

# 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

## JANUARY 2012

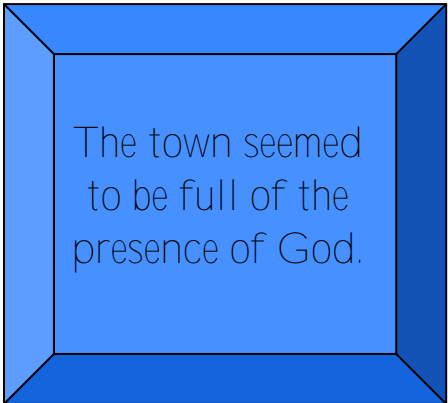
### It Can Happen Again

| by Dr. Mark D. Cain

By most people's opinions 2012 will be a pivotal year for our nation. During the next months I plan to use many of these newsletter articles to highlight specific issues that will be important during the election campaigns. I will not endorse candidates, nor a party, but I will endeavor to bring before you specific biblical passages on critical issues such as marriage, life, poverty etc. so that you might make a biblically-informed voting decision.

But first, I want to reiterate a point I made late last year: Your candidate or politician whoever he or she may be, is not the ultimate solution to our country's greatest needs. Yes, we should be active, involved and voting. But fundamentally I hold out to you the biblical and historical precedent of genuine revival as the ultimate solution.

One way to think of revival is "*times of refreshing...from the presence of the Lord,*" Acts 3:19. God's felt presence is so real that all can sense Him. It is a historical fact that this has happened on a large geographical scale before.



The town seemed  
to be full of the  
presence of God.

Most of New England experienced God's powerful presence in the First Great Awakening of the 1740's. Again, especially in what was then America's frontier of Kentucky, a Second Great Awakening waxed and waned from 1800 to approximately 1830. Preparing thousands for eternity just before the Civil War, the Layman's Prayer Revival of 1857 began in New York City and spread west, touching down across this land all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The twentieth century records numerous "regional revivals" as the Welsh Revival of 1904 leapt the Atlantic and came to America, and then several college campuses experienced awakenings throughout our land.

God can do it again. Read carefully eyewitness accounts: Of Northampton, MA, 1735, Jonathan Edwards: "There was scarcely a single person in the town, either old or young, that was left unconcerned about the great things of the eternal world ... The town seemed to be full of the presence of God." Of the Isle of Lewis off the west coast of Scotland, Duncan Campbell said it was "a community saturated with God."

What if the greatest need in America is not government gridlock, economic greed and mismanagement, media immorality or educational system breakdowns? What if the greatest need is the "accepted complacency" among God's people? We are content to be lukewarm, Revelation 3:16. What if it starts with me, with you?

Let's keep our theology straight. Revival is truly God-sent, not human-programmed. But that doesn't mean we are resigned to paralyzed passivity. I like the balance captured in Vance Havner's words: *We cannot create the fires of revival, but we can provide the kindling wood.* One unmistakable stick of spiritual kindling wood is *believing prayer*. Asking God to work a miracle in our nation. Echoing the Psalmist, "*Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?*" Psalm 85:6, NKJV. Praying for a mighty moving of God's Almighty Spirit.

What if 2012 goes down in history not first of all as the year "so and so" was elected, but the year "God came down and manifested His presence in America?" If not, it won't be because I didn't ask. How about you?

Praying For Revival With You,

Pastor Mark



## Ministry Staff

Dr. Mark D. Cain, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Mike Kelly, Executive Pastor  
Rev. Levan Hubbard, Pastor of Care and Admin.  
Barbi Mirenda, Assistant to Pastor Mark  
Terry Christensen, Administrative Assistant  
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## Deadline for next issue:

Due date for the next issue is *January 18*, at 5:00 pm. Information should be provided by email or on digital media.  
[vbcchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vbcchurch@sbcglobal.net)

## Church Office Hours:

Monday– Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
501-922-0404  
501-922-3697 (fax)  
100 Ponderosa Way  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

## DINNER SIX—January, February & March

What a great time to make new friends and grow closer to those who might be just “acquaintances”. Dinner Six..An opportunity to get together with two other couples OR singles and enjoy getting to know each other via good food and conversations.

You will meet in each home once a month. The host couple will provide the entrée and the others will bring a dessert or salad.

There are NO real rules about Dinner Six. If you want to have more than six....Invite others. If it's a “busier” than usual month and it's your turn to host, maybe you all meet somewhere for dinner and come back to your home to play a game and have dessert, etc.



We have a wonderful fellowship, full of lovely, friendly people, this is just another way to meet some “new friends” you might not otherwise have the chance to meet. You can sign up via the communication card in the bulletin or call the church office, 922-0404. Any questions? Call Roxy Tooley, 922-0700

# 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.

Would you like to learn more about Village Bible Church and the Evangelical Free Church of America? Are you interested in learning how VBC is different or similar to other churches you have attended? Would you like to learn what it means to be a “member” of VBC?



