

The Gift of What?

PASTOR MARK D. CAIN

VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH FAMILY NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

Even I was surprised by the insight and I've been involved in church work my entire adult life. Maybe it was the ringing clarity with which the author expressed it. The title of the book should have been a tip-off: *The Gift of Church*. The Elders are reading through this helpful book together and author Jim Samra makes a compelling *biblical* case that despite all of the negative experiences that can happen, *God has designed and created the local church for our benefit and His glory*. The local church really is His idea and intended by Him to be profitable to our lives – a *gift* for us.

Sweeping the panorama of biblical history, Old Testament and New, when God's people gather, purposefully guided by His will, we are to be experiencing God's presence in a way that can happen nowhere else. This is not to say that you don't experience God's presence at other times and in other ways – you can and hopefully do. But there is nothing comparable to the experienced, "felt presence" of the Living God when we gather "as church."

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Do you not know that you [*plural*] are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in [*among*] you [*when you assemble as church*]?

1 Corinthians 14:23-25 - Therefore if the whole church assembles together ... and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all ... declaring that God is certainly among you.

Think of the additional dimension that brings to our *Each One Bring One* endeavor. Consider the implications of this for our efforts at REAL Community. You are not merely bringing a person to church. You are providing an assist to scratching the deepest itch of their souls, partnering with the Holy Spirit in helping someone exclaim "Now *THIS* is what [*or rather Who*] I was made for!"

Think of all that Thomas missed when he was absent that first Easter evening when Jesus came and stood in the

midst of those assembled and spoke "Peace" to the early followers (John 20:19-24). Graciously, Jesus gave Thomas another opportunity the following week (John 20:26).

A few implications of this for you:

Continue *Each One Bring One* with increased confidence, knowing that you are sharing one of God's great *gifts* for your friends.

You yourself come with increased expectancy of truly experiencing the sensed presence of Jesus every Sunday morning.

The REAL Community that we cultivate has another whole dimension of depth as the presence of Jesus works through the diversity of personalities, temperaments and preferences. I knew a man some years ago who was touting small home churches because he could "self-select" those he enjoyed being with. What a selfish and limiting way to live. The richness of symphonic harmony is so much more beautiful than a single melody line played by three identical instruments. Jesus blesses us with unity, not uniformity, as we mature into valuing the diversity of the body. Now that's REAL Community!

An African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Life is a long-distance marathon. We need to go together. As Pastor Mike regularly reminds us, *We Really DO Grow Better, Together*.

Still Loving the Gift and Learning with You.

Pastor Mark





Financial Report April 2017

"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

Prior Year to Date

JAN 1 - MARCH 31, 2017

JAN 1 - MARCH 31, 2016

	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income/Collections	216,987	237,900	207,139
Expenses	244,379	249,526	237,078
Net Income (deficit)	(273,92)	(11,626)	(29,939)

Funeral Planning

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.

VBC Upcoming Events

First Saturday in May	Hurting Moms Support Group
May 7 - 12	Wycliffe Mission Trip
May 12	Local Ministries Tour
May 29	Memorial Day - Office Closed
June 5 - 9	Vacation Bible School

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tony & Pat Seabaugh

540 Ponce de Leon #408, HSV - 501-204-7036

Warren Walters

New Phone Number - 501-204-2963

Ray & Trudy Holmes

New Phone Number - 501-204-2751

John & Joann Wise

New Phone Number - 501-204-2751

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.

VBC Ministry Staff

Dr. Mark D. Cain, Senior Pastor

922-0404 email - mark@vbchsv.org

Rev. Mike Kelly, Executive Pastor

209-6547 email - mike@vbchsv.org

Rev. Levan Hubbard, Pastor of Worship & Care

353-3040 email - levan@vbchsv.org

Barbi Mirenda, Office Manager, Assistant to Pastor Mark

922-0404 email - barbi@vbchsv.org

Roseanne Eberle, Administrative Assistant

922-0404 email - roseanne@vbchsv.org

-  Carroll & Vicky Weyrich 05/03
-  Leon & Lynda Barbee 05/10
-  Dale & Cheryl Kastner 05/12
-  Mark & Terry Christensen 05/22
-  Larry & Judy Schultz 05/24
-  Chuck & Laura Hulbert 05/26
-  David & Nancy Wood 05/31

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



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

VBC LIBRARY

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. Thank you!

