

# Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



## The Shepherd's Pen



What sort of "time" is this, we wonder? Beyond all the gallows humor about our retirement funds, most of us probably find ourselves resigned that we are simply surviving a time that is bigger than our ability to know. We reached down to hold onto our financial chairs only to discover we were riding the economic equivalent of "Apollo's Chariot," the rollercoaster at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia that plummets 200 feet at over 70 mph.

Poor Fabio, the supermodel, got whacked by a bird on his famous nose while taking a promotional ride on the Chariot in 1999, inflicting a one-inch cut on his schnozola and sending the poor bird to an early demise. That's how this time feels to me--a roller coaster AND a bird to the nose.

Somehow thinking about it all on Monday, I went back to my jaded friend in Ecclesiastes chapter three. "There is a time," I read, "for everything. For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted..."

**So what time is this?** I am writing just after news of the defeat of the bailout in Congress and the Dow just went over the hill at 700 miles per hour.

Oddly, this is not a time for fear or panic. Go out back and hit golf balls or cry if you need to do it, then get back inside and fix supper. Have some friends over. Call your kids. Pray. Clean the house. It is a time for all these things.

Invest in people. Money at the moment is a little short, but frightened elders are in abundance. Visit a lonely, scared friend and reassure them. Go to church more. Help a neighbor. Crazy as it sounds, thumb your nose at the fear mongers and give generously to people in need. Be faithful in your life. It is

## This 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.

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## Pledge Day Sunday, October 26

On Sunday, October 26, the church family will attempt to subscribe the 2009 budget by pledging their financial support for the coming year. Every member will be challenged to submit a pledge card on that Sunday morning.

### **THIS WILL BE A ONE-DAY, RAIN OR SHINE EFFORT.**

You will make the difference! Plan to be in attendance on Sunday Morning, October 26, to make this effort a success.

time for all these things.

If you're a Congressperson, it is a time to refrain from speaking. Please, people, stop trying to hang this mess on each other. Be quiet and do something. Be willing to stick your neck out and take the lumps. We hired you for that. Be slow to speak, quick to listen, and ready to act. It is time for all these things.

As for the rest of us, if you don't know what you're talking about, it may be a time to learn and a time to admit you don't understand. It could be a time to grieve or a time to help out. A time to lend or a time to have your neighbor who lost his job over for dinner and say, "We'll get through this." It is time for all these things.

You have to know what time it is. Our budget committee has labored to bring a very conservative yet hopeful budget this year. It is a time to stay the course together as church. Take care of the poor. Commit to God's work. Don't shrink back. Trust in God. It is time to step up and be counted. It is time for all these things.

Jesus' disciples never knew what time it was. They argued about who was the greatest when they should have been quaking with fear. They slept when they should have been praying. They also ran for their lives when he needed them most.

*Jesus always seemed to know what time it was.* He wept when it was time to grieve, he laughed when it was time to laugh, he healed when there was healing to do. He took up a Cross when the hard part had to be done. Because it was time to do them.

My friends, these are times for faithfulness, not anxiety and fear. Everything in us says, "Run. Be afraid." But it is not time for fear. "Be of good courage. Fear not. Wait on the Lord." This is the time for all these things. Do the things we need to do. Because it's time.



## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Ryan Medley**  
**3868 Overton Manor Trail**  
**Birmingham, AL 35243**

**Olivia Medley**  
**3868 Overton Manor Trail**  
**Birmingham, AL 35243**

## *Being the Presence of Christ Learning, Living, Going Involve Yourself in One of These Activities this Week.*

### Thursday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- ◆ 9:00 A.M. - Work Day at M-Power Ministries, a faith-based, urban ministry in Birmingham, working to meet the needs of families and neighborhoods—and to provide opportunities for change and growth. Help tackle six specific projects with M-Power's Medical Clinic Director, Betty Mulloch. *Contact Don Ehrett for more information.*

### Friday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- ◆ Prepare and deliver homemade desserts to VHBC for Saturday meal at Firehouse Shelter. Please deliver desserts to Room 205 in the Children's Building.

### Saturday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.

- ◆ Youth/Parent home repair project in West End in conjunction with Urban Ministry  
Meal served at Firehouse Shelter-coordinated by Fireside Sunday School Class.  
*Contact Jennifer Carter for more information.*

Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> - World Communion Day/Missions Celebration in worship

- ◆ Completion of youth home repair project in West End

## **CALLED BUSINESS MEETING 2009 Budget to be Presented Wednesday, October 8**

The proposed budget for the next year will be presented by the Budget Planning Committee, Wednesday night, October 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend. The church will vote on the proposed budget on Sunday morning, October 12, following the morning worship service in a **SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING**.

## **PLEDGES PAID UP!**

As we begin the final quarter of our 2008 fiscal year, each person will want to make sure his or her pledge is paid up-to-date. The faithfulness of all of our members in giving is the heart of our financial program and undergirds everything we try to do in reaching people for Christ. One member has said, "There is a great spirit moving in our church. Giving helps me feel part of all the great things going on for the cause of Christ!" Every member can feel this way. It is great to be able to support a growing church.