Join us on January 8th and 15<sup>th</sup> for **Discover VBC!**. These informative classes (held during the Group Study time after the worship service) will answer your questions.

**Discover VBC** is the first step towards membership. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join VBC – but it allows you to understand what we believe AND why! In just two sessions, you will learn the history of VBC, and our purpose, structure, and mission plan.

Pre-registration is requested. Sign up at [www.vbcchurch.com](http://www.vbcchurch.com) (“About Us”), on the communication card in the bulletin, or by calling the church office at 922-0404.

# Heartfelt Thanks

Excerpts from thank you notes

**My loving and caring family at Village Bible Church, Thank you for being there for me when I needed you the most. I love you all.**

**Jim Petzold**

**Thank you and all the VBC friends who provided such great meals while I was recovering from neck surgery.**

**Jack McKinney**

**Thomas and I are very grateful for the many prayer warriors who have lifted us up during this challenging time. All the wonderful & encouraging cards have been so very helpful in making each day a little better.**

**Sharron & Thomas Chesnutt**



The staff says “Thank You!” to the congregation of VBC for your generous Christmas gifts. It is our privilege to serve such a loving and giving congregation.

## Men’s Bible Study

Men’s Tuesday Evening Bible Study starts on January 24, at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall with Ray Vander Laan Series “ That the World May Know”.

On January 24, we will start with Volume 1: Promised Land and conclude with Volume 2: Prophets and Kings. There is no cost and no registration required.

For additional information you may contact Dick Leach, 922-1883 or Hal Street, 922-3814.



**Max Billen & Dotty Burke**

Max & Dotty moved here from St. Louis, MO. Max is originally from Edmund, Oklahoma. Before retirement, he was a cartographer for the U.S. Government. Following the example of his wife, he was drawn to church attendance and resultant belief which led him to accepting Christ as his personal savior and baptism in September of 2010.

Dotty was baptized at VBC on November 18, 2008. This is a result of being a part of a neighborhood Bible study group led by a member of Village Bible Church. She had been baptized as an infant but felt the need to acknowledge Christ as her savior. Before retirement, Dotty ran her own medical sales distribution company.

Max & Dotty were introduced during the December 11 service

# Welcome to our new members!

Dick moved to the Village from Oklahoma and is originally from South Dakota. He was a preacher’s kid and accepted Christ in his father’s church in South Dakota. Dick attended seminary and became a Methodist Pastor and Professor of Philosophy and Religion. His life verse is John 9:25 “One thing I know, whereas I was blind, now I can see.” Dick says it is refreshing to worship and study God’s word with a church full of believers.

Dick was introduced during the December 11 service.



**Dick Leach**

## Inclement Weather

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)

KARK TV, Channel 4

Our Website: [vbcchurch.com](http://vbcchurch.com)

VBC Answering Machine: 922-0404



## A Place To Belong

Village Bible Church is blessed to have good Bible teaching every Sunday morning. We have many ministries to choose from which allow members to use their spiritual gifts in service to each other and our community.

Every Sunday morning we can come and worship, be taught and enjoy seeing one another between services. But, can we really get to know each other in such a limited time? Can we expect to form significant relationships unless we spend time together in a smaller setting?

We believe that the “small group” method really works in establishing a framework for relationships, enjoying ministry together, having fellowship, and caring for one another like a “family”. Many people in our church have come from other places where a “small group” ministry was very important to them. Others have not experienced the benefits of being in a “small group”.

In the coming weeks, you will be presented with a renewed vision for Small Groups at Village Bible Church. Pastor Mark will be teaching a series of messages on the purpose and importance of Small Groups in the early church on January 29, February 5, and February 12, with emphasis on why it is still important today.

We believe that Small Groups provide members with “A Place to Belong...” We invite you to look with us over the next few weeks at the new face of small groups here at VBC. You will be meeting the current group leaders/facilitators in the lobby and opportunities to hear testimonies about how our current groups are meeting needs within our church. You will also hear a clear presentation of how to become a part of a small group.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more information that will be coming soon! The official kickoff for Small Groups will be January 29, 2012.

Michele Beale



## Annual Congregational Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend our very important Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday evening, January 18, beginning at 6:00pm for potluck and fellowship followed by the business meeting at 7:00pm. 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 on our ministry teams and VBC 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. Look for the display table on Sunday, January 8 & 15 to sign up for the potluck.

Preview packets will be available Sunday, January 8.

## The purpose of Village Bible Church is to glorify God by making disciples who become growing and SERVING followers of Jesus Christ.

### Culture of Service at VBC: Part 2

#### The Portrait of a Servant

Charles Swindoll in his book, *Improving your Service, The Art of Unselfish Living* paints a portrait of what a servant should look like.

