

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



The Shepherd's Pen

Series on Grace Continues this Sunday

Grace is one of the few things the church can offer that can be found no where else. Philip Yancey, in his book, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, quotes a counselor, David Seamands, who says that he concluded that the two major causes of emotional problems among evangelical Christians were our "failure to understand, receive and live out God's unconditional grace and forgiveness; and the failure to give out that unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace to other people."

Is it not counter-intuitive to consider that the most radical thing we can do is something we stop doing? Perhaps we would be a force of real change if we would stop some things—judging harshly, holding onto hurts and grudges, and letting go of our "rights" with regards to one another. Hard work, isn't it, to think that a family, a marriage, a life can change with something so simple, so "weak" as accepting something you can do nothing about?

Town Hall Meeting for Strategic "Discernment" Wednesday May 27

On the last Wednesday of this month, we will gather in the fellowship hall to kick off a time of discernment, prayer, and conversation about our strategic future as the church. It will be a time to listen, dream and pray about God's call for our church in the days ahead. We will make it possible for wide participation that night. Our missions and music programs will have ended for the summer, so plan to come be with us in this crucial meeting. Childcare and activities will be provided for all children.

Schedule Change for Wednesdays in July

The Deacons, Staff and the Kitchen Committee and staff have met and unanimously suggest that we not provide Wednesday night dinner or have prayer service on July 8, 15, 22 or 29. Many of our families are gone during that time. The crowds are small enough that we lose money providing the meal during that time. In our continuing efforts to seek to cut costs during this hard financial time we will take a church sabbatical

MEMBERS ON MISSIONS THIS SUMMER

During the morning worship service, this Sunday, May 17, the church will commission these members who are involved in mission experiences this summer. Please pray for these who will be spreading God's love throughout the world. If you know of church members who are serving in mission projects this summer, please contact the church office.

INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP—Kenya

Samson Mathangani

LOS MOCHIS, Mexico

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Dennis Anderson | Brian Irvin | Cherri Morriss |
| Lyn Cone | Alynn Leberte | Betsy Stockdale |
| Heather Fulks | Peter LeBerte | Mike Wilburn |
| Janice Fulks | | |

BUILDERS FOR CHRIST, Monroe, Ohio

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Dennis Anderson | Bill Dupree | Gene Turner |
| David Bamberg | Peter LeBerte | Crystal Watford |
| Bob Bush | Mike Oatts | |

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP—Perryville, Arkansas

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Dixon Barth | Anna Donze | Alex White |
| Anna Bodenhamer | Caroline Driggers | Anna Kate Wilson |
| Turner Byrd | Tevin Fowler | Lily Womble |
| Madison Chandler | Michael Hyche | Becky White |
| Austin Coker | Patrick Pittman | Taylor Ross |
| Alyssa Compher | William Scruggs | Rich Havard |
| Brian Deagon | Lisa Stockdale | Mike McBrayer |
| Preston Dent | Whitney Watson | |

LITHUANIA

Mike & Michelle Yeates

PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP—Wingate, N.C.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Dixon Barth | Rowdy Giles | Emily White |
| Anna Bodenhamer | Erin Hoppercroft | Alex White |
| Daniell Burton | Summer Hyche | Anna Kate Wilson |
| Evann Byrd | Michael Hyche | Hank Womble |
| Turner Byrd | Tarrant McPherson | Lily Womble |
| Madison Chandler | Ryan Medley | Rich Havard |
| Austin Coker | Elise Pittman | Jan Deagon |
| Alyssa Compher | Patrick Pittman | Gerhard Mathangani |
| Brian Deagon | William Scruggs | Mike McBrayer |
| Preston Dent | Jessica St. John | Alyssa Aldape |
| Anna Donze | Taylor Stewart | Mary Grace Cox |
| Caroline Driggers | Lisa Stockdale | |
| Tevin Fowler | Whitney Watson | |

PASSPORT CAMP —BOSTON

Daniel Mathanagani

CHRISTIAN CAMP COUNSELORS

Christina Compher & Chase Krug

from the evening service for those four weeks, then come back the first week of August to get going again.

