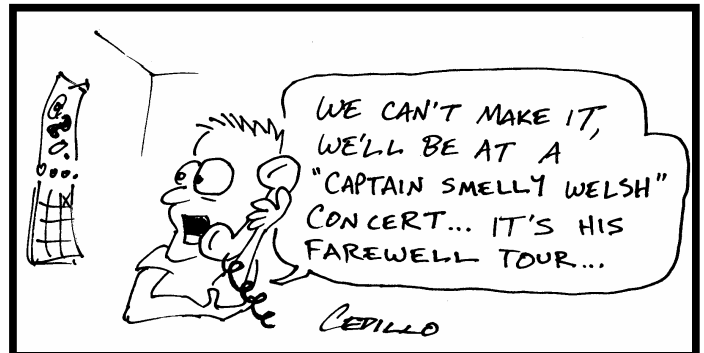
A nationally known blues club in Midtown Kan-

Jim Mathis, Executive Director
7126 W 80th Str
Overland Park, KS 66204
913 269-6709
jimmydmathis@hotmail.com

sas City announced they were closing this month. Not because the business wasn't successful, but because the owner wanted to be at home in the evenings with his family. This is how tough decisions are made after clear priorities are determined.

But setting priorities is an ongoing, whole-life, exercise. I am constantly looking at the things I am doing to determine if I think they are still important. Some things that were very important a few years ago, are not important at all now, and other things have become very important.

I do not hunt, fish, or play golf. I do not watch television. I have never seen Survivor, American Idol, or Frazier. Not that these things are bad, it is just that, for me, I have decided that I would rather do something else.



We are all made differently with different interests, needs, and gifts. Understanding ourselves helps us set priorities. Once I came to grips with the idea that my "need" for music was very high, it helped me make music a high priority. For me playing music is a high priority and watching TV is a very low priority. If I have a few minutes, will I pick up a guitar or turn on the TV? If I have extra money to spend, will I buy a musical instrument or a new television? Easy questions. I have already set my priorities.

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Because we are all different, somebody else can't set our priorities for us. My parents made me decide if I was going on the class trip or compete at 4-H Days. They couldn't decide for me. Both things were good and there was no clear choice. It was the beginning of a lot of tough choices that would determine my life.

Somebody once said, "Be careful what you love, because what you love will define your life." What we love affects our choices and our life is the total of the choices we have made.

Thirty-three years ago, I walked down an aisle and told a woman that I would love her forever. I meant it then and I still do. That means that spending time with her is a priority. If it comes down to playing music or spending time with my wife, the choice is already made. As much as I love music, I love my wife more.

How we spend money is a big priority issue. For me, giving to causes I believe in is a very high priority. My wife and I spend a lot of time talking and praying about how much and to whom we will give.

I have always made driving a nice car a priority, to some people a good car is one that gets them to work every day. That is an individual choice, we shouldn't judge others because they spend too much or too little on cars. But sometimes spending habits point out our own self-centeredness. I know guys who think nothing of buying expensive bass boats or go on expensive golf trips and complain because their wives spent \$100 on a pair of shoes. (A hundred dollars for shoes! What's wrong with Wal-Mart?)

For Christians, there is only one clear priority. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus said, "*But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" Seek God first - everything else is secondary.

Jim Mathis

Introducing....

"Pickin' on the Patio"

Open acoustic jam every Monday night,
beginning June 7
On the patio at Homer's Coffee House
7:30 to 9:30 PM

All musicians and singers welcome.

WEEKLY CBMC MEN'S GROUPS

Monday 7:00 AM—Tevis Restaurant, 821 SW 6th
Topeka, KS call Frank Foster, 785-271-1570.

Tuesday 6:45 AM—Denny's Restaurant, 105th &
Metcalf, **Overland Park, KS** call Eric Tange 913 897-
4318.

Tuesday 6:45 to 7:45 AM - Homer's Coffee House,
80th & Metcalf, **Overland Park, KS** Call Johnnie Huff
816-932-6321.

Tuesday 6:30 AM—Winsted's, 905 NW 7 Hwy, **Blue
Springs, MO** call Dale Walkup 816-229-8700.

Tuesday 7:00 AM - **Olathe, KS**, The Next Generation
Leaders, call DeWayne Ables 913-636-7373 for loca-
tion.

Tuesday, 6:30 AM—**Kansas City, KS**, Hardees, 8021
State Ave, call Fred Thorp 913-638-3044.

Wednesday 6:45 AM—The Gold Bank, **St Joseph,
MO** call Dr James Smith 816-424-3858.

Wednesday 6:30 AM TGIW- **Olathe, KS**, Souper
Salad, 119th & Blackbob, call Rick Boxx 913 642-8778

Wednesday 6:30 AM TGIW—**Lee's Summit, MO**
Souper Salad, call Rod Handley 816-525-6339

Wednesday 6:45 AM—Mr. Steak, 1501 S Noland Rd,
Independence, MO call Ron Finke 816-674-4433.

Wednesday 12:15 to 1:15, **Downtown KCMO**,
Grandma's Deli, Call Tom Apel, 816-502-4117.

Wednesday 7:30 PM - Homer's Coffee House, 7126 W
80th, **Overland Park, KS**, Call Jim Mathis 913 269-
6709.

