



EAT



LOVE

PRAY

VBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

I suspect each of us have had a time in our life when God used a circumstance to get our attention and teach us a lesson. I have had a number of them. But let me focus on one in this article. It happened in the summer of 1984. We lived in Southern California at the time and were blessed with obtaining several tickets for the Los Angeles summer Olympic games. One event we attended was on the UCLA campus – it was a gymnastics event. A common activity at that venue was people watching.

Ruth and I sat on a bench and observed little conclaves of people from all walks of life carrying on conversations. I noticed a girl standing alone in the middle of one of the wide walkways. She was handing out gospel tracts. Or, at least she was trying to. Many who saw her took a wide berth around in order to avoid contact. Some took the literature from her, looked at it, and promptly tossed it on the ground. Others, more environmentally conscious disposed of the tract in the nearest waste basket. I didn't see anyone take the effort seriously. I remarked to Ruth, "this seems like a terribly wasteful and inefficient way to share Christ. Look at all the people sitting around. It seems to me that she would be wiser to just sit down with those people gathered around and strike up a conversation with them." I had no sooner gotten those words out of my mouth when I saw someone stop, take the tract from her and ask her a question. Then, I realized. She could not speak.

She pulled out a piece of paper and wrote out her response. I was mortified at my own insensitivity and arrogance. Here I was sitting on the sideline, not doing anything but criticizing while she was doing what she could do to share Christ in the best way she could. It was a humbling experience. I came to realize that there are many ways to share the good news of Jesus and we are each called to do what we can.

As the pastoral staff at VBC began to discuss the concept of Eat-Love-Pray last October, I had another humbling experience. I realized I really did not know my neighbors. I couldn't tell you any of their names. So, I decided to change that. Two nights before Halloween, Ruth and I visited several of our neighbors in an effort to hold what we called "reverse" trick or treating. We purchase a few \$10 gift cards from Walmart. Knocking on one door, we greeted a confused looking young man with "trick or treat" and then quickly explained that we were giving out treats, not asking for one. We also apologized that we had not visited them before. His wife came out of the house and met us with deep appreciation for the gift and the introduction. We moved on to several other homes and had a delightful time at each one. Now that the ice has been broken, we are planning to get more deeply engaged with them.

We are looking forward to dining with them and extending our story of God's love for us and our commitment to pray for them. In the coming months I look forward to sharing meals with new friends. But I can do more. I can GOLF-LOVE-PRAY. Mainly we want to connect to new friends in their area of interest so we can fulfil the command to "love your neighbor." Out of that connection will emerge natural opportunities for us to tell our "before, how, now" story. It feels so much better than sitting on the sidelines as a critic.

How about your connection, _____, LOVE, PRAY?



Pastor Jim



Financial Report December 2018

Current Year to Date

JAN 1 - DEC 31, 2018

Prior Year to Date

JAN 1 - DEC 31, 2017

	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income/Collections	\$1,009,084	\$999,216	\$1,004,657
Expenses	\$950,412	\$987,215	\$921,889
Net Income (deficit)	\$58,672	\$12,001	\$82,758



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- 02/03 John & Jane Hollansworth
- 02/11 Guenter & Ute Scharnowski
- 02/12 Fletcher & Linda Cockrell
- 02/14 Larry & Jimmi Moline
- 02/14 Don & Elsie Terry
- 02/22 Paul & Midge Myers
- 02/25 Rich & Patty Gorman
- 02/28 Jeff & Laura Davis

Want your wedding anniversary in our newsletter?
Call the office and ask for Barbi! 501-922-0404

VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH **Ministry Staff**

- Dr. Jason Lancaster, Senior Pastor**
email - jason@vbchsv.org
- Rev. Jim Neal, Associate Pastor**
501-766-6789 email - jim@vbchsv.org
- Rev. Levan Hubbard, Pastor of Worship & Care**
501-353-3040 email - levan@vbchsv.org
- Barbi Mirinda, Office Manager & Assistant to Senior Pastor**
501-922-0404 email - barbi@vbchsv.org
- Mary Buffington, Administrative Assistant & Media Consultant**
501-922-0404 email - mary@vbchsv.org



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. Visit the Welcome Center and pick up some of the small imprinted cards to share with friends and neighbors. 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.

Care Team Ministry Luncheon

I want to know what the Care Team does! I've been wanting a place to serve others! I'm already a Care Team member!

If any of these statements apply to you, keep reading about this great opportunity.