Nancy Jones has a new e-mail address
library@vbchsv.org



What if I have a care need?

Pastor Levan Hubbard
 Worship and Care



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

SPECIAL NEEDS SEATING



RESERVED Seating, has been provided for those physically handicapped in the center aisle as you enter the sanctuary. Please leave the outer seats available for those needing special accommodations, as well as family or friends who wish to sit with them. Feel free to sit on the reserved pew, but be sure to leave the outer seats close to the aisle for those in need. Thank you.



VBS

Village Bible School

June 5 - June 9

8:30am to Noon

Beyond thrilling! Exciting to explore! Breathtakingly beautiful! Full of treasure! Words that describe the Arctic for sure, a fascinating region like no other in the world. But go back and read those words again-they can also be used to describe the coolest book on the planet-**the Bible**. It's *mindblowing* to think *The God of the universe* wrote us a book- *a book that is beyond thrilling, exciting to explore, beautiful, and full of treasure*. Now, if *that* isn't worthy of our attention, what is?

At **Village Bible Church**, we can hardly contain our excitement as we prepare for the thrill of exploring this one-of-a-kind treasure - as we build on the following **BIBLE** acronym *each* day at **VBS "Operation Arctic"**:

B... *Book of Books-The first day we'll discover there's just no book like it, unique in so many ways!*

I... *Incredible Impact-The second day, we'll explore the impact the Bible's teachings have had upon the world.*

B... *Bedrock Base-The third day, we'll see there's no shifting sand here-we've got the Rock of God's Word to base our lives on!*

L... *Letter of Love-The fourth day, we'll encounter the best love letter ever, written to us by God Himself!*

E... *Exciting to Explore-The fifth day, we'll be challenged to learn it, love it, and live it!*

Again, Village Bible Church invites all kiddos **Ages PreK-6th Grade** to Vacation Bible School 2017!

The theme this year is "Operation Arctic!," and as always it is FREE! Make sure you bring your kids and/or grandkids Monday, June 5th through Friday, June 9th... from 8:30a.m. to NOON each day!

All "Explorers" will learn songs, make crafts and enjoy creative snacks, as well as, participate in engaging drama! Vacation Bible School at Village Bible Church will be an exploration into God's word that your child will NOT want to miss!

- ◆ For more information and to *pre-register* call the church office: **501-922-0404**
...or visit our church website: www.vbcchurch.com for more information.

Village Bible Church is located @ 100 Ponderosa Way, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

LOCAL MINISTRY TOUR

Teen Challenge

155 Walnut Valley Road off Hwy 7
Hot Springs, Arkansas
501-624-2446

Residential program that biblically educates men 18 and older who struggle with life controlling problems.

Potters Clay

110 Crescent Street
Hot Springs, Arkansas
501-624-1366

To provide safe shelter for women & children in crisis situations.

Change Point

Pregnancy Care & Parenting Resource Center

201 Nickels Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas
501-624-2273

Serves families by defending the sanctity of human life through education, as well as services to encourage strong, safe family relationships.

Oaklawn Racetrack Chaplaincy

South of Oaklawn, West on Golf Links Rd.
Hot Springs, Arkansas
405-226-1592

To bring God into the lives of 900 persons who work in 'back of the track.'

Discover firsthand how our Investment is being used locally!

Friday, May 12

10:00 Teen Challenge + Lunch

12:30 Potter's Clay

1:30 Change Point

2:30 Oaklawn Racetrack Chaplaincy

**Group will carpool to each site.
Sign-up April 23, April 30 & May 7**

Questions?

**Contact Jane Weston at 922-4686 or
jeweston4@gmail.com**

Bible Study Class - Why is Church Important?

