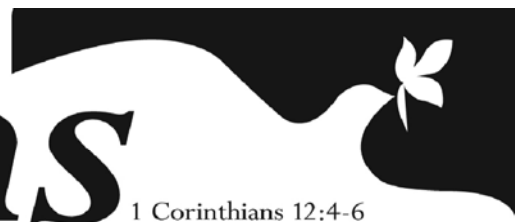


Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



The Shepherd's Pen

In two weeks **Dr. Daniel Vestal** is coming to teach us the first part of his wonderful book, ***Being the Presence of Christ***. Dr. Vestal is the Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), where he has served since 1996. He was a pastor from 1970-1996 in five Baptist churches. He is a widely sought speaker, retreat leader and a wonderful preacher.

Dr. Vestal wrote ***Being the Presence of Christ*** in part to help both those who know little about Christian faith and everyday Christians better to understand that a loving God wants to transform our lives and that we can learn how to let God transform us. His study will be about the first part of the book, which is about ***what it means to discover prayer as a reality in our lives***. Then, we will continue in the weeks following to study his teachings as we study the rest of the book together as a church and I preach on it during the Sundays leading up to Lent.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase during and after the weekend. See the cover of this issue to see details of the weekend. In the weeks that follow, here are the topics that will continue the study through my preaching.

- Sun., Jan. 18 WINTER BIBLE STUDY—led by Daniel Vestal
- Sun., Jan. 25 "Personal Transformation"
Matthew 10:38-39; Romans 6:15-23
"Being Changed by the Presence of Christ", Vestal, ch. 5
- Sun., Feb. 1 "Christian Community"
Matthew 4:19
"Experiencing the Presence of Christ with Others", Vestal ch. 5
- Sun., Feb. 8 "Pain and Sacrifice"
John 12:25-26
"Embracing the Presence of Christ in Suffering", Vestal, ch. 7

Being the Presence of Christ

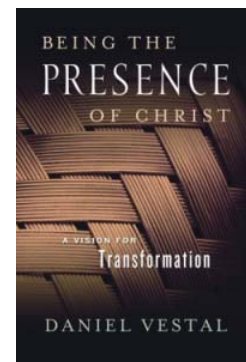


Winter Bible Study
Led by
Dr. Daniel Vestal

Sunday, January 18

Dr. Daniel Vestal has served as the Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship since 1996. Prior to that, he served as a pastor of churches in Texas and Georgia. Dr. Vestal will preach and teach for us from his book, ***Being the Presence of Christ***. His book has been described:

"Through personal transformation individuals can be agents of change in the world. We do this by practicing the presence of Christ in our daily lives, beginning change in the world with deep, spiritual change within ourselves. Daniel Vestal sets out a progressive approach to the study of scripture and prayer which encourages personal spiritual transformation. This personal growth enables the individual to practice Christ's presence in the world around us, thus aiding in the ongoing redemption of the world."



Schedule

- 10:00 a.m., Worship Service "Nurturing the Presence of Christ"
- 5:00 p.m., Session #1 "Practicing the Presence of Christ"
- 5:45 p.m. Chili Supper
- 6:15 p.m., Session #2 "Resting in the Presence of Christ"

Sun., Feb. 15 "Engagement and Ministry"
Matthew 8:19-22
"Being the Presence of Christ as a
Servant", Vestal ch. 8

Sun., Feb. 22 "Peace and Justice"
Luke 18:22
"Becoming the Presence of Christ for the
World", Vestal, ch. 9

Quotation from last Sunday's Sermon:

I ended last Sunday's sermon with a variation on the Serenity Prayer, first penned by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr. Some folks appreciated it and asked for it. So here it is. I wrote it, so feel free to share it if you wish:

God grant me the wisdom to understand my need for change and how I got there, the courage to accept the change I cannot cause, and the serenity to trust that even when nothing seems to change, you are still at work, transforming and saving us by Your grace. Amen.

