

# Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

## The Shepherd's Pen

Isn't it interesting how crises burst onto our scene like brand new information? Dig a little in the headlines everyday—a scandal here, a disaster there—and there's a story that's been building for a long, long time. A crisis is what happens when our ability to fend off the inevitable gives out. We are left overwhelmed and broken, but when we can gather ourselves, we begin to see things that were there "all along."

Maybe it's news to those who haven't been paying attention, but we often see our worst storms coming on the horizon for a long time. We are convinced that we can take care of it, control it or put it off.

Crisis is dangerous. We're in a spot of vulnerability. Choices are critical. A misstep can mean disaster, and our thinking is not free enough of the urgency of the moment to always be dependable. There is that old observation that the Chinese language has a word for crisis that means both "danger" and "opportunity," but danger wins out quite often. Damage can be great in such times, even fatal.

It is always interesting to read the story of Jesus from different vantage points. If we read and watch the various characters in the face of a coming crisis, we see human meltdown on every side. Only Jesus comprehends what is happening and what it means. Only He is ready for it when it comes. Everyone else reverts to their most primal coping—abandoning Him, denying that they know Him, grief, refusal to accept reality, and grandiose bravado.

When we look back after the disaster, we see a lot of signs that were there for us. Why didn't we understand? Why couldn't we wake up and see it?



## Celebrate Holy Week with Us

### **Palm Sunday Service, March 16**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 8:30 am  | Sunday School Leaders Prayer in Chapel                          |
| 8:45 am  | Bible Study   |
| 10:00 am | Worship Service & "Free the Future" prayer in the Fireside Room |
- ◆ Children will process into worship waving palms.
  - ◆ First–Sixth Grade Children will be singing.
  - ◆ Four-Year-Olds– Sixth Graders should meet in the chapel at 9:40 am.
  - ◆ Please show your child where you will be sitting in worship.

### **Maundy Thursday Supper & Communion Service, March 20**

- |         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 4:30 pm | Family Night Supper               |
| 6:15 pm | Maundy Thursday Communion Service |
| 7:00 pm | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal         |
- (Childcare for birth thru Kindergarten)

### **Good Friday Lunch and Worship Service, March 21**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 11:45 am | Worship Service followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall –Cost \$3.00 |
|----------|--|

### **Easter Sunday, March 23**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 8:30 am  | Sunday School Teachers Prayer in the Chapel |
| 8:45 am  | Bible Study                                 |
| 10:00 am | Easter Sunday Worship Service               |

Next week we celebrate Holy Week. I will complete my sermon series on the Parables in Luke beginning Sunday and completing it on Easter Sunday. These stories show us yet again how Jesus knew where his life was headed and what it would take to face it. I hope you'll join me as we learn these final lessons for this series about "understanding the times."

Palm Sunday "The Cursed Tree"  
Luke 13:1-9

Maundy Thursday "Cross-Shaped Forgiveness"  
Luke 14:7-14

Good Friday "The Cost of Non-Discipleship"  
Luke 14:25-33; 15:1-10

Easter Sunday "Getting It"  
Luke 16:19-31




**The Shepherd Memorial Concert**  
May 4, 2008 7:00 p.m.

The Shepherd Scholarship Fund will remain viable through the proceeds of an annual gala concert. The 2008 Shepherd Memorial Concert will take place in the **Jemison Concert Hall at the Alys Stephens Center**, and features a festival choir made up of singers from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, The Birmingham Concert Chorale, The Cahaba Chorale, The Baptist Church of the Covenant, The Mississippi University for Women, and Vestavia Hills High School. They will perform Mozart's *Requiem* in memory of Dr. Shepherd, accompanied by the Southeastern Chamber Orchestra. In addition, one of Dr. Shepherd's former students, Dawson Hull, will perform Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1* as a tribute to his mentor and teacher. It is hoped that the annual gala concert becomes a singular and lasting memorial to an inspiring musician and brilliant performer.

