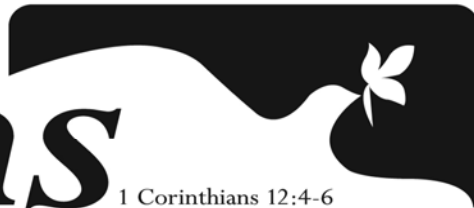


# Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

*A weekly message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church*



## The Shepherd's Pen

### *It's an Election Year*

We all tune in at different times, but this year the politics in the air is unmistakable. We are having a national debate of enormous importance. It's really larger than even the personalities involved, because the answers about America's future lie with all of us and the kind of nation we want to become.

I certainly have listened to my own country differently after being in an African country last summer whose elections are still embroiled in accusations and riots in the streets. Democracy is still very young in Kenya and its people still grasping how to do "e pluribus unum." "Out of many, one." Our founding leaders were brilliant in envisioning a country where the suspicion and accountability of power would be forever institutionalized in our very processes of debate and decision.

Baptists were among the first to embrace this new idea that power did not have to be handed down from King to Prince, but could be waged by the populace without constant violence.

I can tell you from the conversations of last summer—this is a great nation. And this haphazard, loud, boisterous, dramatic, at times dysfunctional-family discussion and decision process of ours is the envy of the world—still. Don't gripe about it. Get involved as a Christian, speak your mind, and then, in good democratic fashion, close ranks on the other side to commit to be a good citizen of this country. It's not finally "their" fault if we are not great. It's up to all of us. Read, think, pray, and participate. That is the responsibility of Christians.

### *New Guests of Our Church Are Here*

We have a Hospitality House and

## 2007—A Banner Year for Missions

2007 was a record-setting year for our church in Missions giving and in Missions involvement. Below are some of the highlights from the year:

- ◆ Over \$163,000 (11 % of budget expenditures) were given to mission-related causes through our regular church budget. This included funding for the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Birmingham Baptist Association, and Baptist World Alliance. Agencies and ministries that received financial support through our budget included Bethany Home, Firehouse Shelter, Kenyan Institute for Quality Christian Leadership, the Amelia Center, M-Power, the International Friendship Project, the India Christian English School, and the Moscow Academy for Spiritual Music.
- ◆ Gave over \$172,447 to special missions causes over and above the church budget. These causes included special missions offerings to support Baptist work at the local, state, North American, and Global levels.
- ◆ Gave over \$63,000 through the Unified Missions Offering to relief efforts on the coast, to the Kenya Missions Project, to Watering Malawi, and to special denomination missions offerings.
- ◆ 17%, or \$335,700, of total funds received by the church went to budgeted or non-budgeted missions causes.
- ◆ Commissioned over 200 church members to work in volunteer missions, church development, disaster relief, and construction in Africa, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, D.C., & Alabama.
- ◆ Provided family enrichment experiences and medical clinics for inner-city families through M-Power.
- ◆ Provided funds for hunger relief efforts through Heifer International, Manos Amigos, Watering Malawi, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the International Mission Board.
- ◆ Placed over \$175,000 in the 2008 Budget for missions causes.
- ◆ Provided financial support for ministers in Mexico, India, Africa, and the Gulf coast.
- ◆ Youth ministry performed ministry in Birmingham through the Iglesia Baptista Hispanic Church, Better Basics, local inter-city schools, area nursing homes and homeless shelters.
- ◆ Children and their families performed ministry to the needy through the Firehouse Shelter, M-power, the Birmingham Baptist Association's Season of Our Savior, and the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans.
- ◆ Gave support to over 200 people who had experienced temporary financial set-backs, through rent, utilities, & transportation assistance.

welcome Josh and Jessi Bailes as our new guests. The Bailes are interns for Passport, Inc. Passport is a ministry whose directors are our own David and Colleen Burroughs. Passport operates summer camps for youth and children that emphasize spiritual growth, mission, and answering God's call. If you want to learn more about what these members of our church are involved in, take a look at their website at [www.passportcamps.org](http://www.passportcamps.org). Our own youth and children have attended many Passport events.

Jessi has just returned from Liberia in Africa where she was part of a new camp for youth in that embattled part of the world. We welcome them and will introduce them to you at church soon.

The Hospitality House is a wonderful ministry. New members may not know that we own a house that welcomes a constant parade of different guests. Hospitality IS the business of the church. This house has a unique and wonderful history. It was once our church parsonage, then years ago was sold when the pastor was permitted to own a home. Years later, the church was approached about buying back the house when it was put up for sale. We looked into it and were blessed to receive an anonymous donation from a member who bought it for the church. Another generous member later gave money to do all the renovations on the house which were done largely by a volunteer crew of our members who spent weeks working under the leadership of my wife, Vickie.

