

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



The Shepherd's Pen

As Dr. Daniel Vestal said Sunday in his sermon, this is an extraordinary and challenging moment, for the nation and the world. Tuesday we will enter a new time with new leadership for this nation. Ours is a moment of enthusiasm and excitement for many as they see the election of the first African-American President. That excitement is tempered, however, by the sobriety of this moment—the challenges we face, the economic hurdles ahead of us.

There has been considerable discussion about those who were invited to offer prayers at the inauguration. I have wondered, "What would I pray if invited to do so at an inaugural?"

As I continued to think about it, I thought, "What WILL I pray for this President and congress?" The prayers that matter are not those spoken before the cameras, but those offered sincerely from our hearts, every day.

So what will I pray, I asked myself? Here is my prayer for Inauguration Day, 2009:

Mighty God,

We come before you as the beneficiaries of a deep and wonderful heritage:

*We have lived in freedom and opportunity
forged in shed blood and high ideals,
a heritage that has come at great price—
not only in war,
but in work, debate, and spiritual labors,
building community and passionate
devotion.*

*We pray for our nation and ask that each of us
resist the temptation*

*to wait for solutions to the problems of
our day,
and submit ourselves to the possibility of
becoming part of the answers.*

*May we be willing to give instead of expect or
demand,*

*To sacrifice comfort and ease and rise up to
responsibility and care,*

*May we love our neighbors as a means to a more
perfect union;*

And triumph over our enemies, not by becoming

2008—A Banner Year for Missions

2008 was a great year for our church in Missions giving and in Missions involvement. Below are some of the highlights from the year:

- ♦ Over \$116,000 were given to mission-related causes through our regular church budget. This included funding for the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Birmingham Baptist Association, and Baptist World Alliance. Agencies and ministries that received financial support through our budget included Bethany Home, Firehouse Shelter, Kenyan Institute for Quality Christian Leadership, the Amelia Center, M-Power, the International Friendship Project, the India Christian English School, and the Moscow Academy for Spiritual Music.
- ♦ Gave over \$170,000 to special missions causes over and above the church budget. These causes included special missions offerings to support Baptist work at the local, state, North American, and Global levels.
- ♦ Gave over \$53,000 through the Unified Missions Offering to support the Youth Mission Trip to Hungary, to the Kenya Pastors Project, Youth at Risk Center in Nairobi and to special denomination missions offerings.
- ♦ 13%, or \$286,658, of total funds received by the church went to budgeted or non-budgeted missions causes.
- ♦ Commissioned over 150 church members to work in volunteer missions, church development, disaster relief, and construction in Africa, Mexico, Hungary, Nicaragua, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Virginia & Alabama
- ♦ Provided family enrichment experiences, medical clinics, & Bible Studies for inner-city families through M-Power.
- ♦ Provided funds for hunger relief efforts through Manos Amigos Hispanic Ministries, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the International Mission Board.
- ♦ Placed over \$192,000 in the 2009 Budget for missions causes.
- ♦ Provided financial support for ministers in Mexico, India, Africa, and Hispanic Ministries in the over-the mountain area.
- ♦ Youth ministry performed ministry in Birmingham through Birmingham Urban Ministries, M-Power, and area nursing homes
- ♦ Children and their families performed ministry to the needy through the Firehouse Shelter, Green Springs Food Bank the Birmingham Baptist Association's Season of Our Savior, and collections for local community needs.
- ♦ Gave support to over 100 people who had experienced temporary financial set-backs, through rent, utilities, & transportation assistance.

like them,
but holding fast to faith in our ideals and keeping courage
to live them.

Today we come to pray for this nation and its new
President, Barak Obama.

Keep him safe, guide his mind and heart, and give
him wisdom beyond his years.

May he sense in his life Your holy presence .

May he turn to You, the true and living God, for
strength.

For leaders of Congress, Judges, and elected leaders
everywhere,

May the spirit of stewardship prevail against the harsh
winds of greed.

We pray that all those who hold power might
Always remember that their judgment will be by how they
deal

With those least able to resist them.

Deliver us from cynicism toward each other and life so that
hope may abide.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Pastor's Sermon Series

The next several Sunday's the Pastor will be continuing
the study that we began during the Winter Bible Study
with Daniel Vestal on his book *Being the Presence of
Christ*. We have a few more copies of the book which
will be available to purchase this Sunday morning and
next Wednesday night for \$12.