*Ticket order forms may be picked up in the church office or they will be on the tables on Wednesday nights.*

**Amount Needed to Reach Our  
Unified Missions Offering Goal: \$34,065**  
Let's "*Pay it Forward*" on March 16

Palm Sunday begins a season of remembering the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We recall Jesus' life and how his words and deeds brought healing and wholeness to those he met. No doubt there are persons we know who have been "Christ" to us, helping in life-changing ways through their words and deeds. These are persons we recall who made a difference for good in our lives and in our journeys of faith.

On Palm Sunday, March 16, remember these special people by name and '*Pay it Forward*' on their behalf by giving to the Unified Missions Offering. Cards are available on the tables tonight. Use a card to identify the person or persons you wish to honor when you make your gift. A roster of persons being remembered and honored will be distributed in the worship guide.

**Prayers for "Free The Future"**

Each Sunday during the worship service  
In the Fireside Room

Join with other members as we pray together for our church family and her impact in our community and the world.

This week's prayer time will be facilitated by Emory Gaskins.

**Prayer Time for Sunday School Teachers**

Continues each Sunday until May 18  
In the Chapel from 8:30-8:45

Please join us as we pray together that God will bless both students and teachers and seek to draw close to God in prayer.



**Last Week to Order an  
Easter Lily**

This year we would like to decorate the sanctuary with Easter Lilies. If you would like to place one or more lilies in honor of or in memory of a loved one, you can call Martha in the church office at 979-5920 or email her at martha@vhbc.com by Sunday, March 16. The cost is \$17.00 each.

## Remember in Prayer...

### Members in the Hospital

#### Members at Home

Maxine Ammons	Nancy Lochamy
Grace Barnes	Doris McWaters
Virginia Deaton	Marge Olive
Earl Donegan	Nora Ousley
*Millie Ehrett	Elizabeth Quinby
Kathryn Eidson	Martha Ray
Jim & Martha Galyean	Linda Sanders
Elaine Goodwyn	Judy Schlegel
Wyatt Guy	Roscoe Simpson
Leta Holliman	Velma Smyth
Mary Lou Hughes	Arthur Weeks
Deborah Karn	Bob Wilson
Dorothy Lindsay	Jody Wilson
Mildred Kent	Richard Wilson
Faye Knowles	Edith Wood
Elizabeth Lindsey	Nettie Worrell
Sarah Little	

## Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

- ♦ *The Linda Sanders & family in the death of her mother, Joan Sanders, on March 8. Arrangements are pending.*
- ♦ *Beverly Vincent and family in the death of her brother, Winston Stuart, Jr. of Marianna, Fl. on February 29.*
- ♦ *Ann Holt in the death of her aunt.*
- ♦ *Ashley Hattaway and family in the death of her grandmother, Sara Heron, on March 9.*

## From the Library.....

If you were fortunate enough to hear Margaret Northrup's Round Table Review of Amish Grace you will be glad to check it out of the VHBC Library. It's here for you.

Another new book on the shelf is It's Not My Fault by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. People circumstances or DNA? Read to find out about your justifications and excuses.

If your daffodils and quince are blooming then it's time to check out one of our excellent gardening reference books. You must plan **now** to rival the gardens pictured in The Southern Garden or The Big Book of Flower Gardening.

### Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Week	\$30,664
Budget Given This Week	\$21,702
Budget Needs This Month	\$61,328
Budget Given This Month	\$54,421
Budget Needs This Year	\$327,084
Budget Given This Year	\$237,085

### Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$18,335

## Your Help Is Needed on Easter Sunday!

Please contact Nancy to volunteer in the Preschool area during worship on Easter Sunday morning. Your help will ensure that each preschooler has a positive and loving Easter Sunday worship experience.

### **Additional CPR Class**

The April 5th class is filled! A second class is being offered on Sat, April 19. Contact Nancy to register.

## From the Kitchen...

- New Wednesday Night Prices—for the first time since 2001, the cost of food and delivery charges has forced us to raise prices. Starting Wednesday April 2, the Adult price will be \$4.00 and the Children (age 6-12) will be \$2.00. The pre-school price will remain \$0.50.
- If anyone would like to help on the serving line or collect money on Wednesday nights, please contact Mike Oatts (991-5589).