Christ, in “The Sermon on the Mount” (Matt 5, 6, & 7) told us that we will be different than those of the world. Swindoll believes that best description of a Christian **servant** is found in “The Beatitudes.” (Matt 5: 1 – 12)

Let’s take a look at this beautiful passage, and the character traits that are all found in a true servant – they are not multiple choice.

1. **Poor in spirit...** – William Barclay states that “poor” in Hebrew was used to describe someone who is humble and helpless who puts their whole trust in God. A true servant trusts God with their whole heart.
2. **Those who mourn...** – A true servant is a compassionate person. They sincerely care for others.
3. **The gentle...** – Gentleness is described by the Greeks to have strength under control. A true servant will be tactful, courteous, calm, and peaceful and will treat others with dignity and respect.
4. **Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...** – A true servant is passionate in their pursuit of God. They are unwilling to ignore the corruption of this world but press on for righteousness.
5. **The merciful...** – A merciful person does not merely feel sorry for or sympathize with the hurting. A true servant “gets inside the skin” of a hurting person. Jesus demonstrated this best - *And the Word (Jesus) became flesh, and dwelt among us...* (John 1:14). A true servant truly cares, and they get involved and “dirty”.
6. **The pure in heart...** – God desires us to be “real”, authentic people. Jesus hated the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of His day. Consider the “Woe to you” passages of Matthew 23. A true servant is true and honest in motive.
7. **The peacemakers...** – A true servant is someone who is at peace with themselves and strives to make peace with those around them.
8. **Those who have been persecuted...** – We all have probably experienced some of the wrong treatment that can be “dished out” by “those of the world” as we pursue our Christian witness. However, some can also come from our own Christian family (hopefully gentler in nature) as we strive to serve others. A true servant endures these and focuses on the rewards God promises in this passage.

So Jesus has described here not only a servant but also the character traits desirable in every Christian. We trust that as you contemplate His message in “The Beatitudes” you will come to understand how they can be applied to your life.

Serving Him with You,

Your Elder Board

### Monthly Memory Verses



2012 will be our 4th year of memorizing one Bible verse a month as a church family. Not only do we have many new people with us, we also have many of us who’ve been around...whose “forgettory” works better than our memory. So, for this year, our Scripture memory verse of the month program will focus on review of select verses from previous years.

For January lets focus on God’s presence with us amidst the unknowns of the year ahead and for ‘new beginnings’:

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

## Elder Anointing for the Sick

The Elders of Village Bible Church endeavor to be guided by the Bible in their responsibilities. Among the passages that direct them is James 5:14 - *Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him.* The Elders stand ready to obey this passage and respond to the request of anyone in the church who would ask for prayer and anointing. Please contact any elder or pastor for more information or to set up a convenient time for prayer.



*Coming this  
spring...the next  
GriefShare seminar.*

*Watch future news-  
letter/bulletin for  
dates.*

**Benefit Concert for Change Point  
and Mission: Pre-Born  
Featuring Rebecca St. James**

**January 21, 2012 @  
First Baptist Church in Hot  
Springs, AR**

At press time no time was given

## VBC TO BECOME MEMBER OF CHAMBER

You too can be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony welcoming Village Bible Church to the Hot Springs Village Chamber of Commerce. Join us on January 19 at 11:00am in front of the church.

## Financial Report

General Fund Results thru November 30, 2011

### General Fund

Planned Giving (What we expected to receive)	\$ 866,375
Actual Giving (What was actually received)	<u>\$ 802,125</u>
Giving vs. Plan (We received LESS than we planned)	<b>\$ (64,250)</b>
Planned Expenses (What we planned to spend)	\$ 899,793
Actual Expenses (What we actually spent)	<u>\$ 841,871</u>
Result (We spent LESS than we planned)	<b>\$ 57,922</b>
Actual Giving (What we received)	\$ 802,125
Actual Expenses (What we spent)	<u>\$ 841,871</u>
Giving vs. Expenses (We spent MORE than we received)	<b>\$ (39,746)</b>

**As you can see from the figures above, the difference between our giving and expenses is growing. Please give to the General Fund to the best of your ability.**

Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

### The Church Publications

#### Sunday Bulletin:

Information to be included in the Sunday bulletin must be submitted by noon on Wednesday.

#### Prayer Sheet:

Prayer requests may be submitted at any time. You may call them in or send the request via email (terrymchristensen@sbcglobal.net). Information to be included on the prayer sheet must be submitted by 1:00 pm on Wednesday.

#### VBC Family Newsletter:

The due date for the next month's articles is posted in the newsletter. As with the bulletin, information should be provided by email (barbimirenda@sbcglobal.net) or on digital media.

#### 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.



If you are moving, or have an email or phone number change, please contact the Church Office so we may update our records accordingly.

Thank You!



## Ministry Spotlight - What does it take to put together a WORSHIP service?

It is Sunday and we have all just met together for a worship time that lasts for over an hour. It seems easy to come to church, sing the songs, listen to the sermon, read the bulletin, be greeted in the foyer by greeters and in the auditorium by ushers, have cookies and juice during the fellowship time.....well, you get the picture.

All these ingredients that are experienced on Sunday mornings do not just happen. There are many people who work hard to put together the 75 minute Sunday morning experience. I want to share a little about the worship team's role and what it takes. We have the best staff to work with that could be found anywhere. The office staff plays a great role in preparing for the worship service. The words to the songs that are projected on the screen are prepared by the office staff weekly and placed on the computer in the auditorium. Have you noticed the better graphics/backgrounds that support the song lyrics? This comes from our new Pro Presenter software and Brad Justice has been a great help in learning and helping us be able to use it better. There are other volunteers like Randy Reek and Don Horstman that work in the video booth on occasion.

The Choir meets for at least an hour and a half each Wednesday evening and another 30 to 45 minutes before the service on Sunday mornings. This group which averages 40 people work hard to lead worship on Sunday mornings and are sounding really good lately. Donna Matthews and Rebecca Coplin are our accompanists. Many hours are spent at home practicing, helping me find the appropriate music, arranging the preludes, postludes, offertories and helping line up which other musicians will play on a weekly basis. Jack Dohme does an excellent job on the bass and is always excited about what we are doing. Jane Cain & Laurie Reed add so much spice with their flutes. Russ Foris, our professional sound man, meets with the choir weekly and works to make the sound as good as possible for each week's needs.

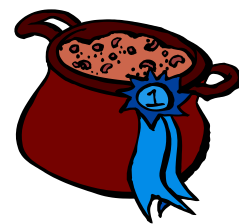
There is also a team of volunteers including Micki Ruch, Jan McCorquodale, Barb Jakosh and Joanne Slumpff and some others, who file the music, keep an inventory, put new music in folders, pull music from folders, find soundtracks, look for music, etc. These ladies make it possible for me to use my time more wisely in planning and preparing the music and worship ingredients. A worship ministry team has been assembled that meets monthly and includes the instrumentalists, a representative from the video ministry & Mike & Jeanne Walters from the worship task force. We discuss how things have been going, how they can be improved and share ideas about things that would make our worship time better and more meaningful. I have found this to be very helpful. I am always on the lookout for songs that speak to me and ideas that would make the worship service more meaningful. I am privileged to work with such a great team of people.

When you come to church, I hope you are able to truly worship. The following quote sums up my ideology: "Perspiration in the preparation gives inspiration in the presentation".  
Pastor Levan

## CALLING ALL MUSICIANS - It's a Chili Bowl!!!



January is football finals and bowl season. In that spirit, the Village Bible Church music department is looking for some champions to help with a successful worship season. Sunday evening January 29 at 4:00PM you are invited to participate in a fun evening we are calling the **Chili Bowl** to discover the talent at Village Bible Church. This is your opportunity to experience the choir for an evening without obligation.



The first half will include singing well known songs that the VBC worship choir enjoys singing. It will be relaxed and full of fun. The half-time performance will include games and a meal of chili and fixings. Before the second half, I will share what it will take to have a winning squad for a successful worship choir. The second half will include previewing some music that we will be learning for the spring and in particular the Easter service at the Woodlands.

If you have had an interest in singing and need an occasion to check it out, this is it. You do not have to be able to read music, just a basic ability to sing on key, a willingness to learn and a great desire to worship. We hope to also discover those who might play an instrument or have an interest in operating the video booth on rotation.

**Guys, this is not just for ladies. We need men!** We are working to schedule the event so as not to interfere with other major bowl games during the month of January. If you attend this event, you are not obligated to join the choir. I just hope you like it so well you will want to continue. If you are interested in participating, all we ask is that you sign up at the table in the foyer on Sunday, January 15 or Sunday January 22, at the welcome center or call the church office, 922-0404, so we can get an accurate number of participants.



It has been my desire to see the choir loft full of people and meet our full potential of talent at VBC. That could happen on January 29 at the Chili Bowl with your help.

This is a bowl that even the ladies could enjoy.

Pastor Levan

# JANUARY

2 | Office Closed

8 | 10:50 am | Discover VBC! Class

10 | 2:30 pm | Quarterly Ministry Council mtg

15 | 10:50 am | Discover VBC! Class

18 | 6:00 pm | Annual Congregational Meeting

**24 | 6:00 pm | Men's Bible Study begins**

29 | 4:00 pm | Choir Chili Bowl

## FEBRUARY

**1 & 2 | Women's Spring Bible Study classes begin**

Applying the Bible to  
daily life.



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