

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

The Shepherd's Pen

Growing in the Word of God: A Lenten Journey Together

If you could listen to the Bible every day for 40 days, would it change your life? That is what we are going to do after our current emphasis ends week after next. **First, I am inviting our church to immerse ourselves in the New Testament.** We are going to read through the New Testament together during the forty days beginning Wednesday, February 17 leading us up to Holy Week.

WE WILL HAVE SOME RESOURCES TO HELP YOU. The good news is, you can make it through the entire New Testament in forty days by listening to a wonderful new resource. "You've Got the Time" is sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We will join many other churches in seeking to hear anew the word of God in 2010.

A private donor has made available free to every member an MP3 disc with dramatized readings of the New Testament. These recordings were produced by Faith Comes By Hearing, a nondenominational ministry based in Albuquerque, N.M.

Over the next few weeks beginning this Sunday, ***distribution tables will be set up in the foyer where you may pick up free MP3 discs of the Bible in one of two editions, either a regular recording of the New Testament in English or a special "Kidz Audio Bible"*** that contains most of the primary stories of the Bible in a dramatized form especially for children.

These recordings are in MP3 format and are not traditional CDs. A recording of the entire New Testament on CD takes 16 discs, but a compressed MP3 recording of the New Testament fits on one disc.

These MP3 discs will play on any computer and will play in most newer-model car stereos. MP3 files also may be easily loaded onto iPods or similar portable music-listening devices. These discs will play in most DVD players and in certain CD players that are MP3-compatible.

Links to an online version of the daily recordings will also be available on our Web site.

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Church Receives Year-end Missions and Financial Reports

The church received several 2009 year-end reports at their Quarterly Business Meeting on Wednesday, January 27. God blessed the faithful service and generous gifts of members to the cause of Christ through Vestavia Hills Baptist Church in 2009. Below are a few of the highlights from the reports:

- \$114,427 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 Greensprings Ministry Center, M-Power, the International Friendship Project, the India Christian Missions, and Mexico Missions and local Hispanic Mission.
- Gave \$138,149 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 \$37,803 through the Unified Missions Offering to support the Youth Mission Trips, Mission Trip to Mexico, to the Kenya Pastors Project, Youth at Risk Center in Nairobi, the Lovelady Center, our local Hispanic congregation, and to special denominational missions offerings.
- 13%, or \$252,576, of total funds received by the church went to budgeted or non-budgeted missions causes.
- Commissioned over 100 church members to work in volunteer missions, church development, disaster relief, and construction in Mexico, Kenya, North Africa, Lithuania, Arkansas, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Alabama.
- Provided family enrichment experiences, medical clinics, & Bible Studies for inner-city families through M-Power and the Lovelady Center
- Provided funds for hunger relief efforts through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the International Mission Board.
- Provided financial support for ministries 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 local ministries through the Firehouse Shelter, Greensprings Food Bank, Greater Birmingham Ministries, the Birmingham Baptist Association's Season of Our Savior, Vestavia Hills Fire Station #3, and collections for local community needs.
- Gifts to the 2009 budget were \$1,447,063. While these receipts were 10% less than the budget, they reflect the tremendous love, commitment, and sacrifice that our members feel toward their church during this tough economic year.

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And we will publish a printed listing of the suggested daily readings for anyone who prefers to read the New Testament portions rather than listen to the recordings.

Over these forty days, we will be talking together about ***how to read the Bible faithfully***. This may seem silly if we have been a Christian for a long time, but just a glance at the silly and bizarre claims that people make in the name of the Bible and we know: faithful interpretation of the Bible isn't obvious. We have to learn the skills of reading the Bible ***in the way God means it to be read and heard***.

Over the weeks of Lent, beginning on Sunday, February 21, I will be preaching about how the average Christian can be a faithful student of the Bible and how we can learn to listen for God's leadership in our Bible.

This will be a wonderful time of spiritual growth for those who participate. I hope you will!

Thank You, VHBC family!

I want to express my appreciation to John Barth and the Budget Committee for their leadership, and for all of you in responding to the needs of your church. Last Sunday, we adopted a revised budget for 2010 that is balanced against our pledges for the year, thanks to the extraordinary response to our supplementary appeal to you. We are financially stable and able to meet all of our obligations this year.