—Gary Furr



Offering Envelopes

In an effort to save money we are reusing offering envelopes from previous years. We have put the offering envelopes out for people to pick up when you are at the church. We do not use the numbers on the envelopes, so just pick up any box. They will be put out on tables in the front foyer and the Fellowship Hall foyer. If you are unable to come and pick one up, please call the church office at 979-5920 or email lynn@vhbc.com and we will gladly send them to you.

Financial Peace University

Classes Start Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Are you ready to start 2009 off right by getting out of debt, learning to save and becoming a better giver?

Join us as we begin this important 13 week class this Wednesday (January 7th) at 6pm in the Adult Seminar Room. In it, you will learn about God's teaching on life, love and money. It is also a great time of fellowship with your classmates as you work with each other to apply the principles taught in the class to your life!

If you are interested in the class, please register today so that your class materials can arrive in time. Register online at <http://www.vhbc.com/FPU/Info.htm> or contact Ryan Bradley at 335-2805.

2009 PLEDGES IN EFFECT

Beginning with the new year, your 2009 Pledges go into effect. If you have any questions about the amount you pledged back in October, please call Lynn Stewart our financial secretary, 979-5920.

REQUEST FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Please write your **full name and address** on your offering envelope. This will aid in correctly posting gifts on your giving envelope.

Electronic Services Available to Automatically Send Your Tithe or Contribution to the Church

There are several ways to contribute to the church without having to write a check each week:

- ◆ **Online Bill Pay** – Most banks today offer free online bill pay to its checking account customers. Online bill pay allows you to specify the name and address of the entity that you want to send money to. It will also allow you to automatically send regular checks in the amount that you specify on the schedule that you specify (weekly, biweekly, monthly, etc). When it comes time to pay the bill, your bank will draft a check off of your account and mail it to the church at no cost to you. The checks are also guaranteed by the bank to make it to the recipient so there are no worries that it will get lost in the mail.
- ◆ **Telephone Bill Pay** – Many banks offer a service similar to online bill pay for its customers without Internet service. The basic principal is the same; you talk to an agent and set up a payee and an amount to send to that payee. You can set this up to recur as well. The funds are drafted automatically from your account. Unlike online bill pay, there is often a fee for doing this.
- ◆ **Account Software** (i.e. Quicken and Microsoft Money) – Online bill pay service is available through most account management software, such as Quicken and Microsoft Money. Many times these software packages will include a subscription to a service that will allow you to send a bill payment request from the software package on your computer to the software company. They will draft a check from your account and make the payment for you.

There are many options available to each of us to automate our giving. Check with your financial institution to find out which one works best for you!

You can receive the Variation Electronically

You can receive the *Variations* electronically instead of through the mail. You can view it on the church website www.vhbc.com, or you can have it sent to you via your email as an attachment. If you would like to receive it via your email instead of via the Postal Service, please contact Martha Neill at martha@vhbc.com

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

Members at Home

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

Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy is expressed to Elene Griffith and family in the death of her brother, James Maurice Johnson, on December 22 in Alamo, Georgia.

Can You Give a Can?

For many years, the 4th-6th Grade RAs have prepared and served meals at the Firehouse Shelter, a shelter for homeless men.

Please help us continue our ministry by donating a can of coffee to the Shelter. Sugar and Cream are also welcome.

Please bring your donation to the church and place it beside the box in the children's foyer.

Donations are welcome through February 8.

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$30,754
Budget Given This Month	\$25,070

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$53,394

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	\$656,677

For Your 2009 Family Calendar

Children's Ministry Day - February 7

Mom's Retreat - February 20/21

Roger Day Concert - March 1

Vacation Bible School - June 15-18

Children's Camp - July 16-19

Thank You

Thank you for your donation of 96 Christmas stockings and 34 cakes to the Birmingham Baptist Association's Season Of Our Savior emphasis. Oversized toys were given to Greater Birmingham Ministries, Hoover Fire Department's Operation Grateful Heart (for children of military families), and Shelby County DHR. Please take time to thank committee members Martha Eskew, Helen Gammill, Cherri Morriss and Kim Virciglio for the time and support they gave to this effort.

