

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

The Shepherd's Pen

Thank you, Church Family

I doubt that we have ever experienced a year so positive and energetic. Our capital campaign and your response made it one of the best years ever as a pastor! Then, when I thought it couldn't get better, a summer of exciting mission experiences took us to some new places. What could top that?

I'll tell you what: the love and appreciation you showered on us this week for our fifteenth anniversary. I certainly thought Sunday was so meaningful that I couldn't imagine anything more wonderful. Then came Wednesday night! A packed house in the fellowship hall, and a hilarious, side-splitting, joyful, good-natured, affectionate tribute time followed. I laughed hard—the jokes were gentle but dead-on. All of the staff made us laugh hard. Otis told a story I didn't know about the missing remains of his mother-in-law (you'll have to ask him) that brought the house down.

When we left, one of our visitors told me she had had a terrible day, but she was leaving with joy in her heart. I thought, "This was truly wonderful. Nothing could top this."

Then...we got home and opened the basket of letters and notes. It took two hours, but we read each and every one before we went to bed. Nothing has ever humbled or affirmed us more.

Words are not adequate to say thank you, but it's all we have. You gave us more than anyone could ever ask from people they serve. Thank you for your love, for showing it, and for being who you are.

Ready to Go?

This past year we had to focus a great deal on infrastructure, particularly our indebtedness. That is behind us now. Last Thursday, **we closed on our new loan agreement** with the bank, and the savings of over \$7,000 per month on our payment will

VHBC Responds to Gulf Coast Residents Following Hurricane Gustav

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast impacted by Hurricane Gustav. We are hopeful that this storm will not bring disaster on the scale of 2005, but people will still be hard hit. We have an opportunity for those of you who wish to do something for the people affected. One of our members, Bart McCorquodale, owner of McCorquodale Transfer, has a number of locations for his trucking business and contacts throughout Mississippi and Louisiana. He called me last evening and shared that he has been coordinating with people in New Orleans to provide concrete help from our church and the community.

He is going to make his trucks and workers available to ship needed items to the hardest hit areas. Trinity Episcopal Church in New Orleans has agreed to receive donations and insure that they are distributed to the hardest hit areas, particularly the rural areas around Houma and Morgan City. Any donations of items will be received at his warehouse, McCorquodale Transfer, located at 381 Summit Blvd. Birmingham (just past the Summit Shopping Center next to Cahaba Heights Road). Donations will start being delivered Thursday morning to New Orleans. Items will be sorted, stored, and loaded at the warehouse. We will contact Bart to see if volunteers are needed to help in this process. If you would like to help in this manner please contact Martha in the church office, 979-5920 or martha@vhbc.com.

At this point, these are the items most needed: Toothbrushes, Soap, Shampoo, Bottled Water, Towels, Shaving Cream, Blankets & Canned food

If you cannot deliver the items to the warehouse, bring them to the church and we will get them to the warehouse for delivery. Initially, items will be received at the church through Wednesday, September 10th. There will be boxes in the front and back foyers. Passport Ministries has volunteered to help deliver the items from the church to McCorquodale Transfer, which will be receiving items from 7-7 daily and delivering them ASAP.

Allison Dearing and your Missions Committee will continue to monitor this situation and inform us about what we can do as a church.

begin immediately. Furthermore, we now have reduced our debt below the \$2 million mark, and it will be under one when we finish collecting our gifts for the campaign! Celebrate!

The real point, though, is to move into the future. We are fast-forwarding. A busy fall awaits. Here are a few exciting events that are yet to come as we focus on the mission God has called us to in this place:

- Ralph and Tammy Stocks, the missionaries who hosted our youth in Hungary, will be with us in September. Our missions committee will be also leading us during September and October to *focus on Mission*. More to the point, to focus on what it means for you and me to join in and be on mission with God.
- In October on Wednesday evenings, we will have dialogues and discussions titled, "*Citizen Christians*," as we consider some of the important issues that are being discussed in the election season and learn about them from a faith perspective. As important as voting is, leadership cannot succeed in our nation without citizens, families and churches ready to build a better world where we are for God.
- *The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church* has invited us over to "their house" on Sunday evening, November 9, so we are going! Put it on your calendar as we go to fellowship, worship and friendship together.
- Daniel Vestal will be coming in January to teach his new book, *Being the Presence of Christ A Vision for Transformation*. He will lead us into a church-wide time of study together on the journey into scripture and prayer that can deepen us into a community of spiritual renewal and blessing to our community.



