

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



The Shepherd's Pen



This week we celebrate Children's Sabbath. I will be preaching on the stewardship of our future through the investments we make in them. When people who have children go through personal crises, I commonly invite them to think not so much about how bad it feels to be going through the terrible time (whatever it is), but to consider *what they might teach their child about how to meet such times.*

The current economic crisis, along with Hurricane Katrina and 9-11 will mark the lives of children who are now growing up. Perhaps it will leave them with a less secure sense of a "guaranteed" and safe world. What matters more than what happens is what we tell them about how to deal with such times and how to persevere and flourish in them. A personal faith, sense of humor, passion for life, deeply embedded values and confidence in God will carry us through good times and bad.

I am always amazed by the people who endured the Great Depression and their hardy souls. It sounds like a terrible time, but some mighty good people came out of those times. Last week I was doing some reading for my sermon and got diverted into reading about the 1930's and particularly some of the programs that the country had during those times to try to help a nation out of work and out of money.

Two programs I had heard about but never really read much about caught my attention. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration put people to work on projects for the public good. During the 1930's these two programs hired millions of Americans and left behind some impressive works.

CCC projects included more than 3,470 fire towers erected, 97,000 miles of fire roads built, more than 3 billion trees planted; they cleaned up after floods, reforested many timber stands, and built dams, campgrounds, picnic shelters, swimming pools, fireplaces, and restrooms. During its 8-year history, the WPA built 651,087 miles of highways, roads, and streets; and constructed, repaired, or improved 124,031 bridges, 125,110 public buildings, 8,192

PLEDGE DAY 2008 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

*Plan to bring or send your pledge
on October 26 — Pledge Day!
Rain or Shine!*

PLAN TO DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOR OCTOBER 26:

**If you cannot attend, mail your personalized
pledge card to the church office,**
in order for it to be counted!

OR

**Fill out your personalized pledge card this Sunday,
October 19**
(cards will be in the pew racks) and place it in the offering plate or leave it at the office. These will be held until Sunday, October 26.

OR

**Send your personalized pledge card
to the church**
the morning of October 26, by a friend or family member.

OR

If you can attend,
the pledge service will be a part of our morning worship service.
Every church family is urged to complete a pledge card and participate in the pledge service.

MAKE A PLEDGE – SAVE A VISIT

As a service to our members, our deacons will go out Sunday afternoon, October 26, to make a ministry visit and pick up pledge cards from those providentially hindered from coming that Sunday.

parks, and 853 airport landing fields. Some of those projects included Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas, and LaGuardia Airport in New York City.

Many people were not part of these programs, but they have stories of survival and accomplishment. The point is not about programs but about ingenuity in facing a time of difficulty and turning it to the good.

The way forward in difficult times is not, as I said Sunday, to shrivel in fear. It is to get up, find the way, get back to essentials as people, families, communities and nation, and work hard to build something better. That is our challenge.

This is a great time for children. It's a great time to be the church. It is a wonderful time to serve God—because it is a time to find out what we're made of. Can we keep our hopes up, live in faith, persevere and get the job done despite difficulties? Our children are watching us. The greatest gift we can make to them is not to raise them in a perfect little world where everything is handed to them. They are most blessed when we mentor them in how to live with resilience, hope and determination when life demands it most.

As we prepare to pledge to build the future together, we need these most to insure its success. We have adopted a very solid budget for next year. Please pray about what we can do together to make it happen in these very challenging days.



Hotel Samples Needed

We are gathering hotel samples of soap, shampoo, conditioner, and lotion. Do you have any left from your travels? With these difficult times, our shelters are in need of them. We will have a permanent box available in the Print Room. It will be out on Wednesday evenings for your convenience. Thanks for your help!

Joyful Noise Class

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT?!

Wouldn't it be great if on Sunday morning, October 26, we would subscribe our 2009 budget by pledging the financial support in ONE DAY! Impossible? Nothing is impossible when God is allowed to work through His people. God can bring it to reality. The budget subscribed in a one day pledging effort...

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT?!!!