Since then, this gift has kept on giving. The Bailes are our tenth family to live there. We have kept three missionary families, a graduate student couple who were newlyweds in law school and pastoring a struggling small church, a pastor on sabbatical, 6 Katrina evacuees who had to rebuild their homes and a seminary intern who was with us last year. Dr. Terre Johnson lived there in his transition to us from New York when he came.

The Hospitality House is a great example of what we are about this year—a ministry that birthed out of opportunity, stewardship, faithfulness, hard work and a vision of possibilities. People gave, people worked, and the result has been a wonderful array of ministry and relationship connecting us to the world and building a future through the simple ministry of welcome.

The genius is that it has cost us as a church virtually nothing. Good stewardship is not about fund-raising. It is about stewardship of the gospel—empowering all sorts of good things that keep giving and giving and giving for years to come. Welcome the Bailes when you meet them!



## Prayer for World Mission—Spring Season

Would you like to be a special part of mission work both here and around the world AND do so in an informed up-to-date way with a group of like-minded friends?

Such a privilege can be yours when Prayer for World Missions, led by Mavis Hardy, resumes in its Spring Season.

Dates are:

Feb. 12 & 26

March 11 & 25

April 8 & 22

May 13 with a luncheon following the meeting

All meetings are at 11:30 a.m.  
in the Chapel.

Bring a sandwich to Feb.—April meetings and stay for a time of fellowship. Tea and coffee are provided.

Be a part of this special ministry!

## Samford University Auxiliary Invites Everyone to “She Worketh with her Hands”

Featuring Martha Pullen, founder, Martha Pullen Company, subsidiary of Hoffman Media.

Thursday, February 14. 10:30 a.m.  
Brock Recital Hall

## *Thank You*

My Dearest Church Family,

God's grace has been manifested through your outpouring of cards, notes, phone calls and prayers that hugged me, and blessed me during my recent illness. As I continue to gaze at the list of names who called, and re-read the cards that were sent, I smile and bask in your goodness. Thanks be to God for my loving church. May God bless each of you, as you have blessed me.

Shirley Daviston

## *Welcome New Members*

*Scott & Ellen Sheumaker*  
2136 Woodhue Circle  
Birmingham, AL 35216

*Katie O'Neal*  
2602 King's Ridge Ranch Rd.  
Birmingham, AL 35243

## Remember in Prayer...

### Members in the Hospital

- ♦ **Lottie Jacks**—Brookwood, Surgery 1/29
- ♦ **Deborah Karn**—Brookwood, Surgery 1/30

### Members at Home

Grace Barnes	Marge Olive
Lou Bell	Nora Ousley
Virginia Deaton	C.O. Paugh
Earl Donegan	Jo Powell
Kathryn Eidson	Elizabeth Quinby
Jim & Martha Galyean	Martha Ray
Elaine Goodwyn	Joan Sanders
Wyatt Guy	Linda Sanders
Leta Holliman	Judy Schlegel
Mary Lou Hughes	Velma Smyth
Faye Knowles	Arthur Weeks
Dorothy Lindsay	Bob Wilson
Elizabeth Lindsey	Jody Wilson
Sarah Little	Richard Wilson
Nancy Lochamy	Edith Wood
Doris McWaters	Nettie Worrell

## Christian Sympathy

*Christian Sympathy is expressed to:*

- ♦ *Arthur Deagon & family in the death of his aunt, Helen Reinert Hall, of Tallahassee, Fl., on January 14.*
- ♦ *Leta Holliman and family in the death of her daughter, Charlotte Montgomery, on January 15*
- ♦ *Cheryl Oatts & family in the death of her aunt, Maisie Lewelling of Florida, on January 17*
- ♦ *Charlotte Jones and family in the death of her husband, Bill Jones, on January 21.*
- ♦ *Ryan Bradley & family in the death of his grandmother, Edna Bradley, on January 27.*

### 2007 GIVING RECORDS IN THE MAIL

The 2007 giving records have been mailed to our members. If you have any questions or corrections regarding your giving record, please contact the financial secretary, Lynn Stewart at 979-5920.

### Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Week	\$30,664
Budget Given This Week	\$16,268
Budget Needs This Month	\$132,879
Budget Given This Month	\$91,090

**16th Annual Mom's Retreat** - February 22/23, 2008  
Brochures are available at the Children's foyer reception desk. Contact Nancy for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO WORK IN VACATION  
BIBLE SCHOOL - June 9-12

You **CAN** help!

Please bring cans of chicken noodle soup and vegetable soup to the church by Wed night, Feb 13. Place your cans in the Children's Building Foyer.



H is for hungry.  
O is for obey.  
P is for pray.  
E is for everybody.



Round Table  
Tuesday, February 5  
10:30 a.m.  
Fireside Room

Margaret Northrup will give an overview of the book "Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy" by Donald B. Krayhill. The book is about the response of the Amish community to the horrific shooting of ten school girls in Pennsylvania in October of 2006.

