

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



The Shepherd's Pen

*I've been everywhere, man.
I've been everywhere, man.
Crossed the desert's bare, man.
I've breathed the mountain air, man.
Of travel I've had my share, man.
I've been everywhere.*

Johnny Cash wasn't kidding. You should live my life. Just in the past year, I have been so many places you would hardly know them all. West coast, I was on a cruise for a week. Then I visited a tanning salon, bought a hot dog in New York, traveled to Miami where I got a newspaper at the airport and then helped a guy get his shoes shined. I have bought chips in a casino in Biloxi. I've tipped waitresses in at least a hundred restaurants. Like I said, I've been everywhere.

I have the wrinkles to show for it. My color isn't quite as bright as it used to be. Truth is, I'm probably not worth what I was when I started.

Not long ago, though, I had something happen that made me feel really great. A little girl put me in an envelope and took me to church. She put me in an offering plate and I was deposited in a bank account. I heard them say that we were all helping to do God's work. That felt good. I don't mind telling you, when you're a lowly dollar bill, you wind up getting passed around just about everywhere. You get involved in some things that don't always make you feel great.

That's why I like it when people use me for the things of God. I've gone into so many wallets and households, and let me tell you, when you travel and get around like I do, you see things. You recognize who takes care of what they have and who doesn't. You understand priorities. Some people just waste me. I mean, they use me and my family like we were water. The humans like to say I "burn a hole in their

PLEDGE DAY THIS SUNDAY October 26, 2008

Regardless of the weather...

We will have Pledge Day regardless of the weather. If the weather is bad, be sure to come anyway! If it is impossible for you to make it, please be sure to send your Pledge Card by someone else Sunday morning or mail it in! Success depends on all of us!



\$1,599,197 IS THE GOAL
MAKE A PLEDGE
SAVE A VISIT

pocket," *like I'm the one who can't be satisfied!*

Humans are funny. When they use me for the right things—caring for their families, helping others out, buying things that are beautiful and that make the world better—they always feel good. Why they keep blowing me off for silly and empty things, I'll never know.

Like I said, I been everywhere. I've seen a lot. I could tell them. But they don't listen to me. As I said, I'm just a dollar bill and there's a lot more where I came from. ***If they only knew what they could do when they put us together, they'd have a second thought.***

This Sunday is Pledge Day. For our newer members, I hope you will catch the enthusiasm and joy of this day each year. We come together as a church family and make our financial commitments to the coming year's budget.

The pinnacle of this emphasis will come when we have the procession during next Sunday's worship service. During the procession, our families are invited to come forward and bring their pledge cards. We have a small wooden church that was made many years ago by one of our members at that time, Mr. Howard Skinner. Members walk forward as families and place their pledge in the church and return to their seats.

It is a moving time, a reminder to me always that the church really is "the people." It also reminds us that no one person can accomplish the complex and manifold undertakings of our church. It takes all of us to do it and all of us to pay for it. This year, ***let's make every dollar count!*** As you prepare to come this Sunday, be in prayer about what you can do to help us carry on these ministries.



Welcome New Members

Summer Hyche
2452 Fresno Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35216

Tevin Fowler
426 Deloris Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35226

PROCESSION OF COMMITMENT... WHAT AND WHY

This Sunday morning, October 26, is Pledge Day. One of the highlights of the worship service will be the **Procession of Commitment**. Why does our church have a **Procession of Commitment**?

First, our **Procession of Commitment** has served as an effective expression for our members to make their pledges to underwrite the coming year's ministries in one victorious day. We respond enthusiastically to this very specific, one-day emphasis.

Second, and more importantly, our **Procession of Commitment** offers us a visible demonstration of the unity of the Body of Christ committing themselves worshipfully to a great effort for God. Many parents use the Procession as an educational moment to instill the values of stewardship and family worship into their children.

God has used the **Procession of Commitment** to bless this church. Our prayer is that the Procession will be a time of worship and commitment for each participant.