All Vestavia Hills Baptist Church Families Will Receive a Personalized Pledge Card

Every family will have a **personalized pledge card** mailed to their home next week. If you have not received one by Thursday, October 23, please call the church office, 979-5920.

Please remember....

1. The pledge card is not a **legally binding document**. Your pledge can be changed up or down at any time with a simple, discreet & confidential call to the church financial secretary.
2. Turn in your pledge card on or before Sunday, October 26, so that your pledge can be added to the total pledged on Pledge Day.
3. Whether your pledge is **large or small, every pledge counts** toward helping reach the Budget Goal of \$1,599,197.
4. You can indicate on the pledge card **your preference for the destination of the missions portion of your budget contributions**. You can indicate one, or both, of the Baptist agencies—Southern Baptist Convention and/or Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.
5. If you are providentially hindered from being here on Sunday, October 26, **your family deacon will be available to come by and pick up your pledge card**, and return it to the church so it can be counted in the Pledge Day total.

MAIL IN PLEDGE CARDS IF YOU HAVE TO BE OUT OF TOWN

Our Pledge Day effort means all of us will want to have our pledge cards in to the church in time to be counted in the totals as we attempt to go over the top in a single day! Please mail your card and gift if you will not be able to attend on October 26. Pledge cards will be mailed to all church families next week. Also, they will be available this Sunday in the sanctuary & in Sunday School classrooms.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

*Martha Ray— UAB Rm. P980

Members at Home

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

Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, October 22

6:00 p.m. — Fellowship Hall

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	\$61,328
Budget Given This Month	\$56,558
Budget Needs This Year	\$1,257,233
Budget Given This Year	\$1,047,920

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$48,330

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	\$601,522

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!*

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

Thursday, October 23, 2008

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Born and bred in Alabama, critically acclaimed and best-selling author, Rick Bragg is a Pulitzer Prize-winning former national correspondent for the New York Times. Bragg has also twice won the prestigious American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award and more than 50 writing awards in his 20-year career. He lives with his wife and son in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Thank You

My family and I will be forever grateful for your many expressions of love and support during Lou's illness and death. Thank you for this Christian witness throughout this difficult journey.

In Christ,
John Bell

My Dearest Church Family,

PLEASE REMEMBER - YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES EVERYDAY!!!

For almost two years you have *sustained* me with your encouraging words, listening ears and consoling hearts. Because of YOUR INTERCESSORY PRAYERS, my brother, Rodney, *lived* a quality life 21 months longer than the doctors had given him. He celebrated his life everyday and lived it to the fullest. Thank you for all of YOUR INTERCESSORY PRAYERS. They gave my family and me immeasurable strength and peace during his passing while supplying us cherished memories to dwell on for years to come.

Joyfully, Karen Anderson

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

Week of Oct. 16-22

Sunday, Oct. 19

- 8:45 Bible Study
- 10:00 Worship Service— Children’s Sabbath
- 3:00 Youth Family Cookout
- 4:30 Ladies Bible Study

Monday, Oct. 20

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

Tuesday, Oct. 21

- 9:30 International Friends
- 6:30 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct. 22

- 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 Quarterly Business Meeting-Youth Group
- 6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA’s
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers in Service for the Week of October 19

Deacons of the Week: *Nancy Scruggs, Gene Turner

Counting Team: Ann Holt, Jason Dearing

Sound Technology: Lee Watford, Mike Wells

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

Flower Committee: Becky Griffith, Sharon Hartzog

Library Committee: Betty Hauser(19) Rosemary Bamberg (22)

Worship Care

- Babies Billie Lochamy, Mindy Bodenhamer
- Creepers Dan & Gay Caldwell
- Ones Rebecca McKinney, Becky White
- Twos John & Virginia Wood
- Threes Jeff & Monica Graveline
- Fours Lynne & Katie O’Neal, Kim Brindley
- 4’s-K
- Desk Dick Bodenhamer

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER for October 22

Turkey & Dressing, English Peas, Cranberry Salad, Pecan Pie
Volunteers—Bob Eskew, Christina Elliott

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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