The love and fellowship of a church family is God's gift to us. As we go through challenging times together, we learn much by how we work through those times in the spirit of Christ. We who serve you on staff have been encouraged by our church family and look forward to a wonderful year together. Now on to the work of ministry!



**5th Annual Sing & Shout!
Presented by M-Power Ministries**

Sunday, March 7, 2010, 5:00 p.m.
Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Alys Stephens Center
1200 10th Avenue So.
Birmingham, AL 35294

FREE ADMISSION (limited seating)
Donations accepted

*Performing choirs include Colla Voce,
UAB Gospel Choir, and Riverchase UMC Choir*

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- Ended the year with \$70,265 in the Capital Reserve Fund.
- Ended the year with over \$45,509 in the General Reserve Fund to use for 2010 expenditures.
- Received \$386,341 to the "Free the Future" Fund. Total "Free the Future" gifts are \$976,274 against pledges of \$1,725,894. We paid \$457,411 toward principal during 2009.

Thanks for Hosting

Thanks to all those who have responded to the call for hosting college students in their homes for lunch on Sundays. Our college students so enjoy being with other adults and families in our church. I consistently hear from them how this ministry makes them feel a greater connection to VHBC.

We have filled up our lunch schedule for the spring calendar, so if you were not able to claim a date for hosting college students then perhaps you will consider doing so in the fall when we again sound the call for homes. For now, continue to pray for our college ministry and the students whom we reach.



A Haiti Remembrance

The Birmingham Chamber Chorus presents a memorial concert for the 200,000 killed in the recent earthquake in Haiti, and an opportunity to contribute to relief efforts there. On Sunday February 14 at 3:00 PM they will present the *Requiem* by French composer Maurice Duruflé at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills. Admission is free, and contributions to Haiti Relief will be received from those who wish to give.

**The Birmingham Baptist Association's
SENIOR ADULT FUN DAY
Thursday, February 11
Shades Mountain Baptist Church**

Jeremiah Castille will be the guest speaker. Come for the 11:30 KFC meal fellowship followed by the program (\$8) or just come for the program without the lunch (\$5).

Please make meal reservations by Feb. 8: 599-3245.

Remember in Prayer...

*Sarah Little—Lakeshore Rehab., Room 110-B

*Madie Phillips—Lakeshore, Room 210-A

Members at Home

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Grace Barnes | Fred McCrory |
| Eugenia Calk | Nora Ousley |
| Virginia Deaton | Jonathan Philpot |
| Drew Dorris | Ed Richardson |
| Virginia Fesperman | Jim Smith |
| Martha Galyean | Ron Smith |
| Freida Gammill | Velma Smyth |
| Will & Robbye Gregory | June Turner |
| Mary Lou Hughes | Barbara Vandergriff |
| Emily Jones | Maxine Womble |
| Dorothy Lindsay | Edith Wood |
| Nancy Lochamy | Fred Wood |
| | Nettie Worrell |

Thank You

Words fail to adequately express my gratitude to you for your many expressions of affirmation and love on my 20th anniversary. I have been honored and privileged to serve alongside all of you - my church family.

The sentiment expressed in speaking, in song, and with the gifts of the congregation continue to warm my heart. I thank you for supporting me in not only growing our children to be faithful members of Christ's kingdom but also in recognizing the importance of advocating for children everywhere.

With love, Nancy

Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- Buell Eidson and family in the death of his wife, Kathryn, one of our Charter Members, on January 20.
- Pat Cooper and family in the death of her niece, Molly Cooper, in Montgomery, AL, on January 25
- Lou McCracken and family in the death of his nephew's wife, Brenda Ingram, in Lawrenceville, Ga. on January 25.
- DeLoris Donegan and John Bell in the death of a cousin, Franklin Shipp, on January 26 in Warrior, AL.

CELEBRATING

Grace

A new hymnal for Baptists will be available this spring, and a fund has been started for those wishing to help purchase these new hymnals for the church. Milburn Price served as editor for this new hymnal, and it offers a combination of all historic favorite hymns and many exciting new ones. You may give one or more hymnals by contributing \$20 per book, and they may be designated "In Honor" or "In Memory" of someone. It is a great way to honor those you love and help the church to worship. Cards are available throughout the church and in the pew racks.

