



The

# Shiloh Visitor

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

A monthly newsletter from Shiloh Baptist Church

April 2011

*Glorifying God by ... Reaching, Building, Serving*

Rev. Michael Jessee, Pastor  
Rev. Mark Morgan, Minister to Students  
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## HAPPY EASTER



### DOWN MEMORY LANE

## 50 Years Ago

On April 4, 1961, Lewis Howland was selected to be a chaperone for the young people attending Eagle Eyrie in the summer. Stanley Owens requested that the Brotherhood pay part of the cost of the boys attending the R. A. Camp. The pastor brought up the matter of one of its members, Pearl King [mother of Shirley Storke] losing practically all of her furniture when her dwelling was destroyed by fire. Among such items was a rocking chair and the church voted to purchase for Mrs. King a rocking chair not to exceed \$100 and appointed S. P. Marshall to secure same.

A special called business meeting was held April 16, 1961, "whereupon Mr. Huff, the architect, was given the go-ahead to complete the workable plans for the addition to the Educational Building. The church voted 93 for and no dissenting votes."

From *Shiloh Baptist Church Minute Book*, March 8, 1955, to December 31, 1963, pp. 149, 150

## Lent, a time of preparation

**L**ent is a time of preparation—leading up to the Holy Week of Easter. To some it means giving up something like chocolate; to others, it is giving up watching an NCAA basketball tournament. I say Lent is not a time to give up something but to take something on.

Lent is a time of introspection—looking within ourselves and asking: Do our thoughts, words, and deeds reveal the humility, sacrifice, love, and forgiveness that Christ showed during his earthly ministry? I feel that the best way to celebrate Lent is to make an honest effort to tell God what we feel are our shortcomings; ask Him to help us correct them, but then don't cut off the conversation. Wait and give God time to answer. I'm sure He knows of other things we should do and will be more than happy to reveal them to us if we ask, then listen.

Let us choose to live a life that reveals Jesus in us all the time, not just during Lent. The best time to start is right now, and the promises of God will be ours.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Mike

## A Note of Thanks

What a wonderful worship service/celebration we had during our Note-Burning celebration on April 3. Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a meaningful experience. Paying off our debt in such a short time is an example of what God's people can do when we are focused and committed to putting Christ first in our lives. Let us use this experience and continue to grow as a church that is focused and committed to sharing God's love with our community.

May our prayer continue to be to "glorify and worship God by Reaching .... Building .... Serving." Thanks be to God.—Pastor Mike

# In the Spotlight...



## Gil Kennedy, Serving God by Cindy Miller

**N**ext to being saved, Gil Kennedy says the best thing that ever happened in his life is marrying Michelle, his bride of almost a year come April 5. “That is the week of the Masters Golf Tournament,” this avid golfer added.

Gil met Michelle in 2008. Pastor “Mike” Jesse performed their wedding; and from that day forth, Gil’s family grew to a total of five, which includes his 18-year-old daughter, Tiffany, a student at Frostburg State University, and Michelle’s two daughters, Micci, who attends Germanna Community College (nursing major), and Icy, a junior at King George High School.

Let’s start at the beginning. Gil was born in Newport News, Virginia, in 1961 and was raised by his mother, now retired from civil service after 31 years. His Vietnam Veteran stepdad was a West Point graduate and served 30 years in the Army as a pilot. He is proud of both their accomplishments.

Gil’s mom took him to church from his childhood years through his teen-age years. During the college years, he attended church off and on. Gil is a graduate of George Mason University, where he earned a degree in criminal justice. After graduation, he applied to every police department in the Tidewater area and was determined to accept the first position offered. The Virginia State Police was the first to call and the residents here have been blessed ever since.

The year was 1984 when Gil became a State Trooper. With admiration, he talked about some of the people he served alongside over the years: “Sheriff ‘Moose’ Dobson [now retired] and the current Sheriff, Steve Dempsey, were big influences and were a lot of help during my career. I have made so many friends over the years from the King George Sheriff’s Office. What a great bunch of people!”

“I was trained by Henry Chinn and David Mitchell, both retired State Troopers. Those two men taught me the most. I will always be grateful to both of them. Butch Norris and Joey Loving were also two



major influences and mentors for me as a young trooper. I still seek advice from all of these guys to this day.”

During his first few years in King George, Gil bounced around from church to church. “Then, around 1989,” he said, “Dave and Lynne Mitchell invited me to Shiloh, and I’ve been going here ever since. Although I had already accepted Christ in my heart, I publicly accepted Him as my Savior in 1991; Pastor Charles Anderson, then pastor of Shiloh, baptized me and that is the year I became a member.”

“For the first 12 years of my career as a trooper, I worked the road in Caroline County and King George County. The most heart-wrenching part of my job was working automobile accidents where children were killed or seriously injured. That really hurt me and was hard to get off of my mind. I still think about some of those children to this day. It is hard to forget. All fatalities are sad, but when children were involved, it was really bad. The King George County and Caroline County rescue squads really had it the worst. They were the ones trying to save

those lives up close and personal. My hat really goes off to those men and women.”

“For the last 8 years of my career, I served in the Crime Prevention Unit and Sex Offender Unit. That was the best job I ever had. I was able to hunt and track down sex offenders who didn’t register as required by the courts. That gave me a lot of satisfaction when I captured one of those guys. Back in those days, it was just part of my job. The warrants were put in my in box, and I had to go after those offenders without any help. Today, it is a full time job and three or four troopers handle it.”

“I was a State Trooper for 20 years.” When asked if he had a sixth sense, he said: “I can read people pretty well. It is hard to get something over on me these days. I like to look for the best in people, but after dealing with less-than-honest people for such a long period of time, I keep my guard up. Being a State Trooper taught me two things: how to sense a bad situation and how to read people and determine if they have my best interest at heart.”

## Gil Kennedy (Continued)

“There are so many people out there who love to see people fall in life. They really get satisfaction out of seeing people struggle. Butch Norris once told me, when I was a young trooper, that you can spend 6 months working a case to get someone locked up, but nothing says you can’t work another 6 months to help them get their life straight afterwards. I kind of live by that to this day.”

An example he cited occurred in the late 1980s. He stopped a man for drunk driving. Gil said, “I always arrested drunk drivers, but something told me not to arrest this guy. I took him home and never saw him again for about 5 or 6 years. I was up at the 7-Eleven one evening, when this man came up to me and said: ‘Do you remember me? You stopped me one night for drunk driving.’ I thought he was going to get his revenge and punch me in the face, but he said, ‘I wanted you to know I never had another drop of alcohol since the night you stopped me. I got married, went back to school, gave my life to Jesus Christ, and became a minister. You helped me that night and now I’m saving souls. God has really used you.’ That had a direct impact on me because I never let drunk drivers go—just that one night. I will never forget that man now!”

This writer couldn’t drag too many stories out of Gil because he is not one to promote himself as a retired trooper and considers what he did typical of all police officers. When asked, Gil said he had never been shot at but acknowledged that he had been lied to many times, cursed, spit on, and physically assaulted but always had King George Deputies to come to his aid. I have even had blood thrown on me at a protest in Richmond, