

8:30 AND 10:45 AM

SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

VINEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

**The Worship of God**

Alice Ridgeway, organist; Marti Parker, pianist  
Vineville Instrumental Ensemble, Kelly Graves, director

Welcome Dr. Bill Hardee

Music for Meditation *Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus* arr. Evans

\*Hymn 20 *Sing Praise to God* MIT FREUDEN ZART  
Children are invited to gather at the front as we sing the final stanza

Children's Sermon Dr. Hardee

Ministry of Music *Every Season* Kathryn Allred

Sermon Scripture Acts 7:1-4 Dr. Hardee  
Pages 1302 in the pew Bible

*This is the Word of God*

**Thanks be to God**

\*Hymn 208 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving Suzanne Boyd

Offertory

Ministry of Music *Give Us a Vision* Choplin

Sermon **Possessing a Vision** Dr. Hardee

\*Hymn of Response 281 *Speak to My Heart* HOLCOMB

Benediction

Postlude

\**Congregation Standing*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given in honor of Mary Nelson on the occasion of her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, given by her family, Ann, Richard, Eric, Laura and Ethan Purser*

***From the Pastor. . .***

**June Smith**—Today, we celebrate June Smith in a retirement reception from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. A brief program will be held at 3:00 p.m. A basket for cards of memories and blessings will be available at the entrance.

**Old Testament Survey**—Dr. Rick Wilson, Chair of the Roberts Department of Christianity at Mercer University, will lead us in a third installment as he gives to us an overview of the Old Testament. The classes begin tonight, in M-106 from 4:00–6:00 p.m. Childcare is provided.

**Come to Worship, at Home**—Our worship services are now being broadcast live over the internet. If you have the misfortune of not being able to be at Vineville on Sunday, go to our website and click on the live feed button.

**Our Four Commitments**—Our ministerial and lay leadership have recognized that there are four deep values that are a part of our decision-making at Vineville; Excellence, Freedom, Growth, and Health. Today, we focus on Growth.

I grew up in the city, but we were frequently visiting the family farms—one outside of Odom, Georgia, and the other near Live Oak, Florida. Cotton, corn, tobacco, beans, peas, squash, okra, tomatoes, and sugarcane were part of our lives. To this day, I miss much of the fresh produce that I took for granted as a child. I observed, however, that not all plants were able to produce their fruit. Weeds were a bane. They could leach rich nutrients out of the soil that would stunt the other plants. Hoeing was an unending task. Fertilizer would often be required to create conditions for the best growth. Sometime, we would water vegetables from a deep well so they would not shrivel up in the summer heat and rainless weeks. *In short, I learned that growing things was not simply a matter of putting seeds in the ground—the plants had to be tended.* It took a great deal of work to get them to where they could return their bounty.

I have also observed that not all people grow healthy fruitful lives. While we all grow up physically, it is required—growing emotionally, personally, and spiritually is optional. Most of us will learn certain lessons as a byproduct of living. But so much of life's richness is lost where we do not observe what is helpful or hurtful and then reflect on such lessons of life. There are weeds that grow up all around us. Weeds like superficiality, resentment, fear, stress, hardness, and a critical spirit. I have been surprised that most people I have observed choose not to hoe down those weeds. *The longer weeds are allowed to grow unchecked, the harder it becomes to eradicate them.*

Sometimes the ground is hard and packed, it needs a plow or hoe to break up the soil. The soul can also be closed and rigid. Maybe life was too hard and they retreated in order to focus on what they needed. *The result is that there is not a lot such people are able to give—they feel they don't have enough for themselves.* They are just surviving trying to find a little love and light to get by.

Plants need things outside themselves: light, water, fertilizer. People also need things outside themselves: love, encouragement, blessing, understanding, correction, inspiration,

hope, joy. While we need such gifts from others, we also have to give ourselves those gifts. *We are each responsible for our own life.* Often we need to break up the hard-packed soil of the soul. Often, we need to put ourselves in places where we can be encouraged and loved. Often, we need to tend to the Spirit who is able to produce the fruit of love, joy, and peace within us.

God has placed us in this world not to live and die but to grow into the likeness of his son, Jesus. The moment of conversion is not the end point, but a new beginning for us. Repentance was not a one time event in coming to Christ. *When we initially believed, we did not understand all the things from which we needed to turn.* Repentance is a tool we need to use daily. If we cease to tend the garden of our soul, the weeds will overtake us and the possibilities for richness in life will be delayed if not ended.

What is true of us as individuals is also true as families, churches, communities, and nations. May God grant us the vision of growth and the passion to pursue it. *It will entail a passion for truth, yearning for wisdom, sharing of life with others, conversations with God, worship with the people of God, and discovering a place of deep centering within ourselves to release a river of peace.*

**ORGAN CONCERT** - Join us on **Saturday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary as we welcome back **Kui-Im Lee**. Everyone present will surely be blessed by her gift of music, so invite your family, friends and neighbors!

**MEN'S MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP**, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE ACTIVITIES BUILDING. Our speaker is Ben Jones, Chief Meteorologist for 13WMAZ Eyewitness News Weather. Ben started his broadcasting career at the age of 17 in radio and now has over 15 years of broadcast experience. His hobbies include listening to music, cheering on the Atlanta Braves, enjoying time with his kids and spending time with his family, which as you probably know includes our Financial Administrator, Peggy Jones and our own Huldah Lee and Carl and Linda Shurley!

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NEEDED** for the weekday children's program in Haiti:

- children's clothes/shoes (new/used)
- children's vitamins
- bar soap (any size, any brand)
- plastic drinking glasses, 4 to 6 oz.

If you are able to donate any of these items, please bring them to the Haiti drop box outside the church office. *Thank you!*

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT**, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. IN THE ACTIVITIES BUILDING. Join us for a time of fun and fellowship. Hot dogs will be served and we will hold our annual chili cook-off. We will also have bingo, inflatables and children's activities.

**THIS WEEK AT VINEVILLE**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

8:30 AM Worship

9:15 AM Media Library  
9:35 AM Bible Study  
10:45 AM Worship  
2:00 PM Reception for June Smith  
4:00 PM Old Testament Bible Study  
4:00 PM Youth Choir  
5:00 PM Youth Supper  
5:30 PM Youth Bible Study

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

9:00 AM Mothers' Morning Out

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

10:30 AM Yoga/Stretching Class

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1**

9:00 AM Media Library  
5:30 PM Vineville Brass  
5:30 PM Children's Choirs  
5:45 PM Family Night Supper  
6:15 PM Media Library  
6:20 PM Mission Friends  
6:30 PM Youth Bible Study  
6:35 PM Kingdom Kids  
6:50 PM Family Worship  
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2**

10:30 AM Yoga/Stretching Class

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3**

9:00 AM Mothers' Morning Out

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4**

7:00 PM Kui-Im Lee in Concert

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**

8:30 AM Worship  
9:15 AM Media Library  
9:35 AM Bible Study  
10:45 AM Worship  
2:30 PM Adult Handbells  
4:00 PM Old Testament Bible Study  
4:00 PM Youth Choir  
5:00 PM Youth Supper  
5:30 PM Youth Bible Study

**REPORT- Sunday, September 21**

**ATTENDANCE**

Bible Study	314
8:30 Worship	123
10:45 Worship	255

**STEWARDSHIP**

Budget Gifts	\$13,215
Budget Gifts (YTD)	\$774,043
Budget Required (YTD)	\$868,141
YTD% Budget Giving	89.2%
Following Christ 2 (YTD)	\$ 24,627

**THE SEPTEMBER WMU MISSION FOCUS** is State Missions. Our goal is \$3,000.