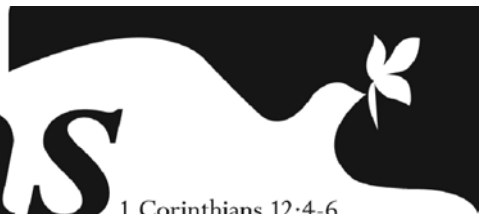


Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



The Shepherd's Pen

Finally, after a year of internal conversation as a church, the Capital Stewardship Campaign, known as "Free the Future" is here! You have gotten a lot of information and will hear a lot about it the next few weeks. All will culminate on May 4 when we make our commitments official as a church in the morning worship, one year after I asked us to go down this road together.

Along the way, we have discussed, debated, and decided. We have planned, prepared, and prayed. Now is the time of special reflection, privately and collectively, about what we will do. Please keep these few things in mind as you do:

Remember that we are seeking to lay the foundations for the future! We are surely paying for facilities that have blessed us every day! We are getting in a position to operate more efficiently in the present. But more than anything, you and I are the generation who will make a gift to the longterm future of this congregation.

Remember that you have many options about how to give and participate! Our financial situations differ. While it would be great to get every gift right now, we understand that this doesn't work for everyone. That's why this is a three year campaign. You can pledge an amount and pay it anytime within the next three years, in a way that works best for you. Whether a little every week, an annual gift, or a lump sum, every gift helps the cause.

Remember that this is a time of special emphasis on commitment. For me this time has brought me again to the

In our Free the Future campaign, we have committed together to fast-forward our future by doing four things:

1. Keep our current budget and missions fully funded.
2. Renegotiate our debt from a position of strength by August.
3. Undertake a three-year pledge campaign toward eliminating the debt and freeing as much as \$250,000 per year for other ministry and mission opportunities.
4. Provide resources to expand the ministry of this church to our families, to our community, and to our world.



free the future

How Can You Participate?

Pray Learn Worship Commit Give

Mark your calendar for these important dates!

Sunday, May 4 Commitment Sunday

Your pledge cards will be received as part of the morning worship service.

Sunday, May 18 First Fruits Day

First offering received for the Capital Stewardship Emphasis

question of my commitments in every area. I am so pleased as I talk to people to hear the high level of seriousness among our people about what they will do in this campaign. It has deepened my love and appreciate what wonderful people are here in this church.

In a conversation the other day in the car, my wife, the wisest woman I know, said as I asked her about the campaign and its emphasis, "You know, really we're always talking about stewardship, every Sunday." That's right. We're not always talking about money. But we're always talking about stewardship—how we take care of what was pure gift to us, whether body, mind, heart, time, relationships, possessions, or talents. What are we doing with what has been given us?

Remember that our mutual encouragement, spirit, and example to others are as important to success as our giving. I hope this time has been a helpful time to reflect together about how it is for you. If you are tempted to say, "Oh, I've been there and done that. I already know all this. I don't need it," be patient and remember that others may be learning about all of this for the first time. Children too young to remember the last time nine years ago that we had such an emphasis have a chance to watch us and learn from our words, our actions and our attitudes.

Relatively new Christians have a chance to study and learn and think about something that those of us who have done it as long as we remember take for granted. This is not merely a debt-thing or a church-program thing. It's a teachable moment. Thank you for being positive, kind, patient, and respectful toward your church as we do this together.

Thank you, Church family, for loving the Lord as you do, for loving one another as you obviously do, for taking this seriously, and for the commitments you will pray about and make. Next year will be a year of ministry, mission, strategic planning and growing in Christ. But right now we are preparing to resource all the things we will do together. Let's have a great time this month!



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 April 13 will be facilitated by Brent & Jen McDougal.

Prayer time on April 20 will be facilitated by Smitty & Carol Smith.

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.