If you have not chosen a Bible Study class, I would like to invite you to join us in the loft at 10:50 am each Sunday morning. The book of Acts is the basis of the study and the following topics will be highlighted.

- ◆ How does the 21st Century church relate to the 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. You can join us anytime whether you started with us or not.

If you would like further information, please feel free to give me a call.

Pastor Levan Hubbard CHURCH 922-0404 CELL 353-3040





Women's Ministry 2017 Bible Studies

RESPECTFULLY YOURS

A Dr. Emerson and Sarah Eggerichs DVD Study

We know love best motivates a woman. But do we know what best motivates a man? God has designed men and women differently. Ephesians 5:33 reveals a truth hidden in plain sight for nearly 2000 years, that a husband is to love and a wife is to respect. This study will help women to better understand what respect looks like and how to give it. Come and enjoy the blessing in your own life as you begin to do marriage God's way.

Comments from our women who have taken the study: *"I was afraid this was going to be all about submission, but it is not! It is about being the woman God wants me to be."* *"My attitude changed and now we are both happier!"* *"It helped me have a deeper appreciation for my husband."*

Women's Ministries Summer Schedule

Respectfully Yours

Thursday Evenings
June 8 - July 27

AND

The 3 R's of JOY

Wednesday Mornings
June 21 - July 5

Thursday Evenings
June 22 - July 6

June 8 – July 27 (8 weeks)

Thursday evenings 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Cost of workbook: \$11.50

Leaders: Pam DeMorrow, Lynda Barbee & Susie Masters

THE "3 R's" of JOY!

"In Thy Presence is JOY." Ps 16:11

Even if retired, are you tired and weary? Are you distracted with your schedule and worried and burdened with many things...like Martha?

Are you absolutely intentional about time with the Lord? Or has Jesus said that you've "Left your first love?"

Do you simply want to be Refreshed *in* the word *with* The Word and learn how to STAY there daily? Learn how the Scriptures teach us to do that by studying inductively. ***Come for 3 weeks of:**

"Sitting at the feet of Jesus."

June 21, 28 & July 5

Wednesday mornings 9:30 am -11:30 am

June 22, 29 & July 6

Thursday evenings 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm,

Cost: \$5 for copies

Leader: Marcia Gautier

**a Bonus Optional 4th week will be offered July 12/13 on the EASY ABC's of inductive Bible study in Chapter 1 of Daniel. How did young Daniel stay Refreshed in the LORD--and used by Him---while in Babylonian captivity for over 70 years? This is a "sneak preview" of our fall inductive study of the book of Daniel. And it's a great way to learn how to study inductively in just 2 hours.*

"...times of Refreshment come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19

Classes are open to all women of the community, and the Thursday evening class, led by Marcia Gautier, will be open to men as well.

Registration for both classes will begin on, **Sunday, May 7** and close on **Sunday, May 21.**

Payment for each class is requested at time of enrollment.

As always, confidential scholarships are available.

Thank You!!!Thank You!!!Thank You!!!



from

W.I.N.G.S

We couldn't have
done it without
you!

**200 dresses &
shorts**

**140 cuddly
critters**

**200 stuffed hearts
for Vets**

**65 VBS
backpacks**

18 baby buntings



Meeting on Mondays 1:00 - 4:00 until May 22nd

GOD HAS BLESSED OUR EFFORT MIGHTILY!



Last hike of the spring season!

Hot Springs Mountain Trail - 2 miles
Difficulty - Easy/Moderate. Enjoy view from Goat
Rock as we explore Hot Springs National Park
trails and God's spectacular creation.

Take a Hike!

