

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



The Shepherd's Pen

The cataclysm's of Wall Street and the nervous response of people on Main Street have caused a lot of conversation about the "fundamentals" of the economy. Beyond the politics of those discussions, it is fair to say, "We're all worried. What are we going to do?"

The *Christian Science Monitor* ran an interesting article on Monday. It said:

In 1993, religious institutional investors began making "eerily prophetic warnings" of an impending subprime mortgage debacle in the US, says Laura Berry, executive director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. The ICCR represents nearly 300 faith-based institutional investors managing more than \$100 billion in assets... These firms long ago voiced concerns in regard to predatory lending practices, inappropriate underwriting standards, and the potential consequences of securitization of debt instruments, that is, the packaging of bundles of mortgages and other loans into a big single investment for sale to pension funds and other investors around the world. If the early warnings had been heeded, the world "would have avoided the kind of meltdown we are experiencing today," she says. (David R. Francis, "Economic Slump: Ethics Loom Large," Sept. 15, 2008).

While I cannot evaluate that claim, I can ask a question that matters—what are the "fundamentals?" In religion, "fundamentals" is chiefly associated with stubbornness. Fundamentalist has become such a bad word that no one will use it of themselves anymore, like "liberal." Fundamentalists became the modern enemies of modern life. They were against everything. They have their representations in every religion. They are the negative force, reactionaries to progress, science, thinking and education and culture.

Being the Presence of Christ Learning, Living, Going

Find your place in one of these activities. For more information, please contact a member of the Missions Committee: Allison Dearing, Bob Bradley, Don Ehrett, Gilda Coker, Michael Wilson, and Melody Maxwell.

Sunday, Sept 28th

- ♦ Adult Sunday School emphasis, "Being the Presence of Christ," led by Ken Roxburgh in the Fellowship Hall. Continental Breakfast begins at 8:15 am. Bible study begins at 9 am.
- ♦ Testimony in worship by Carolyn McKinstry, member of 16th Street Baptist Church.
- ♦ Focus on Unified Missions Offering (UMO).
- ♦ Visit to the Civil Rights Institute (Admission free: 1-5 pm).
- ♦ Evening worship, Jorge Camacho's church, Iglesia Baptista.

Monday, Sept 29th

- ♦ "Thank You" to Vestavia Hills service providers.

Tuesday, Sept 30th

- ♦ International Friends Ministry – 9:30 am.
- ♦ Shop early for Christmas by participating in the Season of our Savior, Birmingham Baptist Association ministry project.

Please purchase items that will fit in a Christmas stocking, bring to VHBC, and attach a note specifying whether the items are for a boy or girl. "Birth-2 Years" and "Teens" are two age categories where needs are often unmet.

Wednesday, Oct 1st

- ♦ Wednesday night Prayer Service:
"Church members on mission in the community."

Thursday, Oct 2nd - M-Power work project.

Friday, Oct 3rd

- ♦ Prepare and deliver homemade desserts to the church for Saturday meal at Firehouse Shelter.

Saturday, Oct 4th

- ♦ Youth home repair project in West End.
- ♦ Meal served at Firehouse Shelter.

Sunday, Oct 5th

- ♦ World Communion Day/Missions Celebration in worship.
- ♦ Completion of youth home repair project in West End.

“Fundamentals” is not a bad word, though. In football, fundamentals are the core skills needed to win games. It means blocking, tackling, passing, catching. In every sport there are fundamentals. It is not primarily about being against something or being negative about everything. It is not even mostly about ideas and being right. It is about doing the right things because they work. They are “the basics.”

The Old Testament prophets knew that building life on greed or material possessions at the expense of every other thing in life—neighbor, family, responsibility, faithfulness to God, ethics—will always end in disaster. Achieving wealth is not wrong—it is God-given. But it must be done the right way, guided by right values, by people who wish to use it ultimately for things that please God, not only themselves.

Our national debate needs to focus on fundamentals, more in the sense of sport than religion. The sporting sense is closer to the biblical idea anyway. Scripture was given us by God not for endless arguments, but ultimately for practice and execution of the good life and success as God defines it—stewardship, kindness, mercy, justice and a community of righteousness.

It is not only the economy, finally, that we all live for. The economy is a marvelous means to the true ends of life that give us joy. When we forget that and make it the only thing, we suffer the same fate of every idol-worshiper: we go down with the god of our own making.

We are in a time for getting to fundamentals—foundational things. Hard work will get us out of this. Honesty will get us out of this. Transparency will get us out of this. Generosity will get us out of this. Patience will get us out of this. Love for our fellow human beings will get us out of this. Fairness will get us out of this. Doing what is right for its own sake will get us out of this. They are the blocking, tackling, passing and catching that will lift us to a new time of possibility. If we'll be about these, I'm willing to be called a fundamental guy.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Todd & Jessica Hogue
3318 Summit Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35243

Emily Edmonson
1150K 16th Ave. S.
Birmingham, AL 35205

Rebekah Dewitt
Samford University

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. 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!

Special Sunday School Lesson on Missions Sunday, September 28

The last week of this month will be a special series of activities planned by our Missions Committee around the theme, *Being the Presence of Christ: Learning, Living, Going*.

As part of this emphasis, on Sunday, September 28, all of the adult classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall for a special Missions lesson taught by Dr. Ken Roxburgh. We will have a Continental Breakfast (coffee, juice, fruit, and pastries) starting at 8:15 am, and the lesson will begin promptly at 9 am.

Please promote this in your class and plan to come, have coffee together, sit together, and enjoy a wonderful lesson and discussion.

Grief Counseling

Grief Counseling is a help to many who need to talk through the loss of a loved one. Several members of this church have found this service to be very helpful. Call the church office if you need the name of a qualified counselor.

Pledge Day, October 26

Plan to be present on this special day!

Please do not plan any out-of-town trips or anything that would interfere with your participation in the most significant day in the life of our church. The Budget Planning Committee is hard at work compiling the totals for our 2009 budget.

We look forward to a great victory together as we attempt to subscribe our budget on Pledge Day, October 26. Begin now to pray.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

Members at Home

Grace Barnes	Nancy Lochamy
Norma Collier	Fred & Sybil McCrory
Virginia Deaton	Doris McWaters
Earl Donegan	Marge Olive
*Pierce Dutton	Nora Ousley
Kathryn Eidson	Elizabeth Quinby
Jim & Martha Galyean	Martha Ray
Elaine Goodwyn	Velma Smyth
Jean Halbrooks	Ben Stafford
Wyatt Guy	Arthur Weeks
Leta Holliman	*JoAnne Wells
Mary Lou Hughes	Jody Wilson
Emily Jones	Richard Wilson
Dorothy Lindsay	Maxine Womble
Elizabeth Lindsey	Edith Wood
Sarah Little	Nettie Worrell

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to John Bell & family and De Loris Donegan & family in the death of John's wife and De Loris' sister, Lou Bell on Saturday, September 13th.

Sunday, October 5 World Communion Day

On October 5, we will join with Christians around the world to celebrate the salvation Jesus has given us. It is a thrilling thing to know that all over the earth at that time we will be united with believers at the Lord's table during worship.

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$61,329
Budget Given This Month	\$53,416
Budget Needs This Year	\$1,124,356
Budget Given This Year	\$956,560

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$46,074

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	\$588,907

"Creative Approaches to Discipline" Parenting Seminar

- Sunday, October 12, 4 pm in Room 205, Snack Supper at 5:30
- The seminar will continue through suppertime until 6:30 pm. Children will eat in their classroom.
- Led by Rod Marshall, Director of Pathways Professional Counseling
- *RSVP with Betsy Lowery, betsy@vhbc.com, 979-5920 by for the seminar and childcare by **Wed., October 8.***

Library News

Luke McBrayer, Hayden Speegle, Amelia Grace Stewart and Tyson Stewart have all earned new children's books for our library by reading at least ten books this summer. Congratulations to our Summer Beach Readers! The books that have been added to the library in their honor are as follows:

Luke McBrayer	<u>How I Became a Pirate</u>
Hayden Speegle	<u>Fancy Nancy</u>
Amelia Grace Stewart	<u>Who Ate the Cookie Dough</u>
Tyson Stewart	<u>The Dark, Dark Night</u>

THANK YOU

Dear Friends of Vestavia Hills Baptist,

Thank you so much for the use of the candle-lighters this summer. They really helped make worship at camp a meaningful experience. We are so grateful for your continuous support of PASSPORT and your help in fulfilling our mission!