Thank You for the Messianic Banquet

To VHBC

I want to thank you for the gowns, socks, shirt, jogging suit, gift card and book. That was very thoughtful of you. The gift card got me stuff I didn't have. I just got here. I thought I was going to spend Christmas by myself. But through VHBC and others, I had a wonderful Christmas. I also have a new family. I have new hope for the New Year. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Cathy,
Bethany and Hannah Homes



2010 Spring Season of Prayer For Missions

Everyone is invited to "gather together in His

Name" for:

- Learning and praying about needs here and around the world
- Inspiration and guidance by Mavis Hardy, former missionary to Japan
- Seven Prayer sessions on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

Tuesday, Feb. 9 & 23

Tuesday, March 9 & 23

Tuesday, April 13 & 27

Tuesday, May 11 with a Fellowship luncheon after the meeting

11:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Bring a sandwich and stay for fellowship after each meeting
Feb-Apr.

Ministry Budget Offering

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Budget Needs This Month | \$120,404 |
| Budget Given This Month | \$211,076 |

Free the Future Capital Fund

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Pledges | \$1,725,894 |
| Given to Date | \$992,424 |

Week of Feb. 4-10**Friday, Feb. 5**

5:00 Mom's Retreat

Saturday, Feb. 6

3:00 Girls basketball game

Sunday, Feb. 7

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

11:15 Strategic Discernment Comm.

5:00 Youth Super Bowl Party

Tuesday, Feb. 9

9:30 International Friends

7:30 Boys basketball game

Wednesday, Feb. 10

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 Feb. 11-17**Saturday, Feb. 13**

9:00 GA Mission Project

4:00 Girls basketball game

Sunday, Feb. 14

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 Second Sunday Coffee

3:00 Chamber Choir Concert

4:00 Youth Choir

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

6:00 YOSE

Monday, Feb. 15

4:00 4 to 7

7:30 Boys basketball game

Wednesday, Feb. 17

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 Ash Wed. Communion Service

6:15 Mission Friends, GA & RA's

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers in Service for the Week of February 7**Deacons of the Week:** *Becky Griffith, Tony Giles**Counting Team:** Bob Bush, Mel Crowder**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Allen Fulks**Shuttle Service Team:** Andy Brindley, Steve White, Tommy Cherry**Flower Committee:** Marsha Baker, Sara Taylor**Library Committee:** Kristie Chandler (7) Lynn Taylor (10)**Worship Care**

Babies Nancy St. John, Sandra Bates

Creepers Bob Lochamy, Jennifer Carter

Ones Michael & Dee Thomason

Twos David & Beth Lang

Threes Melanie Medley

Fours Kim Virciglio, Suzanne Walters

4's-K Kathryn Stewart, Cathy Donze

Desk Eloise Chandler

Volunteers in Service for the Week of February 14**Deacons of the Week:** *Jane Helms, Ann Marie Harvey**Counting Team:** Ann Holt, Jason Dearing**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Pete LeBerte**Shuttle Service Team:** David Bamberg, Bill Dupree, Bob St. John**Flower Committee:** Elizabeth Studinka**Library Committee:** Rachel Fancher (14) Lynn Taylor (17)**Worship Care**

Babies Jane Helms, Ashley Floyd

Creepers Matt & Carol Miller

Ones Kevin & Elizabeth Studinka

Twos Pat Cooper, Betsy Stockdale

Threes David & Cathy Compher

Fours Nancy Akins, Ashley Hattaway

4's-K Steve & Becky White

Desk Lottie St. John

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**February 10**Lemon Pepper Chicken, Wild Rice, English Peas,
Cranberry Salad, Carrot Cake Volunteers—Lynn Giles,
JoAnne Delohery, Bob Eskew, Mindy Bodenhamer**February 17**Pork Chops, Baked Apples, Corn Pudding, Jello/cookie
Volunteers—Martha Eskew, Hazel Turner, Bob Eskew, Janice Fulks