

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

The Shepherd's Pen

"Free the Future" is here!

We have been talking and planning for months about the Capital Stewardship Campaign for our church. This Sunday we will distribute packets of information for every family in the church explaining in detail what needs to be done, how you can help, and answering as many questions as we can. I hope you will be here (not merely to save the postage!) to take yours home.

As we enter into this time, it is significant that we see our entire nation and world struggling with the issue of stewardship. As prices increase, energy costs go up and financial irresponsibility take their toll, we are called more than ever to understand and appreciate the significance of caring for what we have. Whether for the earth itself, our fragile planet, our financial resources, our bodies, our relationships, or our calendars, stewardship is a lifelong expression of discipleship for Jesus.

Over the weeks from April 1 until May 4 we will have a time of church-wide reflection on our discipleship of the resources of life. The campaign will be a time of spiritual commitment and financial foundation for a strong future for this church. A couple of key dates need to be kept in mind: this Sunday, we will give out the packets of information. There will be many meetings and events going on during the month, but every family will hear about this effort and be asked to join in **as God leads them**. No one will be pressured to do something they do not believe is God's leadership in their life.

This will culminate in our church Anniversary—Commitment Service on May 4 when we bring our Pledge Cards and launch the three year campaign during which we will reduce our debt as

S Betty Sue SHEPHERD Memorial Scholarship Fund

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.

far as possible to free our resources for the future. Several members have already shared with me how God has led them. One member told me recently that he and his wife intended to pledge generously to the campaign, but that on Sunday, May 18, "First Fruits Day", they were going to bring their refund check from the government, the "economic stimulus" rebates that Congress recently voted through, as a first gift. He said, "It's found money. I never expected to have it anyway. It's a great way to start off."

Before we're done, lots of creative ideas will come forth. This will be an exciting time. During this time, I will be preaching from the book of Acts—not surprisingly, my series will be called, "Free the Future." I want to look at the early church and how they followed God's Holy Spirit into the creation of the church that we enjoy today. More than anything, I want us to listen to the Spirit. Here are the sermons I will be preaching.

- Mar 30 **"Opening the Future"**
 Acts 2:14-41
- Apr 6 **"God's Dream, God's Way"**
 Acts 2.42-47
- Apr 13 **"Keeping Second Things Second"**
 Acts 6:1-9
- Apr 20 **"Getting On to the Real Work"**
 Acts 7:54-60;17:22-31;16:16-33
- Apr 27 **"Where It Is"**
 Acts 10:44-48
- May 4 **"The Two Ways That Are One"**
 Acts 28:30-31; 1:6-14



We Care
Monday, April 7
10:00 am
Fireside Room

"Free the Future" Stewardship Campaign Upcoming Events

"Free the Future"
Information Distribution
This 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.

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.

Prayer time on March 30 will be facilitated by David & Brooke Fleming.
Prayer time on April 6 will be facilitated by Roger & Sandra Bates

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.



ROUND TABLE

April 8

10:00 am-Vestavia Hills Library

We will not have our regular meeting on April 1 but will attend a special presentation at the Vestavia Hills Library on Tuesday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m. Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird will be the subject. Due to the fact that parking is limited at the library we will take the church bus and will meet in the back parking lot of the church at 9:15. Please call the church office at 979-5920 to reserve a place on the bus. You can also meet us at the library but parking is limited.



SING & SHOUT RETURNS!

*Celebrating cultural & musical diversity
with some of Birmingham's best choirs!*

Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.
The Alys Stephens Center-Jemison Concert Hall

Tickets \$10 in advance /\$12 at the door
Tickets available at the Alys Stephens Center Box Office, online at www.singandshout.org, or by calling 205-595-5959 –Available April 1

Featuring choirs from Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, Greater Emmanuel Temple Holiness Church and Vestavia Hills Methodist Church.

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	*Billie Pigford
Kathryn Eidson	Elizabeth Quinby
Jim & Martha Galyean	Martha Ray
Elaine Goodwyn	Linda Sanders
Wyatt Guy	Judy Schlegel
Leta Holliman	Roscoe Simpson
Mary Lou Hughes	Velma Smyth
Deborah Karn	*Marilyn Tinnermon
Dorothy Lindsay	Arthur Weeks
Mildred Kent	Bob Wilson
Faye Knowles	Jody Wilson
Dot Lindsay	Richard Wilson
Elizabeth Lindsey	Edith Wood
Sarah Little	Nettie Worrell

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

- ♦ *The Linda Sanders & family in the death of her mother, Joan Sanders, on March 8. A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m. at Ridouts Valley Chapel.*
- ♦ *Emma Jean Sleeman and family in the death of her sister, Betty Main, of San Destin, FL on March 17.*
- ♦ *George Elliott and family in the death of his aunt, Marguerite Williams.*

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).

