

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



Terre Johnson Celebrates Five Year Anniversary

This Sunday, January 10, we will celebrate Terre Johnson's five year anniversary as our Minister of Music. In the five years Terre has been with us, our church has witnessed the best in worship experiences, musical events, growth in all areas of the church music organization, and the impact that a full time music ministry can have on a congregation. Terre's unique gifts and skills have contributed to improvements, innovations, and enrichment in every area of our church. He is a gifted musician, a committed minister, and a creative composer of sacred music. We are truly blessed to have him on our ministerial team.

His talents are certainly felt by our congregation, but he also impacts our larger community through his leadership and participation in city, state, and national organizations and events. Most recently, he was named chair of the National Music and Worship area of the American Choral Directors Association.

Take time this week to express your appreciation to him and join us this Sunday morning in celebrating his anniversary.

New Sermon Series to begin 2010!

This January, our Pastor will lead us in a series based on the life of the Apostle Peter in the Gospels entitled, "Growing Toward Jesus: Learning Discipleship with St. Peter". It will be a time to think together about what it means to be a disciple and how to grow as a Christian. All of us can grow as Christians—in maturity in prayer, in life, in relationships, and even grow in our times of failure and hardship. Plan to be with us and invite friends for this important series.

(continued)

Holy Conversations

A Series of Focused Discussions
led by the Strategic Discernment Committee

Sunday, January 10
5:00 — 7:30 p.m.
Missions and Worship

Sunday, January 31
5:00 — 7:30 p.m.
Discipleship and Congregational Life

These lay-led meetings will give members a chance to explore key areas of our fellowship and seek God's direction for our congregation. The results will be used by the committee to help formulate the strategic plan and offered to the staff for use in shaping ministries. Everyone has something to contribute. Come be a part!

Supper and childcare provided

Help needed from those without young children for the nights mentioned above. On the Sunday night you are not attending the meeting, please consider helping with the preschool and children. We need your help! Please contact Elizabeth Hamilton, 822-6188, or Miss Nancy, 979-5920.



New Testament Survey

A New Bible Study Option for Adults on
Sunday Mornings Starts This Sunday

Beginning this Sunday morning, January 10, a new Bible study option is beginning. The study will be a survey of the New Testament taught by Dennis Anderson, Don Sandley, and others, sponsored by the Men's Bible Study Class. The class will meet in the Adult Seminar Room. Coffee will be ready at 8:30 a.m. and the teaching will begin at 9:00 a.m. There is no cost for the course and it is open to anyone. Your Bible will be your textbook. Invite a friend, come early for a cup of coffee and fellowship and plan on an enriching time of Bible Study.

This Coming Sunday

“Follow Me and the Words That Must Follow”

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| January 17 | “The Secret of a Productive Life” |
| January 24 | “Discovering the Depths of Christ” |
| January 31 | “A Strange Formula for Successful Living” |
| February 7 | “The Life of Love and the Way We Must Go” |

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 lessons from the life of Christ and the things that really matter in the Christian’s life. Books of the Bible that are being studied include Ecclesiastes & the Gospel of Matthew and the minor Prophets. Bring your Bible, come this Sunday morning and one of our friendly greeters will introduce you to a Bible study group.

Called Business Meeting
Wednesday, January 6
6:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall

Agenda

Finance Committee Recommendation to continue under our 2009 Budget Cost Reduction Plan through January, 2010.

Deacons Meeting

Sunday, January 17

5:00 p.m.

Adult Seminar Room

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 their 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 their 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!

2010 PLEDGES IN EFFECT

Beginning with the new year, your 2010 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.

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 before the new year starts, please call the church office at 979-5920 or email lynn@vhbc.com and we will gladly send them to you.

Remember in Prayer...

Members at Home

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Grace Barnes | Grace Oliver |
| Eugenia Calk | Nora Ousley |
| Virginia Deaton | C.O. Paugh |
| Drew Dorris | Madie Phillips |
| Kathryn Eidson | Ed Richardson |
| Bob Eskew | Helen Rosenow |
| Martha Galyean | Walter Schoel |
| Mary Lou Hughes | Velma Smyth |
| Emily Jones | June Turner |
| Linda Jones | Maxine Womble |
| Dorothy Lindsay | Edith Wood |
| Sarah Little | Fred Wood |
| Nancy Lochamy | Nettie Worrell |
| Fred McCrory | |

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

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jason & Rachel Blackwelder Adair on the birth of their daughter Bella Nicole Adair on December 22. Proud grandparents are Steve & Cappy Blackwelder.

