



July 27 while I moved in. Our house was full of boxes and two children still at home and one starting college. We were grieving the loss of the ministry we had ended and full of joy and uncertainty about the one to come.

This month will mark fifteen years among you. It has caused me to do much thanksgiving and reflection. I never lived anywhere more than seven years, and that much only twice. I never knew that ministry could change and grow and continue to be so full of life and challenge and possibility. I have had to learn that God continues to lead the way, even in the uncertainty (?) of staying in the same place while everything changes around you.

I never anticipated the mission explosion that is happening now, that I would have friends in Romania or Mexico or Kenya by coming here. How could I look at those toddlers and think, "When they go to college, we will have spent their whole childhood together in church?"

Last Sunday brother Paul reminded us that belonging is what it means to be part of the body of Christ. It is not, however, merely belonging to an organization. It means participation in a common life—the ongoing, glorious presence of Jesus in the world.

It has been an honor to serve here since unpacking those boxes while Fred McCrory and dozens of others came by to help. Thank you for being a church we have been so glad and privileged to serve.



## Ladies Bible Studies for the Fall

*It is almost that time again and here are the opportunities for Bible study for our ladies. Please feel free to invite your friends.*

Sunday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.  
"Come Closer" by Jane Rubietta  
Facilitator—Kathy Dent  
Begins September 14

Monday morning at 9:30 p.m.  
"He Speaks to Me" by Priscilla Shirer  
Facilitator—Kim Barth  
Begins September 15  
Location: Adult Seminar Room  
(Childcare available upon reservation in the church office)

Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.  
"He Speaks to Me" by Priscilla Shirer  
Facilitator—Brooke Fleming  
Begins September 16

## Church Approves Important Financial Recommendations

At the Quarterly Business Meeting, Wednesday, July 16, the church heard a report from Jeff Baker, chair of the Building Finance Committee, regarding the status of our "Free the Future" campaign receipts and approved important recommendations regarding the church's long-term debt. Previously, he had presented the report and recommendations to the Trustees, Budget Planning Committee and Deacons and received their endorsements.

Jeff reported that receipts to the "Free the Future" Campaign had reached \$501,335 through June 30, 2008. The church approved his recommendation that these receipts and a portion of the existing Building Fund be used to reduce the principle on the church's long-term debt. Below is the rest of the recommendation that the church approved:

**Debt Refinancing:** It is recommended that the remaining debt balance of approximately \$2,030,581.70 (subject to further reduction through application of July pledge receipts) be refinanced with the Church's existing lender, Regions Bank, on the following terms:

<b>Term:</b>	Five (5) years.
<b>Interest Rate:</b>	Six percent (6%).
<b>Payments:</b>	Fixed monthly payments based on a 20 year amortization. Payments may be adjusted annually to account for excess amortization due to prepayments.
<b>Prepayment:</b>	Freely prepayable without premium or penalty.
<b>Security:</b>	Existing non-encumbrance agreement will remain in place with respect to the Church campus.
<b>Origination Fee:</b>	Thirty-five basis points (0.35%) of the loan amount, payable at closing.

**Establishment of Reserve Fund:** In order to protect the Church's operating budget from unforeseen capital expenditures, and to provide a source of liquidity for debt service in the event of a cash crunch, it is recommended that a Capital Reserve Account be established from the remaining proceeds (\$75,000.00) of the "old" Building Fund. The establishment of a Capital Reserve Account will help insulate the Church from unplanned expenditures and provide assurance that budget commitments will be fulfilled.

To all VHBC Members,

The annual Flower Committee Workshop will be held **Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

You are also invited to attend this flower demonstration workshop. If you would like to participate, please contact Becky Griffith (979-2993) or Sharon Hartzog (967-9521) by September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## *Remember in Prayer...*

### Members in the Hospital

- \***Bob Harrelson**—Brookwood, CCU
- \***Maxine Womble**—Mt. Royal Towers

### Members at Home

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

## *Christian Sympathy*

*Christian Sympathy is expressed to:*

- ◆ *Eloise Chandler and family in the death of her husband, Perwey Chandler, on July 23rd.*
- ◆ *Scott McGinnis and family in the death of his father, Robert McGinnis on July 25th.*

## *Congratulations*

*Congratulations to Rachel and Todd Jordan on the birth of a daughter, Reese Elizabeth on July 23rd.*

*Congratulations to Linda and David Whitt on the birth of a granddaughter, Madelyn Grace Holley, on July 17. Proud parents are Craig & Lauren Holley.*

### Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$132,878
Budget Given This Month	\$103,677
Budget Needs This Year	\$930,149
Budget Given This Year	\$783,357

### Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$44,254

### Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	518,719

### Recipe Book

Make sure to submit your favorite recipes to be included in the VHBC Recipe Book. **Deadline is August 17.**

- ◆ 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.