Thursday 6:45 AM—Corporate Woods, Building 40,
Overland Park, KS call Bill Green, 913 599-3580.

Friday 6:30 AM—Otto's Restaurant, 8th & Broadway,
Pittsburg, KS call Dean Powell, 620-231-6505.

Friday 6:30 AM—The Colonel's Pancake House,
Joplin, MO call Chuck Thelen, 417-781-3747.

Other groups are forming, so if you are interested in
being involved in a small group, call Jim Mathis 913-
269-6709.

What others are saying about Homers:

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www.GJMagazine.com

Homers Music Scene Growing in Popularity

By: Connie Whitlock

Connie Whitlock is President of KC Christian Music
www.KCChristianmusic.com

Most coffee houses struggle to get off the ground and some rarely even accomplish that, but we have found a gem in Overland Park, Kansas. Homer's started out with a vision to reach the community for Christ, but to stay a regular coffee house that served the general public and businesses. Jim Mathis, the head of this ministry, works very hard to book bands for Friday and Saturday evenings and keep a high quality of coffees and desserts stocked for everyone to enjoy. One evening we were there, we spoke with a man that had discovered Homer's Coffee House when he was laid off. He was saved shortly after that through this ministry. Now he is again employed and deeply grateful for all the hard work and heart that this ministry gives.

When you walk into their establishment you will find an awesome aroma of coffee and a comfortable, yet professional decor. Around 7:30 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings, if you happen to stumble in for some coffee, you will find live entertainment waiting for your attention. I have heard artists rave about playing there because there is always a full house.

Jim Mathis and Homer's Coffee House take advantage of its position to help other ministries to grow and prosper.

KC Christian Music for the past year has sponsored a Songwriters Group Meeting and Concert about four times a year. This has been a great opportunity for artist discovery and development. Not only are they helping KC Christian Music, but opening doors for many artists to share their work with the public. Rarely do I experience a thin crowd while I am there. Bob and I stopped by on Valentines Day and there wasn't a seat left in the house.

**If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, send an e-mail to:
jimmydmathis@hotmail.com**

Steps to Peace With God.....

Step 1. God has a plan for peace and life. *"I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly."* John 10:10

Step 2. Because of sin we are separated from God. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Romans 3:23

Step 3. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and Man. *"Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."* John 14:6

Step 4. We must trust Christ and receive Him by personal invitation. *"To all those who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."* John 1:12

But that is only the beginning of a new life in Christ. God then begins to mold us into the person He would have us be. That is a lifelong process of joy, frustration, living, and loving.

For a wonderful visual illustration of these principles, go to: www.cbmc.com and click on the link "Would You Like Peace With God?"

Leadership Team of Kansas City CBMC

Executive Director

Jim Mathis - 913 269-6709

Kansas City CBMC Board of Directors

DeWayne Able - 913 636-7373

Rick Boxx - 913 642-8778

Bert Bridges—816 228-2292

Johnnie Huff - 816 932-6321(Vice Chairman)

Jim Mathis - 913 269-6709

Eric Tangen - 913 897-4318 (Chairman)

Gary Tenpenny - 913 345-8200 (Sec/Treasurer)

Tom White - 913 338-3891

Finance Chairman

Gary Tenpenny -913 345-8200

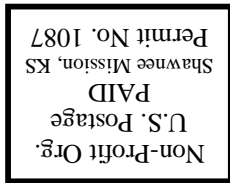
Forums Coordinator

Rick Boxx - 913 642-8778

Mayor's Prayer Team Leader

Tom White - 913 338-3891

June 2004



Address Service Requested

Kansas City CBMC
7126 W 80th St
Overland Park, KS 66204

What's Coming Up at Homer's?

Friday - June 11 - **Uncommonsense** (Christian Rock) www.veryuncommon.com

Saturday - June 12 - **Song of Zion** (Contemporary Christian)

Friday - June 18 - **Sandra Marsh** (Christian Country)

Saturday - June 19 - **Connie Whitlock** (Christian Singer/songwriter)

Friday - June 25 - **The Walk** (Christian Praise Band)

Saturday - June 26 - **Mission Blues** (Christian Blues Band) www.MissionBlues.us

Friday - July 2 - **True Dedication** (Gospel)

Saturday - July 3 - **Electric Prairie** (Traditional Americana, Gospel)

Friday - July 9 - **Clark Byron** (Christian singer/songwriter) www.clarkbyron.com

Saturday - July 10 - **Michael Earhart** (Texas Guitar Legend) www.michaelarhart.com

Friday - July 16 - **Second Mile** (Christian Rock & Blues) www.secondmileband.com

Saturday - July 17 - **Donna Biram** (Christian singer/songwriter) www.donnabiram.com

Friday - July 23 - **Charles David Smart** (Classical guitar) www.smartfrets.com

Saturday - July 24 - **Mission Blues** (Christian Blues Band) www.MissionBlues.us

**Kansas City's Premier
venue for contemporary
Christian Music
7:30 to 9:30 PM
No Cover Charge.
913 381-6022
80th & Metcalf
Overland Park, KS**

www.homerscoffeehouse.com