

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6



A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

The Shepherd's Pen

Sunday was a great beginning to our fall season. We will continue this Sunday with our special emphasis on our identity as a Christian congregation in this time and place. As we focus on the oldest continuous “self-description,” (the statement “Sharing the gift of love”, which was our logo theme for many years), we will share communion in the worship service this week.

Invite your friends who might be interested in church—there is no better time for them to hear about the story of this church and how it understands itself. We’re off to a great start!

Wednesdays are a busy time around our church, and we invite everyone who participates in our church to come and be a part. The day begins with a Prayer Breakfast at 6:30 a.m. that lasts less than an hour and offers a hearty breakfast, a time of prayer, and good fellowship. In the evenings, we offer a full range of activities for every member of your family around a fellowship meal and Bible study time. Two other offerings I wish to emphasize are below.

Pastor’s Wednesday Morning Bible Study for this Year Begins September 2

Every Wednesday morning during the school year, I teach a study open to everyone. This group meets on Wednesday mornings at **10:30 in the Adult Seminar Room** across from the Library. It lasts exactly one hour and is open to anyone interested. You do not have to have any prior knowledge of the Bible or theology. All you need is a Bible and an inquisitive mind. No one is “called on” in the class and there is no cost except for the books used in the class.

This school year, our class will study several different subjects. The first class begins on September 2 on the topic of “The Women Who Followed Jesus.” Questions and discussion are welcome. The coffee is always hot and ready, and the group is warm and welcoming to anyone. The dress is casual and friends are welcome. Come join us!

This Fall—Health and Healing: Christian Perspectives on Living Well

The debate over healthcare in America has been a typical American political debate. But there are deeper issues that rarely come to light in such debates. What is missing is a deeper sense of what is important.

The issue of “health and wellness” has implications that stretch back to the ministry of Jesus Christ. ***It is such an important issue that we will spend five Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings***

Identity Revisited: “Knowing Who We Are”

A New Sermon and Worship Series by Dr. Furr

The next several Sundays will be an exciting time designed to lead us forward into our strategic discernment during this fall and spring. WORSHIP during this time will have some different looks: each Sunday, the worship leaders and some helpers will process into the sanctuary to help us focus ourselves. You will also see some different visual looks on the platform, some symbols of each sermon to help us “tell our story.” There will be other new wrinkles, so come with expectation and also readiness to participate and respond as we praise God together and ask ourselves where God is leading us!

Dr. Furr’s sermons will focus on various short self-expressions that our church has used over the years to describe ourselves to each other and to those who considered coming to join us. In developing the sermon series, Dr. Furr said, *Not long ago, I thought, As we begin to ask, Who are we GOING to become as God’s church in this place and time, how better to begin than to revisit the various expressions of our “identity” through the years?* These statements were occasionally coined by committees, in a sermon, and a couple of times after an arduous time of clarifying our mission for different times leading us into very ambitious campaigns.

These titles come from different times of our history. During the worship services, we will, through some creative worship experiences and preaching, spend time “thinking back” as a “living body” always must—to consider and reconsider, to learn from our mistakes, and to build on our strengths. Perhaps, as we begin there, it can stir our imaginations for the work that is ahead.

Sermon Series Schedule

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Sunday, Aug. 23 | “Sharing the Gift of Love” 1 Cor. 13 |
| Sunday, Aug. 31 | “Free the future” Luke 4:16-21; Isaiah 61:1-2; Lev. 25 |
| Sunday, Sept. 6 | “A Membership That Matters--Revisited” |
| Sunday, Sept. 13 | “A Heart for the World” John 1:19-23 |

considering the broad topic of health. What does the Bible say about it? What does it mean to be “healthy” in all the aspects of our lives—relationally, physically, spiritually and in other areas? What is a just way to think about the difficult ethical issues we face as Christians in a society where healthcare resources are so complicated and expensive?

What did Jesus say to us about health? How has the church understood its responsibility in the ministry of healing? What should we be doing today to promote health in all the dimensions of life? What are our personal responsibilities to God and one another?

