

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

The Shepherd's Pen

Church Budget Vote this Sunday

This Sunday morning our church will vote on a budget for 2009. It's hard to know even what to anticipate about next year, but your Budget Planning Committee, headed by Lyn Cone, has done a wonderful job. They are bringing a very conservative budget that, nevertheless, was able to accomplish our goals of restoring cuts from last year and affirming the missions and education ministry areas. Thanks to our good hard work last year as a church of lowering our building indebtedness, and therefore the monthly payment, we could do all this, essentially, without substantially raising the overall figure—it is nearly a flat total.

We had plenty of signs that we could have done more—one of the best years in growth of new member families in many years. But in light of the times, and because we need to accomplish a full pledge at this level before we will be in a position to do more, this is a wise and strong budget for us.

Even so, we are able to move ahead in what we are attempting together. Thank you, church family, for your faithful giving amid difficult times. We will vote on the budget at the close of this Sunday morning service. Then we will aim at pledging it on the last Sunday of this month, October 26.

Sermon Series: Six Critical Stewardships for America and the World

In this very critical moment, not only for America but the entire world, it is easy to be focused only on partisan politics because of the impending election. This is, indeed, a crucial time, but there are large issues at stake that will be with us after the elections are over.

Over the next weeks, I will preach a sermon series entitled, "Six Critical Stewardships for America and the World." "Taking Care" seems to be a very important focus for this time, after what is more and more obviously a long time of oblivion or distraction from the calling to be answerable to God in all parts of our lives.

Here are the sermons that I will be

"Celebration and Restoration"

The 2009 Ministry Budget Proposal

What Can a Church Do With \$1,599,197?

START WITH MISSIONS...

Give \$197,050 to mission causes and needs, 12% of the total proposed budget! The largest missions budget in the history of the church. Help for small struggling churches and missions in the U.S. and abroad (Birmingham, Alabama, Ohio, Mexico, India, Kenya). Provide funding for youth and other groups' mission projects. Reach lost and unchurched people in the Birmingham area. Train children, youth, and adults in missions awareness and involvement. Funding for 6 new ministries in 2009.

ADD SPECIAL MINISTRIES...

Provide special ministries to all ages and groups: preschoolers, children, youth, college students, and senior adults. Reach special needs groups: international friends, homeless families, homebound persons, the hungry, the imprisoned, the grieving. Undergird ministries to minister and to reach all ages. Afford help to those in financial crises.

PLUS WORSHIP AND EDUCATION...

The largest education ministry budget in the history of the church. Provide Sunday School and Discipleship experiences for all ages. Furnish and maintain equipment and facilities for a variety of programs. Undergird a multifaceted music ministry. Touch the hearts of people through the proclaimed Word.

IT ALL ADDS UP!

For over 20 years, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church has averaged pledging its budget by almost **100% in just one day!** We responded with faith, vision, and commitment to the need shown us. The need this year is greater than ever. To accomplish in 2009 what we as a church believe God has called us to do, we must pledge our ministry budget of \$1,599,197.

Your part is essential!

**MAKE A GENEROUS PLEDGE ON
PLEDGE DAY OCTOBER 26!**

preaching:

- Sun., Oct 12 The Call to Economic Responsibility
"Make the Most of It"
Matthew 25:14-30
- Sun., Oct 19 Children's Sabbath
A Future for Our Children
"Receiving, Blessing and Sending:
Taking Our Children Seriously"
Mark 10:13-16; Psalm 37:25-38;
- Sun., Oct 26 Pledge Day
Christians and the Environment
"Why Green Is the Right Color for the
Church"
Romans 8:18-25; Psalm 8, 19; Genesis
1:26-31
- Sun., Nov 2 The Stewardship of Power and the
Challenges of Leadership
"Leadership for This Strange New Time"
John 13:12-17 (Romans 13:1-5;
Deuteronomy 17:14-20)
- Sun., Nov 9 The Stewardship of the Community
Where We Live
"Seeking the Welfare of the City"
Jeremiah 29:1-9
- Sun., Nov 16 The Stewardship of the Gospel in a
World of Many Faiths
"How Do You Take Care of Grace?"
1 Peter 4:1-11; 2 Cor 5:18; Micah 4:1-4



**VOTE TO ADOPT THE
2009 MINISTRY BUDGET
This Sunday, October 12**

The church will vote on the proposed budget on Sunday morning, October 12, following the morning worship service in a SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING. Please plan to be present.

**America's Beauty, Birds, and Buildings
Photography by George W. Ritchey**

Exhibit: Now - November 21, 2008

Samford University Library hosts America's Beauty, Birds, and Buildings: Photography by George W. Ritchey. The artwork is showcased around the main level grand staircase and on the second floor in the Reading Room.



Flu Shots

On Wednesday, October 15, Maxim Health-care will offer immunizations for influenza & pneumonia at VHBC in the Children's Activity Room in the children's Building from 3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.. Maxim will bill Medicare B for the charge. You must show your Medicare identification. If you wish to pay for the shot the charge will be \$30 for the Flu shot and \$45 for the pneumonia shot. Please call Betsy at 979-5920 or email her at betsy@vhbc.com if you would like to receive these shots.

GIVING RECORDS IN THE MAIL

A record of your gifts to the church through September 2008 was mailed to your home last week. Thank you for making the ministries of our church possible through your generosity. If you have any corrections or questions about your pledge or contribution record, please call the financial secretary, Lynn Stewart, at 979-5920.

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:

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!

*Vestavia Hills Public Library
Presents*

*An Evening With Rick Bragg
Award winning author of*

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

October 23, 2008

*Vestavia Hills Baptist Church
6:30-8:00 p.m.*

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

*Earl Donegan– Brookwood, Room 218

Members at Home

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

Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to:

- Karen Anderson & family in the death of her brother, Rodney McGuire, on October 6 in Clanton.
- Mrs. Marise Page and family in the death of her husband, Bill Page, former church member who died in Nashville October 2.

Messengers Needed!

We need 25 messengers from our church for the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Montgomery at First Baptist Church, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18-19. If you can go, please call the church, 979-5920. We will elect these messengers at our Quarterly Business Meeting on Wednesday, October 22nd.

Ministry Budget Offering

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Budget Needs This Month | \$30,664 |
| Budget Given This Month | \$34,316 |
| Budget Needs This Year | \$1,226,569 |
| Budget Given This Year | \$1,025,778 |

Unified Missions Offering

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| 2008 Goal | \$52,400 |
| Given to Date | \$48,155 |

Free the Future Capital Fund

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Pledges | \$1,725,894 |
| Given to Date | \$596,767 |



Led by Rod Marshall
Director of Pathways
Counseling

“Creative Approaches to Discipline,” Parenting Seminar

Sunday, October 12, 4 pm in Room 205

- Free snack supper
- Free seminar
- RSVP with Betsy Lowery, betsy@vhbc.com, 979-5920 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 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 a free hot dog, fun and fellowship with others. Fun for children of ALL ages!*

MOM’S BRUNCH BUNCH

Join us for an enjoyable time of fellowship, encouragement, inspiration, and support.

9:30 - 11 am in Room 205, RSVP by Wednesday before each Saturday with Nancy, nancy@vhbc.com, or call the church office, 979-5920, for the Brunch and Childcare.

Saturday, October 11 - “Brunch and Strokes”

Saturday, November 15 - Ordinary to Extraordinary: Decorating for Christmas with Ordinary Items

Saturday, December 6 - Christmas Treasures: Finding Treasures Among the Busyness of the Season

Don’t forget to invite others!

The Birmingham Chamber Chorus

Directed by Dr. Terre Johnson

Presents

Devotions

Sunday, October 19, 2008

4:00 p.m.

Church of the Ascension
Vestavia Hills, Alabama

The newly formed Birmingham Chamber Chorus, under the direction of Terre Johnson, will give its inaugural performance on Sunday October 19 at 4:00 p.m. at the Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills.

The Birmingham Chamber Chorus is an ecumenical chorus made up of church musicians, music educators, music students, and other outstanding singers from throughout the Birmingham area. Sponsored by the Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, the Birmingham Chamber Chorus seeks to provide an opportunity for musicians from diverse parts of the arts community to sing great sacred *a cappella* choral repertoire.

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 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 for October 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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Worship Broadcast Live on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m. on WVSU, 91.1 FM