Our last Wednesday night before the break will be July 1, when we will have All-America Night. We are delighted that Hack Sain is providing the support for us to bring back **Joe Thrasher, Ben Speer and the Homeland Quartet** for a night of gospel and patriotic music again. Then we will take the remaining Wednesdays off. *The Wednesday morning prayer breakfast will continue through July and we encourage our people to attend. Our prayer list and prayer concerns will be available there, online, and in the church office.*

We encourage our people to use these four Wednesday evenings as a time to be with family and to participate in our mission opportunities in the city or to visit one of the churches doing work in the city that are our mission partners. This is a time for our church to share in sacrificing a little to help make it through these times. We will evaluate this after the four weeks are over.

Vestavia Hills Celebrates a New Library!

I would like to recommend that you join me this Sunday afternoon in going out to participate and support the dedication of our new city library at 4:40 pm. Dennis Anderson has been on the library board that proposed, raised the funds and approved the project. He has given great leadership for our city. Clay Smith, one of our seniors, has long been a tireless advocate of the library and will participate in the ceremony. Free and uncensored minds are the foundation of a free society. A library is something Baptist people favor. Let's show our support.

See the related article in this weeks newsletter for more details.



Welcome New Members

**Allison St. John
1778 Cornwall Road
Birmingham, AL 35226**

**John Mark "Rowdy" Giles
6640 Remington Dr.
Pelham, AL 35124**

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your support for the WMU World Crafts. The total amount of items purchases in the church was \$980.13.

TOWN HALL MEETING

**For all Church Members
And Church Leadership**

**Wednesday Night, May 27
6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

This meeting will be the first step in launching our season of strategic discernment as we begin a conversation about future directions for our church. This meeting will not be about making decisions, but will be a time for us to seek God's leadership and discuss the big questions that will guide us in future decisions. Every church member is encouraged to attend and participate.

To assist in your participation, we will not have any other meetings scheduled at 6:00 pm and childcare and activities will be provided for all of our children.

Amount Needed to Reach Our Unified Missions Offering Goal: \$25,000 Let's "Pay it Forward"

No doubt there are persons we know who have been "Christ" to us, helping in life-changing ways through their words and deeds. These are persons we recall who made a difference for good in our lives and in our journeys of faith.

Remember these special people by name and 'Pay it Forward' on their behalf by giving to the Unified Missions Offering. Cards will be available for you to use to identify the person or persons you want to honor when you make your gift. Our goal is to receive \$25,000 by the end of May.

THE CHURCH SAVING MONEY DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

As the warm days of summer approach, the church will be looking for ways to cut down on costs for cooling the facilities. One way we can do that is to set building thermostats at a consistent and comfortable level. Starting this month all the thermostats will be set at 73°.

We recognize this setting may be too cool for some and too warm for others. So, when you are here for worship and other activities please dress according to your own comfort level. Men are encouraged to dress casually during the summer months as they have been doing for the past several summers.

Thank you for your help as we pursue this cost saving effort.

VHBC SCHLORSHIP

To apply for a scholarship from the Vestavia Hills Baptist Church Scholarship Fund, you must return your completed application by **May 15, 2009** to: Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, 2600 Vestavia Drive Birmingham, AL 35216 Attn: Educational Scholarship Committee. To be eligible, the applicant must be an active member of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. Scholarships are offered on an annual basis. **All students must reapply each year.** More information is on the application.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

*Melva Scroggins—St. Vincent's—Rm ICU

Members at Home

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Grace Barnes | Nancy Lochamy |
| Eugenia Calk | Fred McCrory |
| *Shirley Daviston | Doris McWaters |
| Virginia Deaton | Nora Ousley |
| Kathryn Eidson | *Madie Phillips |
| Bob Eskew | Ed Richardson |
| Martha Galyean | Helen Rosenow |
| Elaine Goodwyn | Betty Smith |
| Leta Holliman | Velma Smyth |
| Mary Lou Hughes | *Elizabeth Studinka |
| Emily Jones | Arthur Weeks |
| *Virginia Kirby | Amy Wheat |
| Dorothy Lindsay | Maxine Womble |
| Elizabeth Lindsey | Edith Wood |
| Sarah Little | Fred Wood |
| | Nettie Worrell |

From Miss Nancy.....

Children's Music Camp

June 1-4, 9:00-11:30 am

Completed Kindergarten—6th Grade

Vacation Bible School

Completed Kindergarten- Grade 6

July 15-18, 9-Lunch

Register in the Children's Foyer

Missions Construction Project

Sunday, July 26 through

Saturday, August 1, 2009

All men and women are invited to join the Builders for Christ in their construction aid project in the building of church facilities for the First Baptist Church of Monroe, Ohio. Each participant is asked to be responsible their expenses of lodging, meals and any incidentals.

