

The Shiloh Visitor

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m.



April 2009

A monthly newsletter from Shiloh Baptist Church

Glorifying God by ... Reaching, Building, Serving

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Transition Team Update

*Leadership and Decision Making Sub-group
by Bonnie Bowen*

Glorifying God by ...

Reaching

Building

Serving

At a recent Transition Team meeting I heard the phrase “glacier process.” The phrase peeked my interest. Glaciers do move very s-l-o-w and at times I am sure I have felt this way with the transition process. I compared this glacier phrase with the phrase “do it right the first time and it will not have to be redone.” Even though this transition process has taken a long time, there is light at the end of the tunnel. I am a believer in doing things right the first time so I do not have to spend time doing things over. I do not know about you, but doing things over is a waste of time for me. The process has been slow, but we have been very methodical in our methods and in our task. We all continue to pray for God’s guidance and direction in all that we think, discuss, act upon and complete. This process is not about the members of the transition team; it is about seeking God and his direction for Shiloh Baptist Church.

Our church just passed our new mission and vision statement at the March 15 business meeting. I pray that we all will have an earnest desire to be a part of this exciting time in Shiloh’s history. Each of us needs to ask ourselves these three questions. Am I reaching others for Christ? Am I building others up in the faith? Am I serving where God would have me serve? Perhaps you have heard the phrase “if a church is healthy, it will grow.” Is our church healthy yet? Just like our physical health, when a person is sick, they visit a doctor for help to get well or at least get on the road to recovery. When a person is sick spiritually, what does a person do? Does that person complain, gripe, fuss, bicker, pull away from the body of believers, or blame someone else for the hard times? Or does the person seek God, read his word daily, pray, listen, cry to God and be submissive and obedient to what God ask? The transition team is all about seeking God, His wisdom and being obedient.

The Constitution and Bylaws have been reviewed and modified by the attorney assisting with the incorporation process. Mr. Showers has modified the Constitution and Bylaws to assure that Shiloh Baptist Church is legally compliant and Biblically sound. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Leadership and Decision Making Sub-group have reviewed these changes. Each committee will soon receive their section of the bylaws that they will need to review. Once all committees have reviewed their sections

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DOWN MEMORY LANE



Pastor Jim Meade and his wife, Chris, served the Lord with passion.

Rod Meade and his family faithfully served Shiloh Baptist Church in numerous capacities throughout the years. One of the many contributions of his father, Rev. James C. Meade, pastor of Shiloh from 1973-1985, was the creation of the church newsletter, *The Shiloh Visitor*, “the first issue going out in September 1973.” In the August 31, 1977, issue, Rev. Meade published this poem to illustrate the importance of tithing:

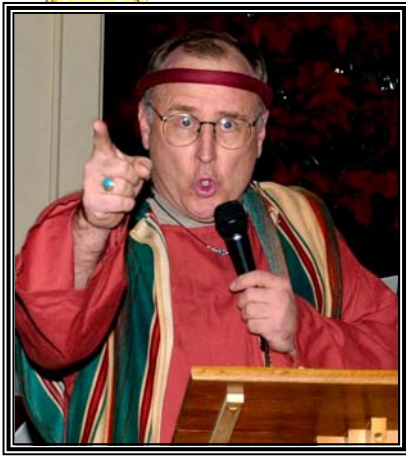
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In the Spotlight...

Rod Meade — With a Song in His Heart

by Jane Heath



he was in first grade, finished college at Virginia Tech with a degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation, worked six months for Sears and Roebuck, and had met the girl of his dreams. Did I mention he spent summers as counselor at the Royal Ambassador Camp at Peaks of Otter outside Bedford, was elected President of Virginia Royal Ambassadors when he was a senior in high school, and served as state representative for one year?

When I asked Rod how his love of singing began, he told me that when he was a child, his family used to sing hymns in the car during family travels. Older brothers Ray and Tim and baby sister Joy all participated in making joyful noises to the Lord. His first solo for an audience other than family occurred when he was in fourth grade and a member of the youth choir at church. After his rendition of "Fairest Lord Jesus" was concluded, he knew he wanted to be a singer for Jesus. Since his voice did not change until he was in ninth grade, he had many more opportunities to sing soprano solos for his appreciative audiences. In seventh and eighth grade, he took voice as well as piano lessons. During his middle and high school years he participated in numerous All District and Regional Chorus competitions. All of these activities played a part in his role as song leader here at Shiloh. He first began leading the congregational singing when his dad became our pastor and has continued to serve in that capacity until the present with the exception of time off when Marcie Morris and Jim McCord were our choir directors. Having been a faithful member of our choir since 1974, Rod has also been a member of various men's quartets over the years, singing with the likes of DeWitt Thorne, Jim McCord, Don West, John Sellers, Tony Whitehouse, and John Storke to mention just a few. Whenever four men could get together to sing, you could be sure Rod was one of them.