On Monday, February 25th starting at 11:30 AM, there will be a Care Team Luncheon. In this meeting, we will review the role of the Care Ministry and our philosophy, confirm Care assignments and roles, and explore a couple of new ideas for the Care Team. Current Care Team members, and those interested in this ministry, are invited to attend. VBC will be serving lunch. All we ask is that you sign-up for the meeting so that enough food is prepared.

Register via your bulletin communication card, visit the sign-up table, or call the church office 501-922-0404.

If you have questions or want to share ideas on how to better fulfill the goal of the Care Ministry, please contact me.

Caring with you,
Pastor Levan

The Church Publications

fyi!

Sunday Bulletin:

Information to be included in the Sunday bulletin must be submitted by noon on Wednesday. If at all possible, items should be provided by email or on digital media. The bulletin is completed on Thursday morning

Prayer Sheet:

Prayer requests may be submitted at any time. You may call them in or send the request via email (mary@vbchsv.org). Information to be included on the prayer sheet must be submitted by NOON on Thursday. The prayer sheet is printed and available on Thursday after 4:00pm.

VBC Family Newsletter:

The due date for the next month's articles is usually the 15th of the month. As with the bulletin, information should be provided by email (mary@vbchsv.org) or on digital media. The newsletter is mailed by the 30th of each month in order for it to be in your mailbox by the 1st week of the month.

VBC Website:

You may submit your request by email or by filling out the EMS sheet. We do try to include on the website any articles that were submitted for the newsletter, inserts for bulletin, flyers, etc.

It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. **Deuteronomy 31:8**



Seven Hollows Trail
at Petit Jean State Park
Saturday, February 9th
4 miles, moderate difficulty

If you have any questions please contact:
Mike & Jeanne Walters, 501-915-8046
OR **Jerry & Roxie Harris, 501-915-9635**

Come enjoy God's glory through hollows, sandstone bluffs and dramatic overhangs!

Don't forget! You can have your very own copy of the weekly sermon:

— SERMON CDs —

You may purchase a recording of the most recent sermon on CD! Look inside the wooden box on the wall beside the Welcome Center.

Or visit www.vbchsv.org to enjoy all past and present sermons!

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Judy McEarl

Cell: 501-620-0698

Kathy Batjes

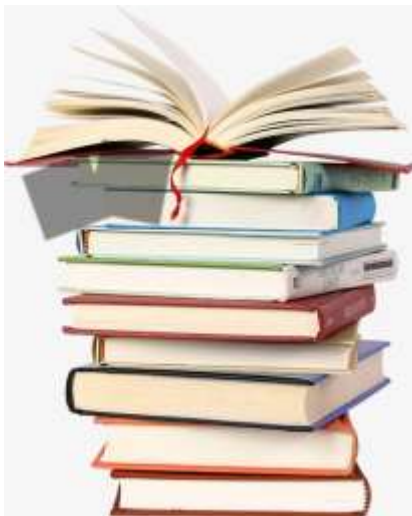
Cell: 501-617-5533

Mary Ellen Mathias

Email: mem18@suddenlink.net

The VBC Library

Expand your mind and heart with a fascinating book!



Drop by the library today and CHECK OUT what you've been missing!

All newcomer ladies are invited and encouraged to attend "A Healthy Move" a 9-week class designed to help you develop friendships as you transition into this new stage of life. The class which begins on January 30th offers strategies for improved emotional, physical, and spiritual life as you learn more about the Village, others, and the Lord. For more info contact Dee Thompson (817) 455-8473.



Welcome

New Members



We are excited to introduce Rodney & Pat Hallsell as members of VBC. They moved here from Lewisville, Texas but both grew up in Little Rock. Rodney is a retired sales rep but continues to work as a painting contractor. Pat is a retired executive assistant from Verizon. Please take a moment to welcome the Hallsell's to our fellowship at VBC!




Jean Roberts is from Monroe, Louisiana and worked at a loss Prevention Specialist for State Farm Insurance. Jean was baptized in 2002 at First West Baptist Church in West Monroe, Louisiana.

Jim & Liza Broome come to us from Houston, Texas. Both are retired.



Jim was a geologist for Ryder Scott Co. for 35 years, and Liza taught pre-school at her church along with some communication work. Liza began a more personal relationship with Jesus after an Emmaus weekend in 2007. Jim considers himself a work in progress as he continues to read the Bible.

Transition to Worship

 The prelude begins each Sunday Morning at 9 AM. The musicians work hard to prepare a musical prelude to transition from friendly conversation to a reflective atmosphere of worship before the service begins. Thank you for being aware when the music has begun and for giving others the opportunity to reflect and prepare to meet with God during this time.