**Catch up if you are behind.  
Give in advance if you can.**

## *Remember in Prayer...*

### Members in the Hospital

\*Steve Blackwelder Brookwood, ICU

### Members at Home

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

## *Christian Sympathy*

*Christian Sympathy is expressed to:*

- *De Loris Donegan and family in the death of her nephew's wife, Rita Chappell on Sept. 21.*
- *Libby Pittman & family in the death of her mother, Mary Louise Buzhardt, in Mobile, on Sept. 20.*

### **Deacons Meeting**

**This Sunday—October 5**

**5:00 p.m.—Adult Seminar Room  
“Presentation of the 2009 Budget”**

**We Care**

**Monday—October 6  
10:00 a.m. — Fireside Room**

### **Ministry Budget Offering**

Budget Needs This Month	\$122,658
Budget Given This Month	\$85,368
Budget Needs This Year	\$1,185,685
Budget Given This Year	\$988,512

### **Unified Missions Offering**

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

### **Free the Future Capital Fund**

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	\$590,752

### **Mom's Brunch Bunch**

Saturday, October 11, 9:30-11 am

RSVP with Betsy Lowery, [betsy@vhbc.com](mailto:betsy@vhbc.com), 979-5920, for brunch AND childcare.

### **“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](mailto:betsy@vhbc.com), 979-5920 by for the seminar and childcare by Friday, **October 10.**

### **Children's Sabbath**

Sunday, October 19 - A day to celebrate children. All children's choirs will sing in morning worship.

### **Trunk 'R Treat**

Wednesday night, October 29, 5 pm - Fill your trunk with goodies and park your car in the lower parking lot at church. Enjoy grilled hot dogs and burgers and fellowship with others.

## **ROUND TABLE**

**Tuesday, October 7**

**Refreshments and Book Review  
10:30 am—Fireside Room**

Join us for a feminine portrait gallery—All of the Women of the Bible by Edith Deen. We will discuss Sarah “Mother of Nations”, Bathsheba “mother of Solomon” Shunammite – Mary “Mother of Jesus” and Mary Magdalene.

**Samford University Auxiliary**

Invites you to

**“Job 42: The Goodness of God”**

*Featuring Fran Curry*

*Award winning journalist*

Thursday, Oct. 9

Refreshments 10:00 a.m.

Program 10:30 a.m.

Brock Recital Hall

*Vestavia Hills Public Library*

*Presents*

*An Evening With Rick Bragg*

*Award winning author of*

*Prince of Frogtown, All Over but the Shouting and Ava's Man*

*October 23, 2008*

*Vestavia Hills Baptist Church*

*6:30-8:00 p.m.*

**Week of October 2-8****Saturday, Oct. 4**

8:30 Youth & Parent Mission Project

**Sunday, Oct. 5**

8:45 Bible Study  
10:00 Worship Service-World Comm.  
4:00 Youth Choir  
4:30 Ladies Bible Study  
5:00 YOSE 120

**Monday, Oct. 6**

9:30 Ladies Bible Study  
10:00 We Care  
4:00 4 to 8

**Tuesday, Oct. 7**

9:30 International Friends  
10:30 Round Table  
6:30 Ladies Bible Study

**Wednesday, Oct. 8**

6:30 Prayer Breakfast  
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-**Called Bus. Mtg.**—Youth Group  
6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir

**Week of Oct. 9-15****Saturday, Oct. 11**

9:30 Mom's Brunch Bunch

**Sunday, Oct. 12**

8:45 Bible Study  
10:00 Worship Service— **Called Bus. Meeting**/Budget Vote  
11:00 Second Sunday Coffee  
4:00 Creative Approaches to Discipline  
4:00 Youth Choir  
4:30 Ladies Bible Study  
5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi  
6:00 YOSE

**Monday, Oct. 13**

9:30 Ladies Bible Study

**Tuesday, Oct. 14**

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

**Wednesday, Oct. 15**

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  
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 October 5**

**Deacons of the Week:** \*Gwen Roxburgh Julie Roller

**Counting Team:** David Compher, Kevin Jaquess

**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Dan McMurray

**Shuttle Service Team:** David Bamberg, Bill Dupree, Bob St. John

**Flower Committee:** Robin Cameron, Melissa McMurray

**Library Committee:** Kristie Chandler (5) Liz Wells (8)

**Worship Care**

Babies	Nancy St. John, Sandra Bates
Creepers	Janice Fulks, Jennifer Carter
Ones	Michael & Dee Thomason
Twos	David & Beth Lang
Threes	Melanie Medley, Laura Chaires
Fours	Kim Virciglio, Suzanne Walter
4's-K	Kathryn Stewart, Cathy Donze
Desk	Eloise Chandler

**Volunteers in Service for the Week of October 12**

**Deacons of the Week:** \*Priss Pittman, Lynette Sandley

**Counting Team:** Bob Bush, Melanie Kukelhan

**Sound Technology:** Lee Watford, Mike Wells

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

**Flower Committee:** Elizabeth Hamilton, Lisa Speegle

**Library Committee:** Jackie Hughes (12) Lynn Taylor (15)

**Worship Care**

Babies	Jane Bowick
Creepers	Matt & Carole Miller
Ones	Kevin & Elizabeth Studinka
Twos	Pat Cooper, Betsy Stockdale
Threes	David & Cathy Compher
Fours	Nancy Akins, Leigh Simmons
4's-K	Deborah & Erin Hopcroft
Desk	Lottie St. John

**FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**

Oct. 8 — Hamburgers, Lima Beans, Niblet Corn, Relish tray, Boston Cream Pie — Volunteers—Sybil Cox, Johnnie McCracken, Bob Eskew, Mindy Bodenhamer

Oct. 15— Beef Stew, Steamed Cabbage, Sliced Tomatoes, Egg Custard  
Volunteers — Bob Eskew, Janice Fulks

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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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