



January 2017

A monthly publication to keep you up to date and informed about what is going on in the life of Village Bible Church

A "Sleeper Virtue" For Prayer & Pursuit

By Pastor Mark D. Cain

Like most of you this past year's election process prodded me to think outside the box. As I was cogitating (= *praying and thinking with the Lord intentionally in my mind*) it occurred to me that a common theme in the Bible is the danger of pride for leaders.

To give just three biblical examples:

Uzziah was a successful king for God's people. According to 2 Chronicles 26 he reigned for 52 years, "God prospered him," and he was successful in warfare and domestic building programs ... "until he was strong," (2 Chronicles 26:15b). When he became strong his pride became unrestrained and the Lord afflicted him with leprosy till the day of his death.

Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the deliverance by the one true God for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3) and was himself "flourishing," (Daniel 4:4). But a year later he forgot. Surveying his city he puffed up "Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built ...?" (Daniel 4:30). God afflicted him with madness to eat grass like an animal "until you recognize that the Most High is ruler" (Daniel 4:32). His "reason returned" only when he raised his "eyes toward heaven" and "blessed the Most High ... who lives forever" (Daniel 4:34).

Herod, in Acts 12, accepted the acclamation of the people: "And the people kept crying out, 'The voice of a god and not a man!' And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died" (Acts 12:22-23).

Pride is clearly a common downfall of great leaders (and followers), so would it not be wise to:

- a) Pray for genuine humility for our leaders, and
- b) Pursue genuine humility in our own lives?

True biblical humility, however, is like trying to pick up a wet watermelon seed: just when you think you have it, out it squirts away from you. Don't confuse humility with being uncertain about God's truth. Convictions are good, arrogance is not.

Humility recognizes, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7) because God is the Giver of all good gifts (James 1:17). Dwight L. Moody said, "God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves." Humility is not denying the gifts in your life, but acknowledging that those gifts come *through* you, not *from* you.

As we enter the New Year let's commit to praying for humility for our leaders – governmental and spiritual – as well as pursue this "shy virtue" in our own lives. The Bible makes some staggering promises: *God gives more grace to the humble* (James 4:6).

Praying & Pursuing With You,

Pastor Mark

Financial Report November 2016

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you." Deuteronomy 16:17



Current Year to Date

JAN 1 - NOV 30, 2016

Prior Year to Date

JAN 1 - NOV 30, 2015

	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income/Collections	839,282	872,300	915,072
Expenses	875,276	872,171	869,880
Net Income (deficit)	(35,994)	129	45,192

VBC Upcoming Events

- January 1 9:15 am Service only
NO Bible Study Classes
- January 8 Hollie Hubbard Moment for Missions
- January - March Dinner for Six
- January 15 & 22 Discover VBC
- January 25 Healthy Move Begins
- January 25 Annual Congregation Meeting
- January 25 Women's Ministries - Bible Study
(See Insert)
- February 1 & 2 Women's Ministries - Bible Study
(See insert)
- February 3 FCA Luncheon

Church Directory Updates!

GLENN & JOANNA JOHNSON

NEW PHONE NUMBER

501-915-2236

JUDY ANDERSON

NEW PHONE NUMBER

501-204-4845

ROGER & ELAINE STEPHENS

NEW PHONE NUMBERS

Roger's Cell - 204-2964 - Elaine's Cell - 204-2598

CLAUDETTE HEALY

NO LONGER HAS A CELL PHONE

Landline Number **501-226-5064**

Ministry Staff

Dr. Mark D. Cain, Senior Pastor

922-0404

barbimirenda@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Mike Kelly, Executive Pastor

984-1511

kellymg@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Levan Hubbard

Pastor of Worship & Care

353-3040

levanhubbard@gmail.com

Barbi Mirenda, Office Manager

Assistant to Pastor Mark

922-0404

barbimirenda@sbcglobal.net

Roseanne Eberle, Administrative Assistant

922-0404

roseanne.eberle@vbcchurch.com

Radio Ministry



Our radio ministry is designed as an outreach for the unchurched. Please remember to mention our broadcast to those you know who do not have a church home.

You can pick up some of the small imprinted cards to share with friends and neighbors. These are available at the Welcome Center. Sunday's sermons are broadcast on station KVRE (92.9 FM) at 9:00 am on Sundays.

Note: Since the sermons are previously recorded, they will not be heard on the same Sunday as preached at VBC.

Happy Anniversary

Funeral Planning



Brad & Julie Drake 1/18

Lyle & Evelyn Wheatcroft 1/18

Craig & ZeeZee Volz 1/25

If you would like your wedding anniversary announced in our newsletter, just call the office and check with Barbi at 922-0404.