**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)
KLEZ 101.5
(Village Radio Station)

VBC Website: vbchsv.org or
call the church office:
501-922-0404



HIS NAME WAS IN THE BOOK!

When he answered the phone, a young girl's voice pleaded: "Preacher, you don't know me, but my daddy's about to die. Could you please come to the hospital and pray with him? He's not saved."

The young daughter met him in the lobby and led him to her father's room. "His name is Cephas", she said. The old man's face bore the look of a hard life. As the Preacher shared the Gospel, it was apparent his heart was a stone, like the meaning of his name.

Finally, as he was about to leave, the Preacher said, "Did you know that your name is in the Bible?" At this the man opened his eyes. Later his daughter found a Gideon Bible in the hospital room and began to read to her father.

At 2:00am she read John 1:42, *Jesus said, thou art Simon, son of John, thou shalt be called CEPHAS, meaning, a stone.* Her father smiled faintly. The next day when the Preacher returned with the gospel, although unable to speak verbally, they saw a heart of stone completely melt. His smile said it all. Cephas was now born again.

The next day, with loving hands touching him in prayer, someone from another world called his name, and Cephas slipped quietly into his Savior's arms.



Who paid for or placed that Bible? We don't know. Perhaps it was you. And you will hear Jesus say "Well done. Faithful one. Cephas will no doubt want to give you a mighty hug for placement of the book about Jesus...the Book that also contained his name.



And this is what Gideons do. We place God's Word in the traffic lanes of life – and near death – so needy souls can find the Savior. On February 10, the HSV Gideon Camp will present its annual stewardship report here at VBC.

The Gideons International is a worldwide missionary arm of VBC. However, we are not part of the Missions Financial Plan. So, this is your opportunity to offer financial gifts and personal prayers for the Gideon ministry. Please let your gift be over and above your tithe to our church.

Make your check payable to The Gideons International. Or use the credit card tab in the bulletin insert on Sunday. All the money you give goes to manufacture and distribute Scripture. Please prayerfully consider your support of the Gideon ministry. Thank you!

For the HSV Gideon Camp:

Bob L. Warner

Artists and Photographers



This year's theme for the Easter Art Exhibit is **RISEN**. "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay." Matthew 28:6. Begin planning now for your entry in our Easter exhibit. Check future bulletins, email blasts, newsletters and the Village Voice for more details. Contact Susie Masters, 318-458-7258, smasters21@att.net for more information.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Bible Study:
10:50 – 11:45 AM

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



What **Resolutions** have you made? Extend your **GROWTH** by attending one of our Bible Studies following the Sunday Worship service.

There are so many distressing things going on all around this world that cause a great number of people to live in doubt and fear. As Christians, Pastor Jason has suggested we make 'No Fear – This Year!' our New Year's resolution. Attending Sunday Bible study will help you keep this resolution.

Growing numbers of our church family are attending one of our great Sunday Morning Bible Study classes and feasting on the word of God as we move toward Christ-likeness. Your brothers and sisters in Christ invite and welcome you to Bible Study.

As we take on the personal ministry of "Eat, Love, Pray" imagine what God can do with our church body if we are all immersed in an extra hour of Bible study each week. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)"

Our purpose and goal is: "Making Disciples Who Become Growing and Serving Followers of Jesus Christ." Please come join us in Bible study each Sunday morning! Thank you.

Bob DeVinney, Christian Ministry Team Leader



SAVE THE DATE

For Vacation Bible School this summer: **June 10 – 14!** Tell your neighbors, friends, and acquaintances to get that week on their calendar and schedule grandkids' visits so that they can enjoy "The Amazing Race" at VBC. While it may seem early to begin making plans, consider where you might serve: co-director, teachers, guides, decoration/props team, music team, drama team, recreation team, prayer team, registration/attendance checkers, snack team, advertising team, etc. If you just want to help in some way, we'll find a place for you.

Email Fran Taylor at frtalor29@sbcglobal.net with questions or comments.



**Hot Springs Village
Evening Lion's Club
Thanks VBC for
Faithful Donations of
Used Eye Glasses**

We commend and thank the Village Bible Church Congregation for your longstanding donations of used eyeglasses which help people around the world have better vision which improves their lives in so many ways. Your box has been one of our best collection points and we invite you to keep bringing your used glasses.

There is also another collection point near your church that is an option. It looks like a mail box in shape but not in color. It has the Lions logo and on top there is a very large picture in the shape of Eye Glasses. It is in front of Sacred Heart on Balearic. We invite you to use that if you wish.

Our Club collects somewhere around 1,200 good pairs of glasses a year after we remove about 40% that are broken or badly scratched. Out of that 40%, those with metal frames are recycled to help with the expenses of running the 13 Lion's collections centers in this country. These centers catalog the glasses by prescription so that missionaries, and other organizations can order them to distribute around the world. We take our used glasses to the Walmart on Central in Hot Springs. Walmart takes them to a collection center. The nearest one is in Midland, Texas. In the U.S. we provide new glasses for those who qualify.

Thank you again for being a part of this worldwide mission.

Lion Lynne Harkleroad
Hot Springs Village
Evening Lions



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5: 22-25



Dear Village Bible Church Family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, phone calls and greeting cards, I received from you, during my recovery from knee replacement surgery. Your care and concerns have been and are very much appreciated and helped me to overcome the complications I had and have to deal with. You are a wonderful Church Family.

May the Lord bless you,
Ute Scharnowski

Benevolence **FUND**

This fund is used to aid our VBC family when there is a special need. Any donation to the fund would be appreciated, but should be over and above your regular giving amount. Please make your check payable to Village Bible Church and designate "Benevolence Fund" on your check or envelope. If you know of a need within our body, please notify any elder or pastor. Thank you.

Thank You

We thank our Church family for all your loving prayers, cards, and emails for our family since the homegoing of our Mother.

Your prayers were felt and so needed as our family drove in and flew in from California, Colorado, Michigan, Wisconsin and of course Arkansas. Plus, Jim officiated at the funeral service, and Ken and sister Cathy shared.

We're thanking God for His perfect timing in taking Mom home in a very gentle way, in her sleep on the morning of December 11, 2018.

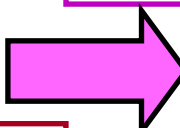
Thank you,
Jim and Ruth Neal
Ken and Casey Neal

HELP WANTED

Audio/Video Ministry - We are looking to expand the video ministry to include on-line streaming and streaming to other parts of the building. This will include some hardware installation as well as personnel to support this ministry. Audio Tech trainees needed as well. Please contact Chris Schoenfeld at 501-538-8890 or chris@vbchsv.org




Children's Church teachers - Sunday mornings during the preaching time, on rotation. Curriculum provided. Please contact Debi Scherer at 972-898-7625 or debischerer@mac.com



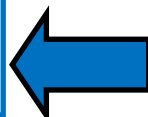
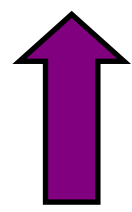
Sub for Nursery Care - Ages infant to 4 yr old. For when the nursery worker is unavailable or when enough children are present to need extra help. Please contact Pastor Jim Neal at 501-766-6789 or jim@vbchsv.org

Kitchen Cleaning Team - Men and/or women to serve on the fellowship team cleaning up after luncheons, events and situations where meals or snacks have been served. Includes cleaning tables, kitchen and washing dishes. Please contact Ron Cook at 731-697-3199 or roncook64@suddenlink.net



Congregational Support - (Individuals or small group) Congregational support supplies widows and others in need of simple home repairs, errands and situations that are occasional in nature. Please contact Chuck Hulbert at 501-204-2151 or chuckhulbert@mail.com

Creative Arts Ministry - You are invited to join the Creative Arts Ministry. If you are an artist or have creative abilities that you would like to explore, you are invited to join the Creative Arts Ministry. This team creates murals and sets as well as holding an annual art exhibit at Easter. They have regular meetings to find ways to minister to the congregation through creative arts. Please contact, Camiel Kannard 501-226-5046 or ckannard@suddenlink.net, Don Pohlman 501-915-2925 or Casey Neal 502-984-0157



VBC Care Team - The care team works to meet the needs of the congregation who are ill, homebound, hospitalized, grief support and more. The annual Care Team Luncheon will be on February 25th. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Pastor Levan at 501-353-3040 or levan@vbchsv.org

Worship Team - The worship ministry is always looking for those with talent in singing or playing an instrument to be a part of the celebration of worship. Requirements for singing are that you sing on pitch; you do not have to be able to read music. For instrumental, proficiency in playing an instrument and a great attitude. Please contact Pastor Levan at 501-353-3040 or levan@vbchsv.org



Jeff & Tracey Dixon Students, International

Greetings from Central America!

