

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

The Shepherd's Pen

Expanding Mission: Discovering, Deepening, Growing, Participating

By the time September begins we will have successfully concluded our loan renegotiation, the budget process for next year will have begun in earnest and our fall programming will be well underway. As I begin a sixteenth year with you, our possibilities are many.

The second goal of our "Free the Future" capital campaign was to "Expand Mission." I use the singular instead of the plural on purpose. The explosion of mission activities might cause us to think of mission in terms of activities, programs and budgets. But there is a more important dimension to the word "mission." It is about being involved more deeply with the Living God's agenda in this world. It cannot be contained in a program. It is about our own deeper intimacy with God and our loving obedience to God's call in our hearts. The giving of time, love, prayer, and relationship are more important than money and programs—the latter are merely instruments and channels.

This fall, our Missions Committee is leading us as a church to a deeper commitment to mission as a church. They will have some special emphases later in the fall. Among them, we will be privileged to welcome the Stocks, our missionaries who worked with our youth this summer in Hungary.

I plan to preach on the theme of "Expanding Mission: Discovering, Deepening, Growing, Participating," beginning this Sunday with my Anniversary Celebration as I re-preach my first sermon of my ministry here (which was on rediscovering mission!). Hopefully it will be a preparation for discipleship and faithfulness together as we see that God's mission is not only for a few spiritual marines—it is the call to every single

Dr. Gary Furr & Family Celebrate Fifteen Years With Us

This Sunday, we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of Dr. Gary Furr coming to be our pastor. Below is a letter from the Personnel Committee recognizing this joyous event:

Fifteen years ago, you and Vickie, along with your three wonderful daughters, joined us to worship and to seek God's will for this church. In that time you have:

Laughed with us and cried with us
Held our babies and held our hands
Told us stories and sang to us
Led us through the destruction of storms and construction for the future
Counseled us and encouraged us
Traveled on mission with us, and on retreat with us
Sat, and prayed, and even wept with us in the hospital and in our homes
Married us and buried us
Rejoiced with us and suffered with us
Prayed with us and for us
Led us in study and in worship
Coached our teams and cheered for our teams
Shared your vision of the future and listened to ours

In recognition of this time together, we as a congregation pause to thank you and Vickie for all the ways you have added to the journey of this church. We consider you both integral members of this body of Christ and we hope that we have added as much to your lives in this place as you have added to ours.

On behalf of the congregation, we thank you for your fifteen years of dedicated service. We look forward to many more years as we all continue to discern our place in God's kingdom and serve as a light to the world from this magnificent mountaintop.

You are invited to come this Sunday, August 24, during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service to join us in recognizing Dr. Furr's fifteenth anniversary as our pastor, and Wednesday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m. for a fellowship to celebrate and enjoy our relationship with the Furr family.

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Christian to come, grow, and get involved. I hope you'll be on the journey with us!

August 24	"The Way Forward" Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:11
August 31	"Discovering Mission" John 20:19; Matthew 28:19-20
September 7	"Deepening Our Mission" 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
September 14	"Growing Through Mission" Genesis 10; Acts 2
September 21	Ralph and Tammy Stocks
September 28	"Participation, Obedience and Mission" Acts 1:6-8
October 5	World Communion Sunday: Special Emphasis on Mission

Pastor's Study Begins Wednesday September 3

Every Wednesday morning during the school year, I teach a study open to anyone. This group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Adult Seminar Room across from the Library. It lasts exactly one hour and is open to anyone interested. You do not have to have any prior knowledge of the Bible or theology. All you need is a Bible and an inquisitive mind. No one is "called on" in the class and there is no cost except for the books used in the class.

This school year, our class will study several different subjects. From September 3 until October 22, our study will be on **Being Baptist and Christian: A Short History of Baptist Faith**. Later studies will include a study of Islam, Judaism and Christianity in a time of tension, a study of the twelve apostles, a short study of Henri Nouwen's *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*, and a study of the journey of grief and healing.

Questions and discussion are welcome and we have coffee and great fellowship always on hand. Come join us!



ROUND TABLE Tuesday, September 2 Refreshments and Book Review 10:30 am—Fireside Room

Enter William Faulkner's mythical cosmos through reviews by Sandy Gillis of three of his famous short stories, "Shall Not Perish", "Barn Burning" and "Pantaloons in Black".

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Highlights of Dr. Furr's First Fifteen Years as our Pastor

- Over 696 new church members
- 35% increase in resident member families
- 62% increase in budgeted missions giving
- Launched church website, www.vhbc.com
- Began radio ministry with WVSU-FM
- Mobilized over 250 members to go to 20 countries for short term, hands-on, volunteer mission efforts
- Adopted Master Plan for facilities, and property development
- Over 6.5 million in construction of Choir Suite, Preschool & Children's Educational Building & Student Activities Building
- Expansion & renovation of Sanctuary, Church Offices, Library, Conference & Seminar rooms
- Purchase of Shades Crest Road property
- Raised over \$4.5 million for capital improvements
- 132% increase in budgeted receipts
- 100% of budget annually pledged, on average
- Expanded staff to provide effective ministries in music, worship, senior adults, & pastoral care.
- Began strategic missional partnerships, both globally and locally (e.g., Kenya, Mexico, Perry County, Over-the Mountain Hispanic Community & downtown Birmingham)

Ladies Bible Studies for the Fall

All VHBC members and friends are invited to join us for one of our Fall Ladies Bible Studies

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
Location: Student Lounge

To all VHBC Members,

The annual Flower Committee Workshop will be held **Saturday, September 6th 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 2nd.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

Members at Home

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

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

- ♦ *Jeanne Harrelson and family in the death of her husband, Bob, on August 10th.*
- ♦ *Wade Baker & family in the death of Wades father on August 10.*
- ♦ *Brooke Fleming and family in the death of her aunt, Stanline Stanfield, in Texas on Aug. 2.*

The Hospitality House

The Hospitality House welcomes three new residents who serve as interns at Passport: Emily Holladay, Emily McCracken, and Phil Gill. Please give a warm VHBC welcome to these three who come to serve!