LARGE OR SMALL — EVERY PLEDGE COUNTS!

“What difference does a pledge make?”

A pledge is a financial commitment of the amount a person anticipates giving to our Budget during the calendar year. It is not so much about an amount of money as it is a spiritual commitment. The Bible teaches that the whole world belongs to God and that we are His stewards or managers.

Since the pledge is a matter between God as the owner and you as the manager, you must seek His guidance and direction, which means spending personal time with Him. This makes it a spiritual decision—a matter of the heart.

“Why should I make a pledge?”

Most spiritual commitments are confirmed in a tangible way. God asks us to publicly profess our faith in Him. We make our marriage vows in the presence of family and friends. This is done not only so others will know the commitments we have made, but for us to allow ourselves to be held accountable for our commitments. When you complete and turn in a card indicating your pledge, others witness you making a spiritual commitment regarding your financial resources. Thus you allow the Family of Faith to hold you accountable, not for the amount but for the commitment.

This week you will receive your 2009 **personalized pledge card** in the mail. Please make this a matter of prayer, seeking God's leadership as to what spiritual commitment He would have you make regarding your financial resources.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

Members at Home

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

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of Wyatt Guy who passed away on Saturday, October 18th in Georgia.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of Marge Olive who passed away October 20. A memorial service will be held at the church on Thursday, Oct. 24th at 11:00 a.m.



You're Invited

Please plan to stay this Sunday for a Barbeque Luncheon after the Pledge Day Service. The church will provide the barbeque and all the fixings. Church members are asked to bring a dessert.

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$91,992
Budget Given This Month	\$82,725
Budget Needs This Year	\$1,287,897
Budget Given This Year	\$1,074,087

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$48,442

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	\$606,224

TRUNK 'R TREAT

NEXT WEDNESDAY NIGHT

OCTOBER 29

5:00 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!*

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!

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:

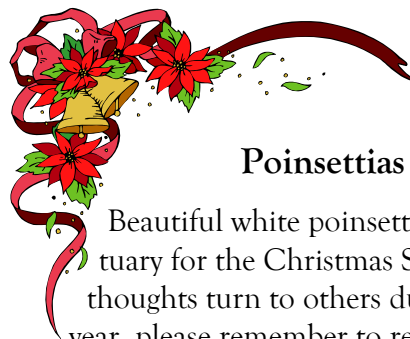
Oct. 28

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!



Poinsettias for Christmas

Beautiful white poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary for the Christmas Season. As our thoughts turn to others during this time of the year, please remember to reserve a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special. Call Martha in the church office at 979-5920 or email her at martha@vhbc.com. Cost is \$20.00.

Week of Oct. 23-29

Thursday, Oct. 23

6:30 Rick Bragg Presentation

Sunday, Oct. 26

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service-Pledge Day

4:00 Youth Choir

4:30 Ladies Bible Study

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

6:00 YOSE

Monday, Oct. 27

9:30 Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday, Oct. 28

9:30 International Friends

11:30 Prayer for World Missions

6:30 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct. 29

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

5:00 Trunk or Treat

5:00 Handbell Practice

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

Volunteers in Service for the Week of October 26

Deacons of the Week: *Fred Wood, John Barth

Counting Team: Mike Craddock

Sound Technology: Mike Wells, Pete LeBerte

Shuttle Service Team: Gene Turner, Pete LeBerte, Bob Simpson

Flower Committee: Don & Millie Ehrett and Ed & Kathy Whitfield

Library Committee: Marilyn Tinnermon (26) Lynn Taylor (29)

Worship Care

Babies Nancy Scruggs, Jackie Hughes

Creepers Melissa McBrayer

Ones Ryan & Tabitha Bradley

Twos Burton & Laura Verner

Threes Brent & Lisa Warren

Fours Amanda Jordan, Brooke Fleming

4's-K Scott McGinnis, Elizabeth McCarty

Desk Bob Lochamy

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER for October 29

Free Hot Dogs as part of Trunk or Treat

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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