This series will begin with a series of teaching times on Wednesday evenings, beginning September 16 and continuing for five weeks. The five Sundays that follow will include sermons focused on a Christian vision of the healthy life in all of its aspects. Plan to be here!

Full quote I mentioned Sunday: I paraphrased a quotation from St. Augustine in the sermon Sunday when I mentioned essentials and non-essentials. Here is the full quotation, worthy of reflection: “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

Jennifer Cox Celebrates Tenth Anniversary with Our Child Development Center

This month Jennifer Cox celebrates her 10th Anniversary working with our Child Development Center. The last seven years she has served as the Director of the Center. Five days a week, Jennifer directs a faculty of 16 teachers who provide a safe, Christian, educational environment for 52 children from 44 families who live in our area. She manages the business operation of the center overseeing an annual budget of over \$425,000. She has led the faculty through an on-going quality-improvement process known as Reaching Improvement through Self-Evaluation (RISE).

While serving professionally in our church’s ministry, she and her family, husband Danny and children Daniel and Mary Grace, are a vital and active part of our church family.

We are truly blessed to have Jennifer leading our center. Take time this week to express your appreciation for all she does on this celebration of her anniversary.

Deacons Elect Officers for 2009-2010

At their August meeting, the Deacons elected officers for their 2009-2010 year. Serving this beginning in September are:

Don Ehrett, Chair
Stuart Collier, Vice Chair
Ann Marie Harvey, Secretary

Thank you to these three for leading the ministry of our Deacons this coming year.

Coming September 8th: Special opportunity to pray together for current missions needs around the world!

Led by Mavis Hardy
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Sept.—Dec.
11:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Watch for reminders and more info in the Variations and the Wednesday Promoter.

Church-wide Fellowship
September 13
5:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy a night of fun and food at the VHBC Variety Show.

GIFTS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

As the summer winds down and fall programs begin, your financial gifts are needed more than ever. Please check to see if you are current with your pledge. If not, now is a great time to “catch up.” If you can give your pledge in advance, it will be helpful as we gear up our ministries for the fall. Your generosity and financial commitment make the ministries of your church possible. Your gifts are appreciated and needed more than ever.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

Members at Home

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Rosemary Bamberg | Fred McCrory |
| Grace Barnes | Doris McWaters |
| Eugenia Calk | *Grace Oliver |
| Virginia Deaton | Nora Ousley |
| *Drew Dorris | Madie Phillips |
| Kathryn Eidson | Ed Richardson |
| Bob Eskew | Helen Rosenow |
| *Virginia Fesperman | *Betty Smith |
| Martha Galyean | Velma Smyth |
| Freida Gammill | June Turner |
| Leta Holliman | Arthur Weeks |
| Mary Lou Hughes | *Mike Wells |
| Emily Jones | Amy Wheat |
| Virginia Kirby | Maxine Womble |
| Dorothy Lindsay | Edith Wood |
| Sarah Little | Fred Wood |
| Nancy Lochamy | Nettie Worrell |

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

- Nancy Akins and family in the death of her cousin, John Valenti, August 15, in Buford, GA
- Nancy Mino and family in the death of her father, Charles Mathison, August 10 in Abbeville, AL. Laura Mino Verner is his granddaughter.
- Lynn Giles and family in the death of her uncle, Edgar Scott, in LaGrange, GA.
- Rachel Fancher and family in the death of her sister-in-law, Gladys Trione, August 3, in Daphne, AL.

Ministry Budget Offering

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Budget Needs This Month | \$92,261 |
| Budget Given This Month | \$76,541 |
| Budget Needs This Year | \$1,025,126 |
| Budget Given This Year | \$879,188 |

Free the Future Capital Fund

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Pledges | \$1,725,894 |
| Given to Date | \$773,321 |

2009 Unified Missions Offering

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Goal | \$45,000 |
| Given to Date | \$25,565 |
| Member Service Hours | 8383 |

Preschool and Children's Leadership Summit
September 13
11:15 am
#205 Children's Building

Lunch for the whole family followed by a 45 minute meeting.