Saturday, May 6

Lake Catherine State Park

Sign-up April 30

VBC Foyer

If you have any questions please contact:

Mike & Jeanne Walters

915-8046 (Home) or 226-9178 (Cell)

Or

Jerry & Roxie Harris

915-9635 (Home) or 870-814-0778 (Cell)



Pastor Mike Kelly

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

The Bible has a great tradition and a magnificent heritage. It contains 66 books written over a period of several hundred years by many different men. Yet the message, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, is clear throughout. The 66 books become one. The Bible is old; yet it is ever new. It is the most modern book in the world today, and remains a best-seller, year after year. There is a false notion that a book as ancient as the Bible cannot speak to modern needs. People somehow think that in an age of scientific achievement, when knowledge has increased more in the past 25 years than in all preceding centuries put together, this ancient book is out-of-date. But to all who read and love the Bible, it is relevant for our generation. At VBC, it is our deep conviction that we can find the answers to life's ultimate questions in the Holy Scriptures. Be sure to join Pastor Mike during the Bible Study hour in the month of May in room 112. Helpful information about the Bible will be shared to improve understanding moving forward into the book of Genesis, where we will spend the next few weeks.



The Bible is old; yet it is ever new.

EACH ONE BRING ONE!

During the months of March - May, VBC is emphasizing the importance of reaching-out to the HSV community with a personal invitation to attend a service at VBC. Why? Because God reached-out to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

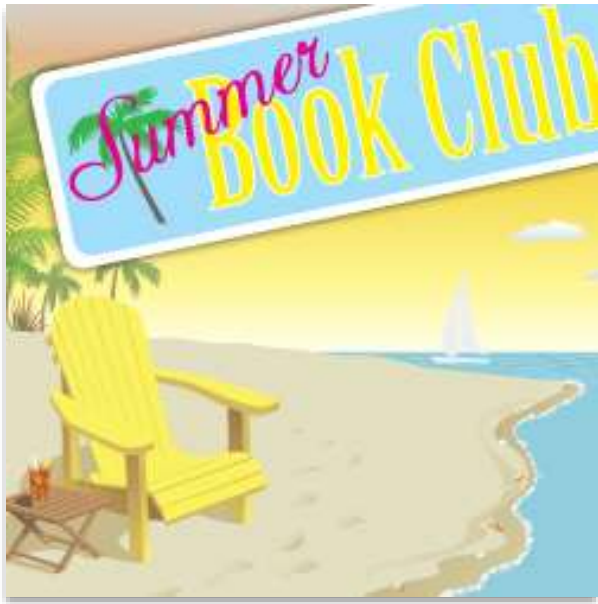


3 Reasons Why We Should Invite People

1. Because we want them to connect with REAL (biblical) community, to worship together, study together, sing, give, serve, and other various connecting type things (Small Groups). The church is the bride of Christ. It is not to be minimized, put down, ignored, underrated, or negated. We ought to love the Church as Christ loves the Church. We know that there are so many things that the Church can do, and REAL (biblical community) is one that it does best. Church is a hub for spiritual growth and we want people to engage in that.
2. Because we understand that people will probably get an invitation to follow Jesus through the sermon, study, or general community environment. While inviting someone to church isn't the same as inviting them to Jesus, they will certainly have a hard time missing Him at a gospel centered church like VBC.
3. Because we truly believe that what we have in store each Sunday is designed to impact their life for the sake of the gospel to help them grow, rest, learn, gain passion and strengthen their walk with Jesus. Our heart is always in the right place when we seek to find creative and Christ-honoring ways to engage with the King. God gives us creativity and skill to bring Him glory, and it shines bright when the ability and the purpose come together for His names sake.

Each One Bring One is not just a program, it's a way of life for those who have found the way out of darkness. "I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness" (John 12:44-46). Let's bring them in!

Pastor Mike Kelly



Village Bible Church Ladies Summer Book Club News!

The Book club will meet on June 14, July 5 and July 26 at Village Bible Church at 3:00 in the afternoon.

Ladies of VBC are invited to register to be a part of the 2017 Summer Book Club. Sign up begins on April 30, cost for the club is \$10.00 person. Books will be ordered as registration takes place. Please sign up early so that everyone will have a book to read in time for the first meeting.

This year the authors are Charles Martin, Andy Andrews and Jamie Langston Turner. If you are interested in reading books by these authors you can find some of the books they have written in our church library. You can research these authors by looking at their websites.

If you are interested in signing up early for the club, please contact

Donna Wetzel at 922-5936.