If you have any interest please contact Gene Turner, 942-6775 or turnerde@bellsouth.net as soon as possible that your motel lodging can be arranged.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

- DeLoris Donegan and John Bell and families in the death of Oleta McMurray, DeLoris's sister and Johns sister-in-law, on May 7.
- Linda Jones and family in the death of Linda's mother on May 1.
- Les Morriss and family in the death of his father, L.L. Morriss in Longview, TX on May 1.

Congratulations

Congratulations to June Ousley and Bob and Patsy Sanders on the birth of a great-grandchild, William Storm Sanders, born May 7th, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Proud parents are Chris & Cyndi Sanders.

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month \$61,508

Budget Given This Month \$52,326

Budget Needs This Year \$656,082

Budget Given This Year \$516,414

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges \$1,725,894

Given to Date \$773,757

2009 Unified Missions Offering

Goal \$45,000

Given to Date \$20,038

Member Service Hours 837

The Library Board of Trustees and the

City of Vestavia Hills

invite you to attend a
groundbreaking ceremony
of the

Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest

On Sunday, May 17, 2009

At 4:40 p.m.

At the site of the new Vestavia Hills Library

1221 Montgomery Hwy.

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

Casual Attire. Limited Parking.

Celebrating 40 Years of Excellent Service

Music Ministry Appreciation Night

Wednesday night, May 13

All Children's Choirs will sing

6:00 pm

Celebration of Missions Night

Wednesday night, May 20

Mission Friends, GA and RA's will share
about their year.

Week of May 14-20**Saturday, May 16**

10:00 Scrap booking

Sunday, May 17

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

3:00 Lovelady Center Ministry

4:00 Youth Choir

5:00 YOSE

Monday, May 18

4:00 4 to 8

Tuesday, May 19

9:30 International Friends

Wednesday, May 20

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper

Library Open

5:00 Handbells

5:30 Nominating Committee

5:45 Audit Committee

6:00 Prayer Service—Missions

Celebration—Youth Group

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Week of May 21-27**Sunday, May 24**

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

Monday, May 25

Church Office & CDC Closed

Wednesday, May 27

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper -Library Open

6:00 Called Business Meeting/ Key

Leader/Town Meeting

6:00 Youth Group

Volunteers in Service for the Week of May 17**Deacons of the Week:** *Fred Wood, Gene Turner**Counting Team:** Mike Craddock, Ryan Hankins**Sound Technology:** Lee Watford, Mike Wells**Shuttle Service Team:** Don Baker, Clint Brooks, Jimmy Daviston**Flower Committee:** Susan Lebold**Library Committee:** Martha Eskew (17) Jeanne Harrelson (20)**Worship Care**

Babies Melissa McMurray, Robin Cameron

Creepers Cris & Lisa Speegle

Ones Rebecca McKinney, Alexa Brooks

Twos Matt & Billie Caine

Threes Mike & Jenny Henry

Fours Sharon Maddox, Kim Brindley

4's-K Ann Marie Harvey, Jason Dearing

Desk Clark Cameron

Volunteers in Service for the Week of May 24**Deacons of the Week:** *Nancy Scruggs, John Barth**Counting Team:** Jeanne Harrelson, Allen Fulks**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Allen Fulks**Shuttle Service Team:** Bob Bush, Mack Freeman, Mike Craddock**Flower Committee:** Virginia Wood**Library Committee:** Betty Hauser (24) Lynn Taylor (27)**Worship Care**

Babies Crystal Watford, Gilda Coker

Creepers Tim & Crystal Franklin

Ones Jason & Meryll Cooper

Twos Kathy Dent, Marilyn Tinnermon

Threes Liz Philpot, Jen McDougal

Fours Amanda Jordan, Lisa Warren

4's-K Pete LeBerte, Ron Smith

Desk John Chandler

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER May 20

Pork Chops, Baked Apples, Corn Pudding, Jello/Cookie

Volunteers—Sybil Cox, Johnnie McCracken, Mike Oatts, Janice Fulks

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER May 27

Taco Salad, Fruit, Brownies

Volunteers—Janice Fulks, Christina Elliott

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OUR MINISTRY STAFF

Gary A. Furr, Pastor

K. Dennis Anderson,
Minister of Education/AdministrationNancy 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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Fax 979-2206

Email vhbc@vhbc.comWebsite www.vhbc.comWorship Broadcast Live on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m. on WVSU, 91.1 FM