

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

The Shepherd's Pen

Sunday morning we culminated a year of intense focus on stewardship and laying foundations for the future of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. What began as a suggestion in last year's Fiftieth Anniversary sermon became a beautiful campaign led by an outstanding group of leaders in our church. We are going to wait to announce the results publicly of the campaign until May 18, allowing the next two weeks for pledges to continue to come in. On that day, we will come with our "First Fruits Offerings" to officially begin our giving on our pledges and announce our total in pledges.

Let me say, though, that Sunday was one of the greatest days I have personally experienced in ministry. The entire campaign has been a beautiful time of discussion, decision, hashing out and growing. We have prayed, deepened our lives, made commitments and listened together to God's leadership in our lives.

I will tell you this—our results have already exceeded what I had personally hoped we could do as a minimum. We are going to free the future, and it will make dramatic differences in our budget, ministries and missions. More importantly, to date we have had **216 households** make commitments. That level of participation is outstanding and bodes well for us, and commitments are still coming in. Way to go, church family! I have never been more pleased or proud to be a pastor than I have this year.

The greatest piece of this has been listening to your hearts, your love, and your seriousness about this congregation and its future. Jane Bowick said it well Sunday—"We're family." We are. We had a simultaneous outpouring for the budget, gifts for the

DIVE INTO A SUMMER ACTIVITY

Youth Mission Trip to Hungary
June 9-19

Vacation Bible School
(Completed Kindergarten—6th Grade)
June 9-12

Children's Art Camp 1
(Registration Required)
June 16-20

Children's Art Camp 2
(Registration Required)
June 23-27

7th-9th Grade Youth Camp
June 28-July 5

Passport Children's Camp
(Completed Grades 3-6)
July 12-15

Children's Music Camp
(Completed Grades 1-6)
July 20-24

Construction Mission Trip to Ohio
July 27-August 2

Youth Back to School Retreat
August 8-10

Capital Campaign, as well as pledges.

There is a time to prepare, a time to deliberate, a time to plan, a time to pray, a time to work, and a time to harvest and celebrate. This is the week after harvest. In the days and months to come, it is a time for us to celebrate, give thanks to God and enjoy life together. There is plenty of hard work ahead and more to say and do, but this week is a week to say, with David in Psalm 16:6, "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage."

I am truly blessed to be among such a people as this one. Thank you for letting me be your pastor, with all my heart.

Fisher Humphreys Retirement

One of the reasons I am here at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church is Dr. Fisher Humphreys. He and Philip Wise originally recommended me here to this church and encouraged me to consider it back in 1993 when you were looking for a pastor.

On Monday evening, Dr. Humphreys was celebrated as he is about to retire from Beeson Divinity School this week. All of his friends, fellow teachers, and co-workers through the years joined his family at The Club to bless him for his outstanding teaching ministry and all the thousands of lives he has touched through his writings, teaching, preaching and personal encouragement.

Dr. Mark Jolly of Mercer Press presented a volume in his honor entitled ***Theology in the Service of the Church: Essays Presented to Fisher H. Humphreys***, edited by Dr. Timothy George and Dr. Eric Mason. I was honored to be asked to contribute one of the chapters in the book, and it was truly a labor of love for all of us. He will continue to live here with his wife Caroline, and I am sure he will continue to be a resource and friend to Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. Dr. Humphreys, thank you for being part of our church family through the years and best wishes in this new phase of your life.



Welcome New Members

Andy Farmer

S. U. Box 0558

Birmingham, AL 35229

Mike & Jenny Henry

1861 Montclair Dr.

Birmingham, AL 35216

Hank Womble

501 Currie Way

Birmingham, AL 35209

MEMBERS ON MISSIONS COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Sunday, May 18

As a part of our morning worship service at 10:00 AM, Sunday, May 18, we will be commissioning all of our members who will be involved in missions activities this summer. **We want to know about all our members involved in mission experiences this summer, so they can be involved in the commissioning service.**

Please call the church office at 979-5920 to make sure we know about your activities.

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.

Happenings This Month

Sunday, May 11

10:00 am—Graduate Recognition Service

Wednesday, May 14

6:15 am—Music Recognition Night

Sunday, May 18

10:00 am—Missions Commissioning Service

5:00 pm—Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, May 21

6:15 pm—Missions Education Recognition Night



Congratulations

Congratulations to Sara and Logan Taylor in the birth of a daughter, Madeleine Jane Taylor, on May 5. Proud grandparents are Crawford and Marlene Taylor.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

*Sara Taylor, St. Vincent's—Rm. 221

*Reed Caufield, Brookwood Rm. 420

Members at Home

Maxine Ammons

Grace Barnes

Virginia Deaton

Earl Donegan

Kathryn Eidson

*Portia Franklin

Jim & Martha Galyean

Elaine Goodwyn

Leta Holliman

*Jackie Hughes

Mary Lou Hughes

*Emily Jones

Faye Knowles

Dorothy Lindsay

*Elizabeth Lindsey

*Sarah Little

Nancy Lochamy

Doris McWaters

Marge Olive

Nora Ousley

Elizabeth Quinby

Martha Ray

Judy Schlegel

Velma Smyth

Arthur Weeks

Bob Wilson

Jody Wilson

Richard Wilson

Edith Wood

Nettie Worrell

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.