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$122,656
Budget Given This Month	\$97,468
Budget Needs This Year	\$388,412
Budget Given This Year	\$280,132

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$32,208

Mom's Brunch Bunch

"Peeps to Peers", Saturday, April 12, 9:30-11:00 am
Please RSVP with Nancy for lunch and childcare!

Recipe Book

Make sure to submit your favorite recipes to be included in the VHBC Recipe Book.

- ♦ Use the cards available on the table outside the church office and place your recipe in the box OR
- ♦ e-mail Nancy with your recipe.

VBS Teacher Meeting and Lunch

Sunday, April 6 right after church in the Activity Room
Please RSVP nancy@vhbc.com for lunch and meeting!

An Open Invitation to Participate in the Builders for Christ Project July 27-August 2, 2008

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church will be involved in a construction project for the First Baptist Church, Grove City, Ohio.

Joining with a host of Baptist churches and associations, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church Builders for Christ will aid in the construction of a 32,000 square foot structure.

Please consider this an open invitation to any church member or interested person to join us the week of July 27 – August 2 for a hands-on-experience that will increase your faithful ministry. To sign up, please contact as soon as possible Don Baker, Mike Oatts or Gene Turner.

Thank You

Thank you for your kindness and concern during our time of loss. The kids and I are so moved by the outpouring of love and compassion you have shown us. You have honored our family by remembering Greg and the kind man that he was.

*Carol Hamilton and the kids-Elliott, Ethan,
Dylan, Will, Jackson, Leanna and Kyle*

Dear Friends at VHBC:

Our hearts have been filled with love and gratitude for the many ways you have shown your love to our family at the loss of our son, Greg.

Your prayers have helped to sustain us and we will forever be grateful for your Christian friendship and for allowing us to continue to feel we are a part of your church family.

Thank you for your gifts to the Greg Hamilton Family Fund and for all the many things that have been done in their behalf.

*Sincerely,
Sara & Lowell Hamilton*

Week of March 27-April 2

Sunday, March 30

8:30 SS Teachers Prayer Time
8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Worship Service
4:00 Youth Choir
4:30 Women's Bible Study
5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi
5:00 Hungary Trip Meeting
6:00 YOSE

Tuesday, April 1

9:30 International Friends

Wednesday, April 2

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
10:30 Pastor's Bible Study
4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library
5:00 Handbells
5:30 Sunday School Teachers Mtg.
5:30 Nominating Committee
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

Week of April 3-9

Friday, April 4

4:30 Youth Poverty Simulation

Saturday, April 5

9:00 CPR Class

Sunday, April 6

8:30 SS Teachers Prayer Time
8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Worship Service
4:00 Youth Choir
5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi
6:00 YOSE

Monday, April 7

10:00 We Care
4:00 4 to 8

Tuesday, April 8

9:30 International Friends
10:30 Round Table
11:30 Prayer for World Missions

Wednesday, April 9

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
10:30 Pastor's Bible Study
4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library
5:00 Handbells
5:30 Mission Committee
5:30 Nominating Committee
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 30

Deacons of the Week: *Ryan Bradley, Bob Bradley

Counting Team: Alynn LeBerte, Jerry & Priss Pittman

Sound Technology: Mike Wells, Lee Watford

Shuttle Service Team: Don Baker, Clay Hopcroft, Clint Brooks

Flower Committee: Gay Caldwell, Jerrie Elliott

Library Committee: Marilyn Tinnermon(30), Sybil Cox(2)

Worship Care

Babies Amy Gillis, Mike Oatts
Creepers Crystal Watford, Elizabeth Hamilton
Ones Mary Mathangani, JoaAnne Delohery
Twos Carter & Leslie Doyle
Threes Bob Lochamy, Carol Porter
Fours/Fives Sybil Cox, Betty Hauser
Desk Bob Bradley

Volunteers in Service for the Week of April 6

Deacons of the Week: *Ginny Bugg, Sam Brown

Counting Team: Taylor Burton

Sound Technology: Allen Fulks, Mike Wells

Shuttle Service Team: Bob Bush, Mack Freeman, Mike Craddock

Flower Committee: Jennifer Carter, Jennifer Jaquess

Library Committee: Kristie Chandler (6), Jeanne Harrelson (10)

Worship Care

Babies Kristie Chandler, Sandra Bates
Creepers Janice Fulks, Jennifer Carter
Ones John Chandler, Amy Hamilton
Twos Beth Lang & David Lang
Threes Melanie Medley
Fours/Fives Kathryn Stewart, Cathy Donze
Desk Eloise Chandler

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

April 2 Poppy Seed Chicken, Rice, Green Beans, Apple Ring, Lemon Pie
Volunteers—Sue Edfeldt, Maxine Ammons, Bob Eskew,
Liz Wells

April 9 Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Apple Pie
Volunteers—Bob Eskew, Mindy Bodenhamer

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