As Christians we are called to be faithful stewards in life ... and in death (see Phil. 1:20-21). One aspect of

doing that is to "pre-plan" your funeral. We aren't talking about casket selection or cemetery location. We are talking about what spiritual legacy you want communicated to your family and friends. VBC has devised a single sheet "Funeral or Memorial Service Preparation Guideline" to assist you in doing this. It will guide you with some simple questions to help you make a Christian statement of your faith after you are gone.

Simply stop by the Welcome Center or the church office during the week and request one. Fill it out, and return it to the church. We will photocopy it so that you may keep it with your personal papers, and we will retain a copy on file in the church office. Let this be one tool to help you exalt Jesus in life ... as well as in death.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ADVISORY



In case of inclement weather, you may check the following information sources for VBC service schedules or cancellations.

KVRE 92.9 (Village Radio Station)

KARK TV, Channel 4

KLEZ 101.5 (Village Radio Station)

website: vbchurch.com

Or

VBC Answering Machine: 922-0404

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO READ, LISTEN TO, OR WATCH?



ALLERGY ALERT

Several in our congregation have made us aware that they are severely allergic to perfume, colognes and fragrances.

We thank you for refraining from wearing and being sensitive to this need during the time we spend in the church building together.



Do you know how wonderful our VBC Library is? There are lots of new books in the library, fiction, non-fiction, biographies, commentaries and DVDs. Come see Nancy, our VBC librarian; she is there most Sundays at least a half hour before church service to help you.

Otherwise, just print your name and date on the sign-out card and leave in the library.

CHURCH

LIBRARY

Save The Date!

FCA LUNCHEON

Join us in celebrating the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at a luncheon here at VBC.

Where: VBC
When: February 3
Time: 12pm - 1:15pm
Why: Luncheon
Cost: \$5.00 per person

RSVP

Shirley Johnson
at 501-915-0654

CARE CORNER



Pastor Levan Hubbard,
Worship and Care

What if I have a care need? Who do I call?

The care ministry has been working hard to accommodate the needs of our congregation. One of the big questions is, **who do I call?** Well, here is the answer! If you have an emergency during office hours, which are 8:30 am to 5 pm, Monday –Thursday, call the office and the office staff will contact the person to respond.

If it is after hours, please call me at 501-353-3040 or Pastor Mike Kelly at 501-984-1511. If by chance neither of us is in town, which is extremely rare, there will be an announcement on the answering machine as to who is available to take emergency calls.

If you should need to contact someone during the weekend, Friday through Sunday, on-call personnel and their phone numbers will be posted on the answering machine at the church phone number, which is 501-922-0404.

Caring for you . . . Pastor Levan



Rev. Mike Kelly
Executive Pastor

“Now That I Am Saved, Where Do I Start?” I’m glad you asked! During the month of January, we are placing special emphasis on what we refer to as the ordinance of baptism. We use the term ordinance because we believe this practice is in direct response to Jesus’ command to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, *baptizing them* in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19, emphasis mine).

There are many views on baptism. Some sprinkle, while others dunk; some baptize infants, others don’t; some say baptism is essential for salvation, others disagree. What does the Bible say? Be sure to attend these helpful special sessions led by **Pastor Mike** during the month of January.

BIBLICAL BAPTISM - Essential for Salvation? Is baptism essential for salvation? Well, Acts 10 states that some Gentiles were filled with the Holy Spirit (and therefore saved) before they were baptized. This is significant, for the Holy Spirit is the seal of the believer’s salvation (Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22; Rom. 8:9). Furthermore, Jesus saved the thief on the cross without water baptism (Luke 23:39f). It would seem therefore that baptism is not essential for salvation.

BIBLICAL BAPTISM - Outward sign of Inward experience. It is important to recognize that baptism is an outward sign of an inward conversion experience. It identifies us with Christ’s death and with His resurrection (Rom. 6:1-6,11; Col. 2:11,12). At baptism, the believer symbolically dies to the “old man” to become a “brand new creation” in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). As an ordinance (like Communion, or the Lord’s Supper), baptism is not absolutely necessary for salvation, but it does symbolically declare the Christian as a member of God’s visible church. If you would like to explore this matter in greater detail, be sure to attend one of Pastor Mike’s classes on baptism during the Bible Study hour in Room 112. If you would like to be baptized, we are planning baptism service on January 29th and would be delighted to assist you in this exciting step of faith and obedience. Simply mark your communication card, or call the church office for additional information.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WBC

W.I.N.G.S.