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

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.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Alexa and Clint Brooks in the birth of a son, Joseph Baier Brooks, on March 26th. Proud grandparents are Otis Brooks and Bill & Suzanne Dupree.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

Members at Home

Maxine Ammons	Nancy Lochamy
*Karen Anderson	Doris McWaters
Grace Barnes	Marge Olive
Virginia Deaton	Nora Ousley
Earl Donegan	Elizabeth Quinby
Kathryn Eidson	Martha Ray
Jim & Martha Galyean	Judy Schlegel
Elaine Goodwyn	Velma Smyth
Wyatt Guy	Arthur Weeks
Leta Holliman	Bob Wilson
Mary Lou Hughes	Jody Wilson
*Emily Jones	Richard Wilson
Faye Knowles	Edith Wood
Dorothy Lindsay	Nettie Worrell
Dot Lindsay	
Elizabeth Lindsey	
Sarah Little	

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

- ♦ *The family of Roscoe Simpson in his death on April 5th.*
- ♦ *Jeff Graveline and family in the death of his father, William Graveline, on March 31 in Gloucester, Virginia.*
- ♦ *John and Lou Bell and family in the death of their son-in-law, Ray Conrad, on April 2.*
- ♦ *Joe and Tammy Tiller Simonetti and family in the death of Joe's mother, Marie Simonetti, on April 6.*

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$30,664
Budget Given This Month	\$39,753
Budget Needs This Year	\$429,279
Budget Given This Year	\$344,242

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$35,601

Mom's Brunch Bunch

"Peeps to Peers", Saturday, April 19, 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.

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.

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.

Week of April 10-16**Sunday, April 13**

8:30 SS Teachers Prayer Time
 8:45 Bible Study
 10:00 Worship Service
 10:00 Prayers for "Free the Future"
 11:00 Second Sunday Coffee
 4:00 Youth Choir
 5:00 Deacons Meeting
 5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi
 6:00 YOSE

Tuesday, April 15

9:30 International Friends

Wednesday, April 16

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study
 4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library
 5:00 Handbells
 5:30 Nominating Committee
 5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th grade
 6:00 Prayer Service, YG
 6:15 Mission Friends, GA's, RA's
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Week of April 17-23**Saturday, April 19**

9:00 CPR Class
 9:30 Mom's Brunch Bunch

Sunday, April 20

8:30 SS Teachers Prayer Time
 8:45 Bible Study
 10:00 Worship Service
 10:00 Prayers for "Free the Future"
 4:00 Youth Choir
 5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi
 6:00 YOSE

Monday, April 21

4:00 4 to 8

Tuesday, April 22

9:30 International Friends
 11:30 Prayer for World Missions

Wednesday, April 23

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study
 4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library
 5:00 Handbells
 5:30 Nominating Committee
 5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th grade
 6:00 Prayer Service, YG
 6:15 Mission Friends, GA's, RA's
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Volunteers in Service for the week of April 13

Deacons of the Week: *Clark Cameron, Paul Byrd

Counting Team: David McPherson, Steve Thackerson

Sound Technology: Pete LeBerte, Mike Wells

Shuttle Service Team: Gene Turner, Pete LeBerte, Bob Simpson

Flower Committee: Marsha Baker, Sara Taylor

Library Committee: Rachel Fancher (13) Liz Wells (16)

Worship Care

Babies	Jane Bowick, Brooke Fleming
Creepers	Matt & Carole Miller
Ones	Kevin & Elizabeth Studinka
Twos	Pat Cooper, Betsy Stockdale
Threes	David & Cathy Compher
Fours/Fives	Deborah Hopcroft, Erin Hopcroft
Desk	Lottie St. John

Volunteers in Service for the Week of April 20

Deacons of the Week: *Jason Dearing, John Chandler

Counting Team: David Compher, Kevin Jaquess

Sound Technology: Mike Wells, Dan McMurray

Shuttle Service Team: Mike Oatts, Stuart Collier, Dean Gober

Flower Committee: Becky Griffith, Sharon Hartzog

Library Committee: Betty Hauser (20) Martha Eskew (23)

Worship Care

Babies	Billie Lochamy, Mindy Bodenhamer
Creepers	Dan & Gay Caldwell
Ones	Rebecca McKinney, Becky White
Twos	John & Virginia Wood
Threes	Jeff & Monica Graveline
Fours/Fives	Emory & Cindy Gaskins
Desk	Dick Bodenhamer

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

April 16 Cubed Steak, Creamed Potatoes, Broccoli, Rolls, Cornbread, Ice Cream—Volunteers—Marilyn Tinnermon, Lynn Giles, Bob Eskew, Mike Oatts
 April 23 Fried Chicken, AuGratin Potatoes, English Peas, Rolls, Cornbread, Carrot Cake—Volunteers—Martha Eskew, Johnnie McCracken, Bob Eskew, Lou McCracken

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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
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