Thank you,
PASSPORT Staff

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for hosting us in the VHBC Hospitality House. The space was more than adequate and it felt like home. Having this place to live in helped make our ministry at Passport possible.

Most importantly, thank you for the way you welcomed us into your congregation when we attended. The smiles and handshakes helped us feel right at home.

Peace,
Josh & Jessi Bailes

Thank you all so very much for the many cards and phone calls following the recent death of my father. Knowing that the love and support of our church family is always there for us during troubling times means so much.

Wade & Susan Baker

Week of Sept 18-24**Thursday, Sept. 18**

6:00 CDC Parents Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 21

8:45 Bible Study
 10:00 Worship Service
 10:00 Worship Skills—1st Grade
 4:00 Youth Parents Meeting
 4:00 Youth Choir
 4:30 Ladies Bible Study
 5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi
 6:00 YOSE

Monday, Sept. 22

9:30 Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday, Sept. 23

9:30 International Friends
 11:30 Prayer for World Missions
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, Sept. 24

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study
 4:30 Fellowship Supper
 Library Open
 5:00 Handbells
 5:30 Budget Planning Committee
 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. 25-Oct. 1**Sunday, Sept. 28**

8:45 Bible Study
 10:00 Worship Service
 4:00 Youth Choir
 4:30 Ladies Bible Study
 5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi
 6:00 YOSE

Monday, Sept. 29

9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 4:00 4 to 8

Tuesday, Sept. 30

9:30 International Friends
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct. 1

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
 10:30 Pastors Bible Study
 4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library
 5:00 Handbells
 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 21**Deacons of the Week:** *Todd Jordan, Alynn LeBerte**Counting Team:** Taylor Burton**Sound Technology:** Allen Fulks, Mike Wells**Shuttle Service Team:** Jeff Baker, Kevin Studinka, Emory Gaskins**Flower Committee:** Becky Griffith, Sharon Hartzog**Library Committee:** Betty Hauser (21) Lynn Taylor (24)**Worship Care**

Babies Melissa McMurray, Robin Cameron
 Creepers Cris & Lisa Speegle
 Ones Rebecca McKinney, Cappy Blackwelder
 Twos Matt & Billie Caine
 Threes Mike & Jenny Henry
 Fours Sharon Maddox, Drew Dorris
 4's-K Ann Marie Harvey, Jason Dearing
 Desk Clark Cameron

Volunteers in Service for the Week of September 28**Deacons of the Week:** *Elizabeth McCarty, Lynne O'Neal**Counting Team:** David McPherson, Steve Thackerson**Sound Technology:** Peter LeBerte, Mike Wells**Shuttle Service Team:** Tim Franklin, Chuck Gillespie, Ed Whatley**Flower Committee:** Marsha Baker, Sara Taylor**Library Committee:** Marilyn Tinnermon (28) Lynn Taylor (1)**Worship Care**

Babies Michel Wilson, Gilda Coker
 Creepers Tim & Crystal Franklin
 Ones Jason & Meryll Cooper
 Twos Kathy Dent, Marilyn Tinnermon
 Threes Liz Philpot, Jen McDougal
 Fours Amanda Jordan, Lisa Warren
 4's-K Pete LeBerte, Ron Smith
 Desk John Chandler

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Sept. 24 —Hot Dogs, baked beans, slaw, potato Chips, lemonade,
 ice cream sandwiches—Volunteers— Bob Eskew, Christina
 Elliott

Oct. 1— Veggie & Salad night, cobblers, cornbread — Volunteers — Sue
 Edfeldt, JoAnne Delohery, Bob Eskew, Liz Wells

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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