Ladies Luncheon
Monday, September 28 — 12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall — \$3.00

FOX6 News Anchor Janet Hall will be the guest speaker at our Ladies' Luncheon at noon on Monday, September 28. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired and to share fellowship with the ladies of our church. Make your reservations for the luncheon by calling 979-5920 or emailing betsy@vhbc.com.

Janet Hall has received numerous awards for her work in television journalism, has served on the board of directors for notable organizations, and is a long-standing volunteer and supporter of The Komen Foundation's Race for the Cure and The Hoover School System's Finley Awards. She, her husband and two children are founding members of Asbury United Methodist Church.

FLOWER COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

To all VHBC Members! The annual Flower Committee meeting and workshop will be held **Saturday, August 29th from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Ricky Whitley, professional floral designer, will be our workshop leader. Everyone is invited to come and learn new ideas for arrangements. Contact Becky Griffith (979-2993) or Sharon Hartzog (967-9521) if you would like to participate.



Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Truly you have been family to Crawford and me in recent weeks. We are deeply grateful for each prayer and each loving expression of care and concern. Thank you, dear friends.

With love,
Marlene Taylor

Week of August 20-26**Saturday, August 22**

8:30 Youth at the Lake

Sunday, August 23

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service
Communion & Baptism

4:00 Youth Choir

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

6:00 YOSE

Wednesday, August 26

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

4:30 Fellowship Supper

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

6:00 Prayer Service —Youth
Group

6:15 Mission Friends, GA, RAs

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Week of August 27-Sept. 2**Saturday, August 29**

9:00 Flower Committee Workshop

Sunday, August 30

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

4:00 Youth Choir

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

6:00 YOSE

Monday, August 31

4:00 4 to 8

Wednesday, September 2

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

4:30 Fellowship Supper -Library Open

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

6:00 Prayer Service —Youth Group

6:15 Mission Friends, GA, RAs

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers in Service for the Week of August 23**Deacons of the Week:** *Lynette Sandley, Gwen Roxburgh**Counting Team:** Bob Bush, Mel Kukelhan**Sound Technology:** Pete LeBerte, David Philpot**Shuttle Service Team:** Andy Brindley, Steve White, Tommy Cherry**Flower Committee:** Marsha Baker, Sara Taylor**Library Committee:** Betty Hauser (23) Rosemary Bamberg (26)**Worship Care**

Babies Nancy Scruggs, Jackie Hughes

Creepers Crystal Watford, 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 Lottie St. John

Volunteers in Service for the Week of August 30**Deacons of the Week:** *Gene Turner, Nancy Scruggs**Counting Team:** Ann Holt, Jason Dearing**Sound Technology:** David Philpot, Dan McMurray**Shuttle Service Team:** David Bamberg, Bill Dupree, Bob St. John**Flower Committee:** Gay Caldwell, Jerrie Elliott**Library Committee:** Marilyn Tinnermon (30)**Worship Care**

Babies Amy Gillis, Mike Oatts

Creepers Judy Schlegel, Elizabeth Hamilton

Ones Mary Mathangani, JoAnne Delohery

Twos Carter & Leslie Doyle

Threes Bob Lochamy, Carol Porter

Fours Mary Cherry, Lynn Fullman

4's-K Sybil Cox, Betty Hauser

Desk Bob Bradley

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER August 26Ham, Potato Salad, English Peas, Sliced Tomatoes, Apple Pie
Volunteers — Marilyn Tinnermon, Lynn Giles, Bob Eskew,
Christina Elliott**FELLOWSHIP SUPPER September 2**Poppy Seed Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Pear Salad, Ice Cream
Volunteers — Bob & Martha Eskew, Liz Wells, Hazel TurnerThe *Variations* is published bi-weekly by
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Birmingham, AL**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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Email vhbc@vhbc.comWebsite www.vhbc.comWorship Broadcast Live on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m. on WVSU, 91.1 FM