Cheryl Oatts

Winter Bible Study Groups for Adults

- *Would you enjoy studying the Bible with others?*
- *Would you benefit from caring and sharing with people just like you each week?*

If so, attend one of the wonderful Bible study groups for adults that meets each Sunday morning at 8:45 AM here at the church. Each week over 250 adults do, just ask them about it.

This winter the groups are learning about the many ways we encounter God and the things that really matter in the Christian's life. Books of the Bible that are being studied include Psalms, Isaiah, & the Gospel of Mark. Bring your Bible, come this Sunday morning and one of our friendly greeters will introduce you to a Bible study group.

A Great Way to Start the New Year!!

Week of Jan. 8-14

Saturday, Jan. 10

5:00 Girls Basketball Game

Sunday, Jan. 11

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 Second Sunday Coffee

4:00 Youth Choir

5:00 YOSE 120

Monday, Jan. 12

9:30 Ladies Bible Study

7:30 Boys Basketball game

Tuesday, Jan. 13

9:30 International Friends

Wednesday, Jan. 14

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper—Library

5:00 Handbells

5:30 Music for PS 3's—6th Grade

6:00 Prayer Serv.—Youth Group

6:00 Financial Peace University

6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Week of Jan. 15-21

Saturday, Jan. 17

4:00 Girls Basketball game

Sunday, Jan. 18

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

4:00 Youth Choir

5:00 Winter Bible Study

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

5:45 Chili Supper

6:00 YOSE

6:15 Winter Bible Study

Monday, Jan. 19

8:30 Boys Basketball game

Tuesday, Jan. 20

10:30 International Friends

Wednesday, Jan. 21

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper—Library

5:00 Handbells

5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th Grade

6:00 Prayer Serv.—Youth Group

6:00 Financial Peace

6:15 Mission Friends, GA, RAs

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers in Service for the Week of January 11

Deacons of the Week: *Lynne O'Neal, Elizabeth McCarty

Counting Team: Bob Bush, Mel Kukelhan

Sound Technology: Pete LeBerte, Mike Wells

Shuttle Service Team: Andy Brindley, Steve White, Tommy Cherry

Flower Committee: Leslie Doyle & Elizabeth Studinka

Library Committee: Rachel Fancher (11) Rosemary Bamberg (14)

Worship Care

Babies Jane Bowick, Sharon Hartzog

Creepers Ryan & Meredith Hankins

Ones Pat Cooper, Kevin Jaquess

Twos Leigh Whatley, Ellen Shuemaker

Threes Rachel & Todd Jordan

Fours Andy Farmer, Emily Edmonson

4's-K Bob & Mavis Hardy

Desk Don Baker

Volunteers in Service for the Week of January 18

Deacons of the Week: *Julie Roller, Priss Pittman

Counting Team: Ann Holt, Jason Dearing

Sound Technology: Mike Wells, Dan McMurray

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

Flower Committee: Frieda Gammill, Marty Mullins

Library Committee: Jeanne Harrelson (4) Sybil Cox (7)

Worship Care

Babies Melissa McMurray, Robin Cameron

Creepers Lisa & Cris Speegle

Ones Rebecca McKinney, Cappy Blackwelder

Twos Matt & Billie Caine

Threes Mike & Jenny Henry

Fours Sharon Maddox

4's-K Ann Marie Harvey, Jason Dearing

Desk Clark Cameron

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER January 14

Beef Stew, Steamed Cabbage, Sliced Tomatoes, Cornbread, Cobblers
Volunteers — Bob Eskew, Mindy Bodenhamer

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER for January 21

Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Grilled Cheese, Mixed Fruit, Corn Chips,
Coconut Cake
Volunteers—Bob Eskew, Janice Fulks

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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