We recently celebrated 10 years of living and working in Central America! It's hard to believe how quickly 10 years have gone by. Our vision is to work with community members and outreach participants in vocational ministries to see them grow in the likeness of Christ and understand their true calling. Our current ministry site areas are: Tutoring Center, Boys and Girls Club, Creative Arts Workshop (formerly known as the "Wood Shop"), Women's Micro-finance, Community and Environmental Health, and Sports. Our multi-cultural staff work in these sites full time, teaching, discipling and building relationships in the communities; they also incorporate visiting volunteers through study abroad programs and short-term outreaches. Jeff serves as the director and supervisor for SI-CR. Both Jeff and Tracey teach for the semester study abroad program, mentor staff and enjoy opening our home to our staff and their families, as well as to many other guests.

Dixon Kids

We have 3 children: Olivia, 14, Sawyer, 12, and Lynnea, 8. Our kids will be starting the school year in February. Olivia is a 9th grader. Sawyer and Lynnea (for the first time) will be homeschooling for 7th and 3rd grade, as well as attend a small Christian school 2 days a week. Please **PRAY** for our kids as they continue to navigate friendships and life across cultures. **PRAY** that they would continually grow closer to the Lord and know his heart more deeply. Sawyer will be joining our church's youth group this year; **PRAY** that he would find a niche. All 3 kids have been involved in swimming and will likely start competing this year; **PRAY** that we find a good school/sports/church/ministry/downtime balance.

Staff Update

We are blessed to work with an amazing staff team. **PRAY** that they would draw close to Jesus daily for the strength to serve and minister. **PRAY** that they would have wisdom to counsel and make decisions for their sites. Many of our staff face challenges in their families, marriages, support raising, and health. We also walk alongside people going through very difficult situations of poverty, abuse, sickness, and hopelessness in our ministry sites. **PRAY** for stamina, rest, renewal and vision.

Ministry Site News

Our biggest news is perhaps the purchase of a Creative Arts Workshop (Wood Shop) property!

Through a series of headaches, injustices, waiting, prayer times, and miracles, God provided for SI-CR to be able to buy the property next door to our old Wood Shop. It is bigger and meets more needs than the old property we rented. Our micro-finance site has space to meet there, and they are excited to finally have a "home" after traveling around to the different communities for many years. Our Wood Shop ministry has expanded to include Art and Music, as well as woodworking. Several ladies, as well as youth (mostly young men) have been taking advantage of the classes offered.



Please **PRAY** for this new building (as well as the rest of our sites) and all of the activities that go on there, that God would USE every relationship, every Bible Study, every class, meeting and tool to draw hearts closer to Him.



Our newest site, called Community and Environmental Health, faced challenges just after getting off the ground this past year. This site partners largely with local schools to teach health, nutrition, and creation care, but was thrown off course by nationwide strikes that shut most schools down this fall. Our fearless staff improvised well and were also able to support several of our other sites in the meantime. As public schools (should) start up in February, **PRAY** for a seamless transition back into these relationships and programs, and that our staff will continue to have favor to share the good news freely.

Semester and Outreach Update

This spring we have 5 students for our study abroad program. It's a small group, but we trust that God will move in significant ways in each of these young ladies' hearts this semester. We are also expecting 3 short-term outreaches this spring, as well as a full summer of 2-week outreaches. In April, we will host the SI Board Meetings here.

Fiscal Reform and Strikes

Last fall, [] passed new fiscal reform laws that cut excessive bonuses and benefits for public employees and will raise taxes on many items and services here. This led to massive protests around the country that (among other things) shut down most schools for several months. This affected all of our ministry sites in some way, because we work with children and families; we also partner with several schools. As the reform starts to take effect, we are not sure what to expect. Please **PRAY** for peace, for schools to open, and for government stability. **PRAY** that SI-CR would continue to be a light and refuge for those that need it.

SI-CR Theme

Our staff theme this year is, "More than we can imagine," based on Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21. As a family, and as a ministry, we have many, many prayer needs, and we glorify and depend on the God who listens and answers our prayers in ways that exceed all that we can ask or imagine. We appreciate VBC's support through finances and especially through prayer! Thank you for joining us in prayer in 2019!! We know beyond a doubt that the part you play as members of this team is crucial to the expansion of the Kingdom. God is on the move; we are honored to be in this together with you.

MISSIONS  **S**
across the street & around the world

VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 4 AARP Driving Class
- 9 Take a Hike (offsite)
- 10 Baptism Sunday
& MFM Gideons
- 25 Quilting Bee



Village Bible Church ♦ 100 Ponderosa Way ♦ Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
Phone: 501-922-0404 ♦ Fax: 501-922-3697 ♦ E-mail Office@vbchsv.org
Website: vbchsv.org

**Applying the Bible
to daily life.**

Or current resident

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100 Ponderosa Way
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909