IS BACK

JANUARY 9th

WITH

2 New Projects

Cuddly Critters & Baby Buntings



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

For **ALL**
your donations!

NEW NEEDS . . .

- ♥ 1" Elastic
- ♥ T-shirts; small / medium, white or colored
- ♥ Polar fleece
- ♥ Polyfil
- ♥ Children's hangers

Please deposit donations in baskets under the Women's Ministry table in the hallway.

- WHO:** Women In God's Service - **NO** Sewing Skills Required.
- WHEN:** Every Monday in February and March from 1-4 pm.
- WHERE:** MaryAnn Woodson's Workshop
6 Ontur Lane (Behind Good Sam's)
For directions or information call 318-6765 or church office.
- WHY:** To let the children at Change Point, Potter's Clay and Safe Haven know that although their future and even today may seem scary, people care about them, they are special, and they are loved by God.

Come Join Us!



VBC Christmas Concert

2016



Many thanks to our great photographers:
Ana MacKendrick, Richard Boysen,
Shirley Pohlman and Sue Wilson

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER



WHAT HAPPENS TO BABIES WHEN THEY DIE?

Answer: **Instant heaven.** What if the babies' parents are not Christian?
Instant heaven. What about babies that are aborted? **Instant heaven.**

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 25% of all persons conceived die in the womb. And more than 10 million babies die at birth each year. What about those? **Instant heaven.**

Is this the sentimental answer we hope is true or is there a biblical basis for it?

Come to the January New Horizons Bible Study class in Fellowship Hall at VBC for answers to these and other questions:

How does God regard children? **What** if the child is not among the ELECT?
Will I ever see my child again? **Will** there be 'strollers' in heaven?

God's Word offers clear answers and comfort for hurting hearts. Come, we'll listen to God together.

Bob Warner

SPRING 2017 Healthy Move Class

Ladies, if you are new to the Village, new to Village Bible Church, or just in a new phase of life, there is a class just for you, called "**A Healthy Move.**" This 12-week class will meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am beginning **January 25**. Join us for coffee in our cozy loft area and meet other women going through the same life adjustments. We'll share laughter, hugs and lessons from a biblical perspective. We'll enjoy lunch together each week; either brown bag or go out to a local restaurant, and take several field trips.

There is no charge for this class and no outside preparation.



*Come join us and meet
your new best friends!*

**For further information
Liza Broome 713-201-2632**



FOUNDATIONS CLASS



I would like to invite you to a new Bible Study series beginning in the Foundations class on January 8, 2017. The Foundations class began in September of 2015 to study basic foundational truths about which every Christian should be informed. There has been a great response from newcomers, as well as established members, and there seems to be a sense of excitement about discussing the scriptures and concepts presented.

Beginning January 8, during the Bible study hour in the upstairs loft at VBC, we will begin a study of the book of Acts. This book of the Bible gives a history and model for the New Testament church. Below are some of the topics we will discuss:

- ◆ Why is church important?
- ◆ How does the 21st Century church relate to this modern time?
- ◆ Are we doing church the correct way?
- ◆ How is our modern church different from the first church?
- ◆ How is a successful church defined?
- ◆ What is the role of the church?

This is a great opportunity to meet others and interact as well as enjoy the study of scripture in a fun way. Hope you will consider joining us on Sunday, January 8, at 10:50am during the Bible Study here at VBC.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Levan Hubbard

“DINNER for SIX”



Don't miss the opportunity to sign up for “**DINNER for SIX.**” It will begin in January and go thru March. NOT limited to couples, it can be two friends, two singles and of course couples. Please sign up in the Sunday bulletin insert or at the Welcome Center.

“**DINNER for SIX**” is a great opportunity to get to know some new folks or connect with old friends as well. You will meet in a different “host home” each month. The host provides the entrée and the other “couples” bring a salad or dessert.

Sooooo, come on...football season is almost over. It tends to be kind of dark and dreary this time of year. What could be better than meeting new people, having fun conversations and enjoying wonderful comfort food! A winning combination and a great way to begin 2017.

How to Sign up: Sunday Communication Card or Sign-up Sheet in the Welcome Center

If you have any questions, call Roxy Tooley at 922-0700.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

Discover *VBC* Class



Village Bible Church is placing an increased emphasis on officially joining the church. The New Testament calls us to a high commitment to the body of Christ on Earth, that is, the local church! Church membership is the outward expression reflecting our inner commitment to the gospel message. Membership is much like believers' baptism or the marriage ceremony as outward expressions of our inner beliefs.