You Are Invited

Brent McDougal and David Burroughs invite you to participate in a Wednesday night book discussion group that will read and discuss *Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope* by Brian McLaren. The book asks two essential questions: What are the world's top crises, and what do the life and message of Jesus say to those global crises? We will read one or two chapters a week and discuss questions written by the author.

Interested participants can purchase the book prior to the first meeting through Amazon.com or one of our local bookstores.

The group will meet in the Fireside Sunday School classroom, Room #243, starting Wednesday, September 17th at 6 pm.

Lynn Stewart Celebrates Fifth Anniversary As Our Financial Secretary

When Lynn Stewart returned to our staff as Financial Secretary a few years ago, everyone acknowledged that the church business operation took a step forward. Many have remarked about how Dennis' performance improved just by having Lynn back in the church financial office. This is Lynn's second time to work with our church and this Sunday at the close of the worship service we will celebrate her fifth anniversary.

She counts the money, pays the bills, makes sure the paychecks are correct, aids benevolence cases, manages the staff benefits program, hands out candy on Wednesday nights, deals with the IRS, juggles committees, directs repairmen, talks with salesmen, and keeps our church operating in a good business manner.

Call Lynn this week and express your appreciation for all she does.

Prayer for World Missions—Fall 2008

As our church continues to follow its mission, let's undergird our efforts with prayer.

Special opportunities to pray together begin September 9th. Led by Mavis Hardy, missionary to Japan, these one-hour prayer times focus on current needs here and around the world.

Dates are:

Sept. 9 & 23
Oct. 14 & 28
Nov. 11 & 25
Dec. 9 with concluding fellowship luncheon

All meetings are at
11:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

Bring a sack lunch (coffee & tea provided) and stay for a short time of fellowship after each meeting through November. Everyone is invited!

The Pastor's Sermon Series

Dr. Furr will be continuing his Sermon Series on the theme of "Expanding Mission: Discovering, Deepening, Growing, Participating"

September 7 "Deepening Our Mission"
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
September 14 Ralph & Tammy Stocks, missionaries to Hungary
September 21 "Growing Through Mission"
Genesis 10; Acts 2
September 28 "Participation, Obedience and Mission"
Acts 1:6-8
October 5 World Communion Sunday:
Special Emphasis on Mission

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

*Jean Halbrooks –UAB—Rm. P832

*JoAnne Wells –East Glen Rehab.— 56B

Members at Home

Grace Barnes

Lou Bell

Norma Collier

Virginia Deaton

Earl Donegan

Kathryn Eidson

Jim & Martha Galyean

Elaine Goodwyn

Wyatt Guy

Leta Holliman

Mary Lou Hughes

Emily Jones

Dorothy Lindsay

Elizabeth Lindsey

Sarah Little

Nancy Lochamy

Fred & Sybil McCrory

Doris McWaters

Marge Olive

Nora Ousley

Elizabeth Quinby

Martha Ray

Velma Smyth

*Ben Stafford

Arthur Weeks

Jody Wilson

Richard Wilson

Maxine Womble

Edith Wood

Nettie Worrell

Are you looking for a short-term ministry?

One of our Lady's Bible Studies will meet on Monday mornings beginning September 14 and will last for just six weeks. We have a need for childcare for two-three babies. If you can help, please contact Nancy.

Worship Skills for First Graders

Sunday, September 7, 14, 21; Please come to Room 205 at the designated time in the bulletin. All first graders, along with a parent, are encouraged to attend.

Mom's Brunch Bunch

Saturday, September 13, 9:30 am; Gary Furr will share with us. Come spend time with our pastor and others. RSVP with Nancy or Betsy for the brunch and childcare!

"Healthy Marriage, Healthy Home"

Sunday, September 21, 4 pm in Room 205; Snack Supper at 5:30 pm for all; Led by Dennis Anderson, Licensed Professional Counselor; RSVP with Nancy or Betsy Lowery, betsy@vhbc.com, 979-5920, for the seminar and childcare by the Wed. September 17.

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 sign up call Betsy in the church office, 979-5920.