WE CARE

Monday, February 4

10:30 a.m. — Fireside Room

## Changes in the *Variations* for 2008

### Variations to be printed Bi-Weekly

Beginning in 2008, the *Variations* is being printed bi-weekly. Each issue contains information for the upcoming weeks. For weekly updates, please check-out the church website, [www.vhbc.com](http://www.vhbc.com) or the Mid-Week Promoter and Sunday worship guide.

### Variations Available Electronically

Beginning in February, you can receive the *Variations* electronically instead of through the mail. You can view it on the church website [www.vhbc.com](http://www.vhbc.com), or you can have it sent to you via your email as a link. If you would like to receive it via your email instead of via the Postal Service, please contact Martha Neill at [martha@vhbc.com](mailto:martha@vhbc.com) or call the church office at 979-5920.

**Week of January 31-Feb. 6**

**Saturday, February 2**  
9:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
8:00 Girls Basketball game  
**Sunday, February 3**  
8:45 Bible Study  
10:00 Worship Service  
4:00 Youth Choir  
5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi  
6:00 YOSE

**Monday, February 4**  
9:30 Women's Bible Study  
10:00 We Care  
4:00 4 to 8  
5:30 Boy's Basketball Game

**Tuesday, February 5**  
9:30 International Friends  
10:30 Round Table  
6:30 Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday, February 6**  
6:30 Prayer Breakfast  
10:30 Pastor's Bible Study  
4:30 Fellowship Supper—Library  
5:00 Handbells  
5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th grade  
6:00 Ash Wednesday Communion  
6:00 FPU, Youth Group  
6:15 Mission Friends, GA's, RA's  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir

**Week of February 7-13**

**Saturday, February 9**  
8:00 Girls Basketball game  
**Sunday, February 10**  
8:45 Bible Study  
10:00 Worship Service  
11:00 Second Sunday Coffee  
11:00 Hungary lunch  
4:00 Youth Choir  
5:00 YOSE 120

**Monday, February 11**  
9:30 Women's Bible Study  
6:30 Boy's Basketball game

**Tuesday, February 12**  
9:30 International Friends  
11:30 Prayer for World Missions  
6:30 Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday, February 13**  
6:30 Prayer Breakfast  
10:30 Pastor's Bible Study  
4:30 Fellowship Supper  
5:00 Handbells  
5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th grade  
6:00 Quarterly Business Meeting  
6:00 FPU, Youth Group  
6:15 Mission Friends, GA's, RA's  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir

**Volunteers in Service for the week of February 3**

**Deacons of the Week:** \*Becky Griffith, Linda Griggs  
**Counting Team:** Alynn LeBerte, Jerry & Priss Pittman  
**Sound Technology:** Lee Watford, Mike Wells  
**Shuttle Service Team:** David Bamberg, Don Ehrett, Bob St. John  
**Flower Committee:** Susan Lebold  
**Library Committee:** Kristie Chandler (3) Sybil Cox (5)

**Worship Care**

Babies Kristie Chandler, Sandra Bates  
Creepers Allison Dearing  
Ones John Chandler, Amy Hamilton  
Twos Jennifer Carter, Jan Deagon  
Threes Melanie Medley  
Fours/Fives Kathryn Stewart, Cathy Donze  
Desk Eloise Chandler

**Volunteers in Service for the Week of February 10**

**Deacons of the Week:** \*Bob Hardy, Ryan Hankins  
**Counting Team:** Taylor Burton  
**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Allen Fulks  
**Shuttle Service Team:** Don Baker, Clay Hopcroft, Clint Brooks  
**Flower Committee:** Libby Brown  
**Library Committee:** Rachel Fancher(10) Martha Eskew (13)

**Worship Care**

Babies Jane Bowick  
Creepers Doug & Lea Dutton  
Ones Kevin & Elizabeth Studinka  
Twos Pat Cooper, Betsy Stockdale  
Threes David & Cathy Compher  
Fours/Fives Deborah Hopcroft, Erin Hopcroft  
Desk Lottie St. John

**FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**

**Feb. 6** Poppy Seed Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Apple Ring & Choc. Pudding  
Volunteers—Marilyn Tinnermon, JoAnn Delohery, Bob Eskew, Mike Wells  
**Feb. 13** Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Slaw, Potato Chips, Ice Cream Sand.  
Volunteers—Bob Eskew, Mindy Bodenhamer

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Gary A. Furr, Pastor  
K. Dennis Anderson,  
Minister of Education/Administration  
Nancy E. Akins,  
Minister to Preschool/Children  
Mike McBrayer, Minister to Students  
Terre Johnson, Minister of Music  
Beth McGinnis, Organist  
C. Otis Brooks, Pastor Emeritus

Church office 979-5920  
Fax 979-2206  
Email [vhbc@vhbc.com](mailto:vhbc@vhbc.com)  
Website [www.vhbc.com](http://www.vhbc.com)  
Worship Broadcast Live on Sundays  
at 10:00 a.m. on WVSU, 91.1 FM