## “Free the Future” Information Distribution Sunday, March 30

At the close of the Sunday Worship Service March 30, each household will receive a "Free the Future" campaign folder, complete with information about the Capital Stewardship campaign and a DVD. In that Sunday morning's bulletin, you will find a ticket that you will need to fill out with your name and address. This will be exchanged for a folder as you leave the worship service. Please be sure to get yours--and remember, only one packet per household.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Sharon and Robert Maddox in the birth of a daughter, Helen Elizabeth, on February 12th.

Congratulations to Laura & Burton Verner in the birth of a daughter, Caroline “Lanier” Verner, on March 3. Proud grandparents are Jim and Nancy Mino.

Congratulations to Bill & Suzanne Dupree on the birth of a granddaughter, Natalie Blaylock Walker, on March 4. Proud parents are Michael & Emily Walker.

**Week of March 13-19**

**Thursday, March 13**

5:30 Communion Service

**Sunday, March 16**

8:30 SS Teachers Prayer Time

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service—Palm Sunday

4:30 Women’s Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 19**

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

(Spring Break Week)

**Week of March 20-26**

**Thursday, March 20**

4:30 Fellowship Supper

6:00 Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 Sanctuary Choir

**Friday, March 21**

11:30 Good Friday Serv. & Lunch

**Sunday, March 23**

8:30 SS Teachers Prayer Time

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service –EASTER

5:00 YOSE

**Tuesday, March 25**

9:30 International Friends

11:30 Prayer for World Missions

**Wednesday, March 26**

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 Prayer Service ,FPU, YG

6:15 Mission Friends, GA’s, RA’s

7:00 Sanctuary Choir

**Volunteers in Service for the week of March 16**

**Deacons of the Week:** \*Lottie St. John, Lynette Sandley

**Counting Team:** Clay Hopcroft, Mike Craddock

**Sound Technology:** Pete LeBerte, Mike Wells

**Shuttle Service Team:** Tim Franklin, Chuck Gillespie, Ed Whatley

**Flower Committee:** Becky Griffith, Sharon Hartzog

**Library Committee:** Betty Hauser (16) Lynn Taylor (20)

**Worship Care**

Babies Melissa McMurray, Robin Cameron

Creepers Lisa & Cris Speegle

Ones Rebecca McKinney, Cappy Blackwelder

Twos Rachel & Todd Jordan

Threes Matt & Billie Caine

Fours/Fives Jan Deagon, Jason Dearing

Desk Ed Whatley

**Volunteers in Service for the Week of March 23**

**Deacons of the Week:** \*Roger Bates, Gene Turner

**Counting Team:** Steve White, Jeanne Harrelson, Allen Fulks

**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Dan McMurray

**Shuttle Service Team:** Dave Bamberg, Bill Dupree, Bob St. John

**Flower Committee:** Becky Griffith, Sharon Hartzog

**Library Committee:** Lynn Taylor (23) Rosemary Bamberg (26)

**Worship Care**

Babies Michael Wilson, Gilda Coker

Creepers Tim & Crystal Franklin

Ones Jason & Meryll Cooper

Twos Kathy Dent, Marilyn Tinnermon

Threes Liz Philpot, Jen McDougal

Fours/Fives Pete LeBerte, Ron Smith

Desk

**You’re Invited**

To a party honoring Johnnie McCracken on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Sunday, March 30, 2-4 pm, Town Village, 2385 Dolly Ridge Rd., Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

**FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**

March 20 Vegetable & Salad Night, PB & J, Cobblers, Cornbread & Rolls—Volunteers—Sybil Cox, JoAnne Delohery, Bob Eskew, Rachel McCracken  
March 26 Barbeque, Baked Beans, Slaw, Potato Chips, Chocolate Pudding—Volunteers—Bob Eskew, Mike Oatts

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**OUR MINISTRY STAFF**

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

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Worship Broadcast Live on Sundays  
at 10:00 a.m. on WVSU, 91.1 FM