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$91,993
Budget Given This Month	\$79,566
Budget Needs This Year	\$1,022,142
Budget Given This Year	\$863,573

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$45,466

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	\$546,080



Deadline for Recipes Extended

We would like to thank every one of you who have submitted your favorite recipes for our church cookbook. We still need more to make our cookbook the best ever. For this reason, we are extending the deadline until next Sunday, August 24th. Please get your recipes into the church office either by emailing them to Nancy@vhbc.com or just dropping them by the church office. To the best of our knowledge, our church has never published a cookbook of members' recipes. So, don't be left out of our first one.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Monica & Jeff Graveline on the birth of a son, Charles LaRose "Charlie" Graveline on August 7.

Congratulations to Jim & Jo Davis in the birth of a grandson, Connor George Moorhouse, in Baltimore, Maryland, Aug. 14. Parents are Courtney & Colin.

Congratulations to Dan and Gay Caldwell in the birth of a grandson, Caldwell (Wells) Alan Sheheane on Aug. 4. Proud parents are Dana & Chris.

Congratulations to Cory and Jennifer Goode on the birth of a daughter, Gentry Madison on August 4.

Thank You

Dear Church Friends,

God has kept us afloat during Bob's illness through your many prayers and acts of kindness. Each card, visit, phone call and gifts of food has been appreciated.

We thank all of you, especially the Wednesday morning prayer group. Bob looked forward each week to receiving his card and he would pour over each name listed. Sometimes we had to pull out the directory to identify the face that matched the name. Thank you all for these blessings, and especially the visits of Dr. Brooks.

The family of Bob Wilson

Dear Friends,

There are so many things I am so thankful for. I feel that God led me to VHBC.

Our church is truly a church of love for each other. I have felt the love from each of you by your concern when I have been ill, your cards, visits, phone calls & food. Thank you more than you will ever know.

Love in Christ,
Melva Scroggins

To My Church Family,

What a privilege to be a part of such a caring church. Throughout the years and especially the last eight months of Pervey's life, your prayers and love meant so much to me. Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls and food at the time of his death.

Eloise Chandler & family

Week of August 21-27**Saturday, August 23**

- 1:00 Youth Girls Day Out
- 5:00 Youth Guys Night Out

Sunday, August 24

- 8:45 Bible Study
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Children's Choir Workers lunch
- 11:00 Missions Committee lunch
- 4:00 Youth Choir

Wednesday, August 27

- 6:30 Prayer Breakfast
- 4:30 Fellowship Supper
- Library Open
- 5:30 Music for PS 3's—6th Grade
- 6:00 Furr Anniversary Celebration
- 6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Week of August 28-Sept. 3**Friday, August 29**

CDC Closed—Teacher Work Day

Sunday, August 31

- 8:45 Bible Study
- 10:00 Worship Service

Monday, Sept. 1

Church Office & CDC Closed

Tuesday, Sept. 2

- 10:30 Round Table

Wednesday, Sept. 3

- 6:30 Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30 Pastors Bible Study
- 4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library
- 5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th grade
- 5:30 Budget Planning Comm.
- 6:00 Prayer Service
- 6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers in Service for the week of August 24

Deacons of the Week: *Paul Edfeldt, David Fleming

Counting Team: Ann Holt, Jason Dearing, Mike McCrory

Sound Technology: Mike Wells, Allen Fulks

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

Flower Committee: Gay Caldwell, Jerrie Elliott

Library Committee: Marilyn Tinnermon (24) Lynn Taylor (27)

Worship Care

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Babies | Nancy Scruggs, Jackie Hughes |
| Creepers | Michael Wilson, Melissa McBrayer |
| Ones | Ryan & Tabitha Bradley |
| Twos | Burton & Laura Verner |
| Threes | Brent & Lisa Warren |
| Fours | Amanda Jordan, Brooke Fleming |
| 4's-K | Scott McGinnis, Elizabeth McCarty |
| Desk | Bob Lochamy |

Volunteers in Service for the Week of August 31

Deacons of the Week: * Stuart Collier, Linda Griggs

Counting Team: Clay Hopcroft, Mike Craddock

Sound Technology: Mike Wells, Pete LeBerte

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

Flower Committee: The Flower Committee

Library Committee: Rachel Fancher (31) Sybil Cox (3)

Worship Care

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

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Aug. 27— Poppy Seed Chicken, Rice, Green Beans, Ice Cream

Volunteers –Sue Edfeldt, Johnnie McCracken,
Bob Eskew, Christina Elliott

Sept. 3— Fried Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Pineapple

Salad, Brownies-Volunteers-Bob Eskew, Liz Wells

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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