Mercy Ministries Easter Food Distribution

The Village Bible Church conducted its annual Easter food distribution drive for needy families in the Fountain Lake and Mountain Pine school districts on Thursday, April 13, 2017. This year's event was quite successful due in large part to the generous financial support of our VBC congregation and the many volunteers that assisted in so many ways. This Easter a total of 54 families in the two school districts will be able to celebrate the holiday without the worry of not having enough food to serve.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who financially supported our Mercy Ministries Designate Fund as well as to those who gave their time as volunteers to assist with the project.



Left to right...Barbary Dray, Dan Dray, Dotty Burke, Gordon Shaw, Gary George, Max Billen and Jim Lovejoy.

This year we were able to procure our food items, both perishables and non-perishables from our local Walmart store with a significant amount coming from our new supplier, Project HOPE food pantry in Hot Springs. Significant savings were possible as a result of Project HOPE.

We are truly blessed with a generously giving congregation and it is an honor to call you my brothers and sisters in Christ!

SAVE The Date!

Sunday, June 18
at 9:15 am

Guess Who's
Turning

35

“C.O.B.S”

Look for registration table in
VBC Foyer on
Sunday, May 28 - Sunday, June 4
and
Sunday, June 11

Oh Yes!
IT'S ON



ELDER BOARD REPORT

From Baker's Evangelical Dictionary, the word "**FALL**" is widely used to refer to what is recorded in Genesis 3, particularly to what is written of the temptation of Adam and Eve, their being overcome by it, and their immediate reactions after they became aware of the consequences.

In addition, every time I go to a health care provider these days, someone asks me if I have had a **FALL** since the last time I was there. In both cases, there is pain involved with spiritual and physical falls, but this article is about the latter. Following are some thoughts about the risk of falls that happen on slippery surfaces, like a wet bathroom floor or wet asphalt pavement like our VBC parking lot and roads.

And why do physical falls happen to us? We know it is often a lack of foot traction (adhesive friction or force) along with our changing bodies regarding balance, peripheral neuropathy (numbness in our legs and feet), weaker muscles, eyesight, etc. But, we often hear that getting more mature is not for sissies.

So what can we do about reducing this risk? First, our Trustees will help increase the traction on select areas of our sealed asphalt and concrete pavements through applications of rough textured coatings or coverings, and by providing warning signage.

Second, the most important person who can help reduce this risk is the person you see repeatedly in a mirror. When you have been sitting down, stand up for a few seconds, and check your balance. If you know a pavement may be wet, wear grippy rubber soled shoes, and take slow and short "baby" steps, especially in sloped areas.

And lastly, for those driving vehicles on wet VBC parking lots and roads, please SLOW DOWN. That vehicle can hydroplane (skid) on a wet surface, and you can lose control and may injure yourself or hit someone.

So, let's try our best to avoid physical falls and drive safely so we can attend our wonderful church and learn more about that spiritual fall.

John Sowers
Elder Board



Dr. Mark D. Cain



Don Russell



Jim Neal



John Sowers



Bruce Davis



Larry Collins



Dick Leach



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

The Hurting Moms Support Group is for mothers who have children who are estranged from their families, struggle with addiction or have chosen an alternative life style. We support each other through sharing, bonding with others who understand the pain, prayer, and growing friendships. Right now we're studying the book, Reaching Your Prodigal by Phill Waldrep. Books are available from Ruth Neal for \$10.00. If you're a mother who finds yourself hurting, but don't have anyone to share your heart with, please join us on the first Saturday of the month from 10:15 am to 12:00 pm in the cozy loft at Village Bible Church.

For further information please contact Ruth Neal at 626-7726 or ruthneal@aol.com

MAY 2017 VBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER



May
7 - 12 Wycliffe Mission Trip
12 Local Ministries Tour
29 Memorial Day - Office Closed

JUNE
5 - 9 Vacation Bible School
8 Women's Bible Study
Respectfully Yours
14 Summer Book Club
21 Women's Bible Study
"3 R's" of Joy

Applying the Bible to
daily life.



EFCA

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Or current resident

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