## **NEW FACE IN THE OFFICE**

This month, we welcome Betsy Lowery to our office as our receptionist and ministry assistant to Nancy Akins and Mike McBrayer. She comes to us with experience working in a church. She was employed part-time at First Baptist Church, Pelham. Betsy and her husband, Jeff, live in Helena, and have two daughters. Dawn is a sophomore at Auburn and Andrea is a junior at Pelham High School.

Call or drop by the office and give Betsy a warm Vestavia Hills Baptist Church welcome.

## **IMPORTANT!!!!!!!!!!!!** **FELLOWSHIP SUPPER RESERVATIONS**

We are currently trying to compile our permanent Fall & Winter Fellowship Supper List. If you would like your name included on this list you can either sign up on Wednesday night, call the church office at 979-5920 or email Betsy at [betsy@vhbc.com](mailto:betsy@vhbc.com). We are starting with a new list so that we can get a more accurate count so you will need to put your name on again. *Please remember to call the church office by noon on Wednesday if you need to cancel for that week.*

## **GIFTS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER**

As the summer winds down and fall programs begin, your financial gifts are needed more than ever. Please check to see if you are current with your pledge. If not, now is a great time to "catch up." If you can give your pledge in advance, it will be helpful as we gear up our ministries for the fall. Your generosity and financial commitment make the ministries of your church possible. Your gifts are appreciated and needed more than ever.



## **Meals on Wheels Volunteer Needed**

One of our churches on-going mission projects is Meals on Wheels. We have committed to deliver meals one day a week to shut-ins in the Vestavia area. There is an opening on the first Monday of the month and if there is a 5th Monday. If you would be able to contribute a few hours a month to this worthy cause please call Tootsie Strozier at 822-2703.

**Week of August 7-13****Friday, August 8**

7:30 Back to School Retreat

**Sunday, August 10**

8:45 Bible Study  
 10:00 Worship Service  
 11:00 Second Sunday Coffee  
 11:00 Missions Committee lunch  
 5:00 Deacons Meeting

**Wednesday, August 13**

6:30 Prayer Breakfast  
 4:30 Fellowship Supper-16th St.  
 Baptist—Library Open  
 5:30 Budget Committee  
 6:00 Prayer Service, YG  
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir

**Week of August 14-20****Saturday, August 16**

Youth Lake Party

**Sunday, August 17**

8:45 Bible Study-Promotion Day  
 10:00 Worship Service—Deacon  
 Ordination  
 11:00 7th Grade lunch  
 4:00 Youth Choir  
 5:00 YOSE

**Monday, August 18**

4:00 4 to 8

**Wednesday, August 20**

6:30 Prayer Breakfast  
 4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library  
 5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th grade  
 6:00 Prayer Service—Youth  
 Summer Report  
 6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's  
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Volunteers in Service for the week of August 10****Deacons of the Week:** \*Jason Cooper, Gilda Coker**Counting Team:** David Compher, Kevin Jaquess**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Dan McMurray**Shuttle Service Team:** Tim Franklin, Chuck Gillespie, Ed Whatley**Flower Committee:** Marsha Baker**Library Committee:** Martha Eskew (10) Lynn Taylor (13)**Worship Care**

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

**Volunteers in Service for the Week of August 17****Deacons of the Week:** \* Stuart Collier, Norfleete Day**Counting Team:** Bob Bush, Mel Kukelhan**Sound Technology:** Lee Watford, Mike Wells**Shuttle Service Team:** David Bamberg, Bill Dupree, LaWayne Fleming**Flower Committee:** Melissa McBrayer**Library Committee:** Betty Hauser (17) Liz Wells (20)**Worship Care**

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

**FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**

Aug. 13 — Lemon Pepper Chicken, rice, broccoli, congealed salad ,  
 carrot cake—Volunteers—Bob Eskew, Mindy Bodenhamer  
 Aug. 20 — Meat Loaf, macaroni & cheese, steamed cabbage, sliced  
 tomatoes, apple pie — Volunteers—Sybil Cox, JoAnn  
 Delohery, Bob Eskew, Christina Elliott

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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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