This class, designed for those who are interested in becoming members of VBC, as well as those who just want more information, will provide "everything you've always wanted to know about VBC but were afraid to ask."

We hold another Discover VBC Class, a two-part series, on January 15 & 22 for anyone who wants to know more about VBC or is considering membership. If you are interested in attending these sessions, pre-registration is requested. Sign up at www.vbcchurch.com ("About Us") or on the communication card in the bulletin or call the church office during regular work hours at 501-922-0404.

Thank you!

The VBC Staff would like to thank the congregation for your overwhelming generosity in the Christmas gifts you presented us for 2016.

We look forward to serving with you in the new year and pray God's blessings on you and your families.



Annual Congregation Meeting

January 25, 2017

All members are encouraged to attend our Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday evening, January 25th from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

The annual meeting is a time to reflect on all that God has done in our midst during the past year and anticipate His blessings for the coming year. You will hear reports and VBC's vision for the future.

This is an important time in the life of VBC and it is time to recommit to the vision and mission of our church.

MEETING ONLY - NO POTLUCK DINNER

VBC New Year Preaching by Pastor Mark

Walking With Jesus The Gospel of Luke

A practical, application-oriented sermon series - an exposition of some of the most beloved passages in the Gospel of Luke, connecting them to our lives today.

By Pastor Mark D. Cain

Because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) the message from "back then" is for us even today.

We will look closely at Jesus not only as a great Person who did miraculous things twenty centuries ago, but also as that same great Person who is doing great things today. Nineteenth century Scotsman Robert Murray McCheyne observed, "It is strange how sweet and precious it is to preach directly about Christ, compared with all other subjects of preaching."

Sundays, beginning January 15, at 9:15 am, we will selectively examine rich truths from the Gospel of Luke, climaxing with the Easter story by Luke in April.

Continue reading this great book of the Bible. Determine to prioritize each Sunday in your schedule. Pray and bring someone with you. And expect to "Walk With Jesus" more closely.

ELDER BOARD REPORT

We hope that everyone was able to attend our annual Christmas concert. Every year we think that it cannot get any better, yet it does! A huge “thank you” to Pastor Levan and all who participated. It was great and everyone involved deserves credit.

One of the most significant results of the concert was the large number of “yes” packets that were taken. God may use these to bring more to a saving knowledge of Jesus and cause some who know Him to grow in their faith and become more involved in serving at VBC or wherever they worship. We do look forward to what God will do for the rest of 2016.

Our next written communication will be in 2017. As always it is difficult to realize that another year will soon be history. We plan to report more about 2016 and the plans for 2017 in our January message. Suffice it to say, there have been many events this year, including the “home going” of many of our church family at VBC. We rejoice with the knowledge that they are with the Lord and at the same time feel the loss and share hope for those left behind.

Thanks again for your support and please continue to let us know your concerns and needs.

Bruce Davis
Elder Chair



Dr. Mark D. Cain



Don Russell



Jim Neal



Floyd Jordan



Bruce Davis



Larry Collins



Dick Leach

HURTING MOMS
For mothers of prodigal children
A support group to
Encourage
Share
Bond
Pray
Love
First Saturday each month
Village Bible Church Loft 10:15am-12:00pm
Contact: Ruth Neal, 501-626-7726 or ruthneal@aol.com

The Hurting Moms support group will be studying the book Reaching Your Prodigal by Phil Waldrep.

HURTING MOMS whose child has ...

- ... An addiction to drugs
- ... An addiction to alcohol
- ... Chosen an alternative lifestyle
- ... Chosen to walk away from the family with little or no contact

If you are a hurting mom, please join us. You'll find a safe place to share the emotions of your heart while building friendships with other hurting moms who understand your pain.

First Saturday of the month VBC Loft 10:15 am - 12:00 pm

Contact Ruth Neal: 626-7726 or ruthneal@aol.com

JANUARY 2017 VBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication to keep you up to date and informed about what is going on in the life of Village Bible Church.



JANUARY

- 2 Office Closed
- 25 Healthy Move Class Begins
- 25 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 25 Women's Bible Studies (See insert)**
- 29 Baptism

FEBRUARY

- 1 & 2 Women's Bible Studies (See insert)**
- 3 FCA Luncheon

Applying the Bible to daily life.



EFCA

Village Bible Church
100 Ponderosa Way
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
Phone: 501-922-0404
Fax: 501-922-3697
E-mail: vbcchurch@sbcglobal.net
Website: vbcchurch.com



Or current resident

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