Sunday, Jan. 25 "Personal Transformation"
Matthew 10:38-39; Romans 6:15-23
"Being Changed by the Presence of Christ", Chapter 5

Sunday, Feb. 1 "Christian Community"
Matthew 4:19
"Experiencing the Presence of Christ with Others", Chapter 6

Sunday, Feb. 8 "Pain and Sacrifice"
John 12:25-26
"Embracing the Presence of Christ in Suffering", Chapter 7

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

Sunday, Feb. 22 "Peace and Justice"
Luke 18:22
"Becoming the Presence of Christ for the World", Chapter 9

Meetings

Missions Committee Meeting

This Sunday, January 25

11:15 am

Fireside Room

Deacons Meeting

This Sunday, January 25

5:00 pm

Adult Seminar Room

Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, January 28

6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

We Care

Monday, February 2

10:00 am

Fireside Room

Round Table

Tuesday, February 3

10:30 am

Fireside Room

Welcome New Members

Susannah Harvey
1108 Camellia Cir.
Birmingham, AL 35226

Daniell Burton
2428 High Bluff Rd.
Birmingham, AL 35216

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

*Sybil McCrory—Brookwood, Cardiovascular ICU

*Norma Collier—Brookwood, Rm. 422

*Fred Wood —St. Vincent's, Rm. 409

Members at Home

Grace Barnes	Nancy Lochamy
Virginia Booth	Fred McCrory
Irene Burton	Doris McWaters
Virginia Deaton	Nora Ousley
Earl Donegan	Elizabeth Quinby
Kathryn Eidson	Martha Ray
Martha Galyean	Helen Rosenow
Elaine Goodwyn	Velma Smyth
*Jenny Henry	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 Marlene Taylor & family in the death of her cousin, David Howell, Jan. 8, in Marietta, Ga.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Mary Dubois, church employee, in the death of her mother, Mary Dubois on Jan. 16.

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	\$92,262
Budget Given This Month	\$96,362

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,725,894
Given to Date	\$663,593

For Your 2009 Family Calendar

Mom's Retreat	February 20-21
Family Fellowship w/ Roger Day	March 1
Vacation Bible School	June 15-18
Children's Camp	July 16-19

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, visits, gifts of food, memorial gifts—so many expressions of love and care offered to our family during Mom's recent passing. Our family was carried through this difficult time by your support. You've demonstrated once again, how a loving Church Family responds. Thank you.

Steve and Cappy Blackwelder

MEN! Let's play ball!



All men interested in forming a church softball team for this spring, please contact Clark Cameron: 437-8556 (day), 970-6837 (evening), Clarkcameron@uhc.com



Congratulations

Congratulations to Mike & Jenny Henry on the birth of a son, Charles Kenneth (Charlie) on January 16th. Proud grandparents are Tommy & Mary Cherry.

Congratulations to Dan & Gay Caldwell on the birth of a grandson, Elliott Daniel Kown, on January 5. Proud parents are Robyn and Charles Kown.

Week of Jan. 22-28**Saturday, Jan. 24**

4:30 Youth Winter Bible Study
7:00 Girls Basketball Game

Sunday, Jan. 25

8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Worship Service
4:00 Youth Choir
5:00 Youth Winter Bible Study

Monday, Jan. 26

9:30 Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan. 27

9:30 International Friends
7:30 Boys Basketball game

Wednesday, Jan. 28

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 Quarterly Business Meeting
6:00 Youth Group
6:00 Financial Peace Univ.
6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Week of Jan. 29-Feb. 4**Saturday, Jan. 31**

4:00 Girls Basketball game

Sunday, Feb. 1

8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Worship Service
4:00 Youth Choir
5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi
6:00 YOSE

Monday, Feb. 2

9:30 Ladies Bible Study
10:00 We Care

Tuesday, Feb. 3

9:30 International Friends
10:30 Round Table
8:30 Boys Basketball game

Wednesday, Feb. 4

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 Univ.
6:15 Mission Friends, GA, RAs
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers in Service for the Week of January 25

Deacons of the Week: *Julie Roller, Gwen Roxburgh

Counting Team: Mike Craddock, Ryan Hankins

Sound Technology: Lee Watford, Mike Wells

Shuttle Service Team: Don Baker, Clint Brooks, Joe Ingram

Flower Committee: Becky Griffith

Library Committee: Marilyn Tinnermon (25) Lynn Taylor (28)

Worship Care

Babies	Gilda Coker
Creepers	Tim & Crystal Franklin
Ones	Merryl & Jason Cooper
Twos	Kathy Dent, Marilyn Tinnermon
Threes	Liz Philpot, Jen McDougal
Fours	Amanda Jordan, Lisa Warren
4's-K	Pete LeBerte, Ron Wilson
Desk	John Chandler

Volunteers in Service for the Week of February 1

Deacons of the Week: *Gene Turner, Nancy Scruggs

Counting Team: Jeanne Harrelson, Allen Fulks

Sound Technology: Mike Wells, Allen Fulks

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

Flower Committee: Sharon Hartzog

Library Committee: Kristie Chandler (1) Sybil Cox (4)

Worship Care

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

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER January 28

Baked Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Apple Ring, Rolls, Cornbread, Egg Custard—Volunteers—Sybil Cox, Lynn Giles, Bob Eskew, Christina Elliott

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER for February 4

Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, French Bread, PB & J, Chocolate Éclairs
Volunteers—Bob Eskew, Liz Wells

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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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