Shortly after the Meade family's King George arrival in February of 1973, Randy Vaughn, Assistant Superintendent of King George Schools, hired Rod to replace Buddy Updike as a health and physical education teacher at King George High School. In 1977, Rod was appointed Athletic Director and held that position until 1982 when he accepted a full-time position at the middle school. Prior to that, he had traveled between the high school, middle school and elementary schools. There was one year when he taught at all three schools every day, so he was ready for the slower pace the middle school assignment promised. While at KGHS, Rod initiated a wrestling program and was the first coach, holding that job for five years. In 1976, he began work on a master's degree in Administration and Supervision through UVA and completed all requirements in 1978. Before his retirement in 2006, he had taught driver's education and served as

Rod has played many lead roles in church musicals and dramas. He is shown here as the innkeeper in the 2002 musical, "Come and Worship: A Christmas Invitation."

Looking over my notes after interviewing Brother Rod, it occurred to me that he needed to be a much older man than he actually is in reality. It's hard to believe he's crammed all the activities, adventures, service and so much life into just fifty-some years. What is more surprising is that he shows no signs of slowing down! As I thought about how best to share his story, one idea kept popping up. Whatever task he undertook, be it willingly or unwillingly, he always had a song in his heart. Sometimes the songs were joyful, and sometimes the songs helped him deal with stress or sadness. Always the songs acknowledged his reliance on his Lord and Savior.

I first met Rod when his dad, Reverend James C. Meade, became pastor at Shiloh in 1973. He (Rod, not his dad) was still wet behind the ears then, but his musical repertoire was already full of happy songs. By the time he arrived at Shiloh, Rod had lived in several places in the great Commonwealth of Virginia including Roanoke where he was born, Martinsville, Norfolk, Richmond, and Colonial Heights. He had been bedridden for almost a year with polio at age five (stricken just before the vaccine became available), accepted Christ when

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assistant principal at King George Elementary School in addition to being a health and physical education teacher. He was a member of the Virginia Education Association and the King George Education Association from 1982 until 2006. As a KGEA member, he served as building representative, vice president, president elect, and president. He was on the VEA Board of Directors for four years and has served a two-year term as Representative of the First District VEA Retired. During all those years he worked tirelessly on budget committees to ensure that our county teachers were fairly compensated. I was already at the middle school when Rod came on board full time, and I remember hearing him humming, whistling, or singing in the

gym, the teacher's lounge, or just walking down the halls. Granted, there were some days he was singing through clenched teeth, but he was singing nevertheless. We all had days like that now and again. It's an inherent part of being a teacher. One of the nicer things about the teaching profession, though, is the summer break. During those months, Rod was able to devote himself full time to his vocation, getting out of the classroom and focusing on the great outdoors.

Rod began his lawn service in the late 70's when he took over the job of cutting grass in the church's cemetery. Back then all he had was a push mower and an electric weed eater with an extension cord that he fed through the nursery window and plugged into an outlet there. Soon he was cutting grass for widows in the church and gradually branched out to commercial properties. All of his advertising was through word of mouth, and before long he had more work than he could handle. In the summers, he worked full time remarking, "It was great exercise, and I could listen to music on my Walkman. Life was good." His equipment has improved since then, and he still enjoys putting in a full day's labor outdoors wearing headphones that pipe sermons or music into his body.

In addition to being our director of congregational singing, Rod has held many other positions of service in and out of the church. In the early years, he and wife Cindy were responsible for the weekly church bulletin. Together on Saturdays they would cut the stencil, run it on a hand-cranked machine, fold it and have it ready for Sunday morning. His first experience teaching a Sunday school class occurred when he helped his mom Chris with her class of youngsters. After first daughter Cara was born, Rod and Cindy taught the first and second graders. In a couple of years second daughter Joanna came along, but this did not hamper his involvement in the church. He served a term as Sunday School Superintendent, was ordained as a deacon, taught Sunday school classes for adults, college age, middle school and high school while helping with Royal Ambassadors. Rod was also part of Shiloh's first bus ministry. He would

arrive at church, get the bus, pick up kids, teach Sunday school, lead the congregational singing, sing in the choir, drive the bus to take kids home, return to church and then go home. That was way too much on anybody's plate, but he saw the need and did what he could to meet it. Rod has served on several pastor search committees, has done extensive research on church school curriculum when Shiloh was contemplating a church school, and is presently on the Transition Team. Currently, he is a member of Gideons International and has served as secretary and vice president of the King George Camp. Whenever there is a musical or drama presentation by the church, Rod usually has a major part putting the song in his heart out there for all to enjoy. And if all that isn't enough, he served as an EMT on the Dahlgren Volunteer Rescue Squad for ten years. See what I mean about all the things he has crammed into so few years?

Rod is grateful for all the songs in his life, even the not-so-happy ones. He lost a kidney to cancer in 1992 and after almost 30 years and two beautiful daughters, his marriage ended in 1999. During that same year he lost his dad to cancer. Today, when he thinks of the valleys, he rejoices in the mountaintops that have resulted because of them. "Every challenge I have had, the Lord has used to help me relate to folks who've had similar circumstances. When you've been down that road, you are better able to help someone else navigate it, and that is what I try to do."

Life since retirement has afforded time for Rod to pursue two things he truly loves to do. First of all he has more time to visit his two daughters and other family members. Cara, whose lifelong love of horses led her to pursue an equestrian career, lives part of the year in Kentucky and winters in Florida. Second daughter Joanna chose a business career and is closer to home in Baltimore. Colonial Heights is where Mom Chris makes her home with her other two sons nearby. Sister Joy chose a navy career, and Rod sees her quite often. Secondly, his newest hobby, and his story is not complete without mentioning it, gets more attention now. Even though he teaches

part time at Fredericksburg Christian High School and continues his seasonal lawn care business, he is able to devote more time to his love of ballroom dancing. It is not unusual for him to be out three or more nights a week kicking up his heels. Well, kicking may not be the best way to describe it, but he gets a lot of pleasure out of being on the dance floor.

When I think of my Christian Brother Rod, I can't help but admire the way he always manages to put a positive spin on everything. If life (aka Satan) gets him down, he doesn't let it keep him there. He's always looking for that silver lining behind the cloud and finding it with a song in his heart. ☺



VBS 2009

1 John 4:9

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Teachers and Helpers

Stop by the VBS booth on April 5th either before Sunday School or before or after worship for information about VBS 2009 and to pick up VBS materials. The booth will also be open on Wednesday, April 8th before, during and after our meal and scheduled programs. Contact Mark Morgan with any questions.

Transition Team Update

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and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee have received revisions, the church will be given an opportunity for review. It is very important that each member reviews the updates and provides feedback. The revised Constitution and Bylaws, with all the input from committees and members, will be voted on at the June business meeting. Be sure to read and study the updates to be current with the proposed changes. ☺

P.O. Box 232 · Jersey, VA 22481
RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Down Memory Lane
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There's No Pocket in a Shroud

Use your money while you are living,
Do not hoard it to be proud;
You can never take it with you—
There's no pocket in a shroud.

Gold can help you on no farther,
Than the graveyard where you lie,
And though you are rich while living
You're a pauper when you die.

Use it then some lives to brighten,
As through life the weary plod;
Place your bank account in heaven
And grow richer toward your God.

Use it wisely, use it freely,
Do not hoard it to be proud;
You can never take it with you—
There's no pocket in a shroud.

(from the Shiloh Baptist Church minutes) &



The Shiloh Visitor

Shiloh Baptist Church, 13457 Kings Hwy, King George, VA 22485

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The Shiloh visitor is published monthly as an official communications medium for Shiloh Baptist Church. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

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REACHING

BUILDING

SERVING

Special Called Business Meeting—April 5

A Special Called Business Meeting will be held on 5 April 2009 directly after the Sunday Morning worship service to vote on the following motion from the 15 March 2009 Regular Business Meeting. Motion made and seconded to advertise a Special Called Business Meeting in two weeks to vote on whether to apply \$25,000.00 to our Building Debt Retirement or back into a Rainy Day Fund.

Easter Extravaganza!!! - April 11th from 11 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars and Join in the Fun!!!

Donations of pre-wrapped candy, small enough to fit in plastic eggs are needed. Please drop off donations in the designated containers near the office. We also need 6 people to help with crafts-contact Mark Morgan.

Easter Sunrise Service—April 12 at 7 a.m.

Join us for our Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on Sunday morning, April 12th. We will enjoy time of fellowship, with breakfast be served, directly following the service.

Shiloh Hosts Musical—April 18th at 7 p.m.

On April 18th at 7 p.m. we will host a fundraising event, a musical, featuring Bob Stone and the Virginia Gospel Singers in the Family Life Center. A love offering will be taken to help reduce our Family Life Center mortgage.

New Women's Bible Study—Sundays and Tuesdays

“Are you ready to hear God speak to you?” Then you must prepare yourself. Before we can speak to God, we must be prepared to hear from God. Come to this new Women's Bible Study **starting on April 19th** in the Family Life Center. Study Times: Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. If you can not attend either the Sunday or Tuesday study, **DO NOT WORRY**, there is a paperback book that you can read! The books is about preparing your heart and soul to hear from God. Please join us in this Bible Study or read along with us as, together, we begin preparing ourselves to hear from God.