Recess to Wrinkles

Mom's Brunch Bunch
with Vickie Furr speaking

Saturday, May 10th, 9:30 am, Youth Lounge
RSVP with Nancy for the brunch and childcare

2009 Mexico Mission Trip Interest Meeting

Sunday, May 18

4:00 p.m. — Fellowship Hall

The Missions Committee has endorsed a Mission Trip to Los Mochis, Mexico during 2009. We will be meeting on May 18th at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for all those in the church who might be interested in hearing more about the trip. For more information you can contact Dennis Anderson in the church office at 979-5920.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

- ◆ *Laura Norris and family in the death of her mother, Laura Scholz, on April 26*
- ◆ *Chris & Dana Caldwell Sheheane and family in the death of Chris' father Dennis Sheheane, on April 24*
- ◆ *Ginny Bugg and family in the death of her step-father, Jamie Maddox of Germantown, Tennessee, on May 1*
- ◆ *Pat Gillespie and family in the death of her sister, Vivien Cummings, on May 1.*
- ◆ *Paul Edfeldt and family in the death of his brother, Carl Edfeldt of Montevallo, on May 5.*

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$30,664
Budget Given This Month	\$46,234

Budget Needs This Year	\$562,177
Budget Given This Year	\$452,332

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$36,842



The Spring Season of
Prayer for World Missions
concludes on
Tuesday, May 13

11:30 Prayer time in the Chapel
followed by a
Fellowship Luncheon

Everyone is invited to come, even if it is your first visit. It is a great privilege to help support God's work in the world through prayer.

Please make your reservations for lunch by calling Donna in the church office, 979-5920, by Monday, May 12th. The cost is \$6.00.

Week of May 8-14**Saturday, May 10**

9:30 Mom's Brunch Bunch

Sunday, May 11

8:30 SS Teachers Prayer Time

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service— Graduates

10:00 Prayers for "Free the Future"

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

6:00 Yose

Tuesday, May 13

9:30 International Friends

11:30 Prayer for World Missions & Lunch

Wednesday, May 14

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 Music Recognition Night, YG

7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Week of May 15-21**Sunday, May 18**

8:30 SS Teachers Prayer Time

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

10:00 Prayers for "Free the Future"

5:00 YOSE 120

5:00 Deacons Meeting

Monday, May 19

4:00 4 to 8

Tuesday, May 20

9:30 International Friends

Wednesday, May 21

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library

5:30 Nominating Committee

6:00 Mission Education Recognition

7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Volunteers in Service for the week of May 11**Deacons of the Week:** *Paul Edfeldt, David Fleming**Counting Team:** Clay Hopcroft, Mike Craddock**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Pete LeBerte**Shuttle Service Team:** David Bamberg, Bill Dupree, Bob St. John**Flower Committee:** Leigh Whatley**Library Committee:** Martha Eskew(11) Jeanne Harrelson (14)**Worship Care**

Babies Jane Bowick, Sharon Hartzog

Creepers Ryan & Meredith Hankins

Ones Erin Burton, Kevin Jaquess

Twos Leigh Whatley, Ellen Sheumaker

Threes Rachel & Todd Jordan

Fours/Fives Bob & Mavis Hardy

Desk Don Baker

Volunteers in Service for the Week of May 18**Deacons of the Week:** * Becky Griffith, Linda Griggs**Counting Team:** Steve White, Jeanne Harrelson, Allen Fulks**Sound Technology:** Dan McMurray, Mike Wells**Shuttle Service Team:** Don Baker, Clay Hopcroft, Clint Brooks**Flower Committee:** Lottie Jacks**Library Committee:** Marilyn Tinnermon (18) Rosemary Bamberg (21)**Worship Care**

Babies Melissa McMurray, Robin Cameron

Creepers Lisa & Cris Speegle

Ones Rebecca McKinney, Cappy Blackwelder

Twos Mike & Jenny Henry

Threes Matt & Billie Caine

Fours/Fives Ann Marie Harvey, Jason Dearing

Desk Ed Whatley

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

May 14 Hamburgers, French Fries, Relish Tray, Strawberries, Choc. Éclairs—Volunteers—Mike Oatts, Mindy Bodenhamer

May 21 Baked Chicken Breast, Creamed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Apple Rings, Desserts—Volunteers—Sue Edfeldt, JoAnne Delohery, Bob Eskew, Mike Oatts

The *Variations* is published bi-weekly by
 VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH,
 2600 Vestavia Drive, Birmingham, AL 35216
 Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 1894
 Birmingham, AL

OUR MINISTRY STAFF

Gary A. Furr, Pastor

K. Dennis Anderson,
Minister of Education/AdministrationNancy 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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Email vhbc@vhbc.comWebsite www.vhbc.comWorship Broadcast Live on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m. on WVSU, 91.1 FM