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$132,878
Budget Given This Month	\$119,137

Budget Needs This Year	\$1,063,027
Budget Given This Year	\$903,144

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$45,669

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	\$579,321

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jess & Sara Nix in the birth of their son, Barrett Thomas Nix, August 22.

"The Great Witnesses Who Had Gone Before Us"

During the Sunday School hour on August 31, 2008 the Shalom Sunday School Class paid tribute to seventeen former members who had died and were remembered as "The Great Witnesses who Had Gone Before Us." As each name was called, a candle was lighted in that person's memory.

Olive Brooks
Clarence Cunningham
Bob Harrelson
Neal Newell
Howard Olive
Lorraine Shreeves
Dan & Barbara Stone

Dan Burton
John & Ruby Fincher
Bill Harris
John Northrup
Bob & Nell Selby
Bob Sleeman
Bill Turner

Thank You

Dear VHBC Family,

As you may know, we have a large family. But you are also our family.

How can we thank you for the special attention we have received from you before and after Bob's passing? Your friendships and love have been evidenced for several weeks and months.

Our Harrelson family gives thanks to our VHBC family for everything.

In Christ's Love,
Jeanne Harrelson

Week of Sept. 4—10**Saturday, Sept. 6**

9:00 Flower Committee Workshop

Sunday, Sept. 7

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

10:00 Worship Skills—1st Grade

11:00 Open Door S.S. Lunch

4:00 Youth Choir

5:00 YOSE 120

Monday, Sept. 8

10:00 We Care

Tuesday, Sept. 9

9:30 International Friends

11:30 Prayer for World Missions

Wednesday, Sept. 10

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper

Library Open

5:30 Music for PS 3's—6th Grade

6:00 Prayer Service—Youth Group

6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's

7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Week of Sept. 11-17**Saturday, Sept. 13**

9:30 Mom's Brunch Bunch

Sunday, Sept. 14

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

10:00 Worship Skills—1st Grade

11:00 Second Sunday Coffee

4:00 Deacons Meeting

4:00 Youth Choir

4:30 Ladies Bible Study

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

6:00 YOSE

Monday, Sept. 15

9:30 Ladies Bible Study

4:00 4 to 8

Tuesday, Sept. 16

9:30 International Friends

6:30 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, Sept. 17

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-Youth Group

6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers in Service for the week of September 7**Deacons of the Week:** *Ryan Hankins, Bob Hardy**Counting Team:** Steve White, Jeanne Harrelson, Allen Fulks**Sound Technology:** Dan McMurray, Mike Wells**Shuttle Service Team:** Gene Turner, Pete LeBerte, Bob Simpson**Flower Committee:** Flower Committee**Library Committee:** Rachel Fancher (7) Lynn Taylor (10)**Worship Care**

Babies Kristie Chandler, Amy Hamilton

Creepers Lisa Churchill, Jennifer Carter

Ones Libby Pittman, Margaret Winkler

Twos David & Colleen Burroughs

Threes Kathryn Stewart, Sara Taylor

Fours Erin Burton, John Chandler

4's-K Laura Griffio, Jan Deagon

Desk Janice Fulks

Volunteers in Service for the Week of September 14**Deacons of the Week:** *Ann Marie Harvey, Kevin Jaquess**Counting Team:** Alynn LeBerte, Jerry & Priss Pittman**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Lee Watford**Shuttle Service Team:** Mike Oatts, John Wood, Dean Gober**Flower Committee:****Library Committee:** Martha Eskew (14) Jeanne Harrelson (17)**Worship Care**

Babies Jane Bowick, Sharon Hartzog

Creepers Ryan & Meredith Hankins

Ones Pat Cooper, Kevin Jaquess

Twos Leigh Whatley, Ellen Sheumaker

Threes Todd & Rachel Jordan

Fours Andy Farmer, Emily Edmonson

4's-K Bob & Mavis Hardy

Desk Bob Bradley

FELLOWSHIP SUPPERSept. 10 —Pork Chops, corn pudding, baked apples, jello/cookie
Volunteers—Martha Eskew, Janice Fulks, Bob Eskew, Mindy BodenhamerSept. 17—Beef Tips on egg noodles, broccoli, apple ring, chocolate
Pudding —Volunteers—Marilyn Tinnermon, Judy Schlegel,
Bob Eskew, Janice Fulks

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