Ministry Budget Offering

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Budget Needs This Month | \$30,754 |
| Budget Given This Month | \$21,991 |

Free the Future Capital Fund

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Pledges | \$1,725,894 |
| Given to Date | \$978,559 |

2009 Unified Missions Offering

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Goal | \$45,000 |
| Given to Date | \$37,828 |
| Member Service Hours | 8882 |

Vestavia Hills Fire Station No. 3

VHBC Preschool and Children's Ministry has adopted Vestavia Hills Fire Station No. 3.

On January 17, the 5th and 6th Grade Sunday School class is taking lunch to the firemen. It is our hope that you will join us in showing appreciation to these men.

All you do is meet us at Fire Station No. 3, on Morgan Drive below Vestavia High toward Rocky Ridge Road, and SAY "THANKS". *That's it!* After your words of thanks, you are free for lunch and the rest of your Sunday!

For 5th & 6th Graders on the 17th

We will leave from Fire Station No. 3 for lunch at Moes and a fun time of bowling. Parents are asked to pick up children from Vestavia Bowl at 2 pm.

Thank You

Thank you so much for purchasing the Christmas Cards designed by the children from the Lovelady Center. In all twenty-three packets were sold, raising a total of \$230.00 I know that your kindness and support are greatly appreciated. *Gwen Roxburgh.*

Many, many thanks to everyone who participated in Season Of Our Savior this year. 133 stockings were distributed as were 22 cakes (not counting cakes ordered on-line). A special thanks to the Alabama Knitting Guild for their donation of 30 handmade caps. Oversized toys were given to Operation Grateful Heart. Did you like/use the option of giving online? Call 902-8763, and give us your feedback. *Thanks, Cheryl Oatts*

Thank you so much for purchasing your Christmas gifts through World Crafts. In total \$684.20 was raised, which will significantly help many who are in need. I greatly appreciate your generosity and support. *Gwen Roxburgh*

Prayer Breakfast

The next Prayer Breakfast will meet on Wednesday, January 13. Everyone is invited to join us at 6:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Week of Jan. 7-13**Saturday, Jan. 9**

5:00 Girls Basketball game

Sunday, Jan. 10

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

4:00 Youth Choir

4:00 Flower Committee

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

5:00 Strategic Discernment Session

6:00 YOSE

Monday, Jan. 11

7:30 Boys Basketball

Tuesday, Jan. 12

9:30 International Friends

Wednesday, Jan. 13

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper

5:00 Handbells

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

6:00 Prayer Service-Youth Group

6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Week of Jan. 14-20**Saturday, Jan. 16**

5:00 Girls Basketball game

Sunday, Jan. 17

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 5th & 6th Grade to Fire station

5:00 Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 19

9:30 International Friends

Wednesday, Jan. 20

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastors Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper

5:00 Handbells

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

6:00 Prayer Service—Youth Group

6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers in Service for the Week of January 10**Deacons of the Week:** *Gilda Coker, Taylor Burton**Counting Team:** Alynn LeBerte, Jerry & Priss Pittman**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Allen Fulks**Shuttle Service Team:** Gene Turner, Pete LeBerte, Bob Simpson**Flower Committee:** Billie Caine, Beth Lang**Library Committee:** Marie Hooks (10) Lynn Taylor (13)**Worship Care**

Babies Jane Helms, Sharon Hartzog

Creepers Ryan & Meredith Hankins

Ones Pat Cooper, Kevin Jaquess

Twos Leigh Whatley, Ashley Floyd

Threes Rachel & Todd Jordan

Fours Andy & Emily Farmer

4's-K Bob & Mavis Hardy

Desk Don Baker

Volunteers in Service for the Week of January 17**Deacons of the Week:** *Cathy Compher, Stuart Collier**Counting Team:** Taylor Burton, Steve White**Sound Technology:** Pete LeBerte, Mike Wells**Shuttle Service Team:** Mike Oatts, John Wood, Suzanne Dupree**Flower Committee:** Susan LeBold**Library Committee:** Martha Eskew (17) Lynn Taylor (20)**Worship Care**

Babies Melissa McMurray, Robin Cameron

Creepers Cris & Lisa Speegle

Ones Barbara McGohon, 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

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**January 13**

Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Ice Cream Sandwiches

Volunteers—Bob Eskew & Mindy Bodenhamer

January 20

Poppy Seed Chicken on Rice, Green Beans, Apple Ring, Walnut

Cake—Volunteers—Sybil Cox, Hazel Turner, Bob Eskew,

Janice Fulks

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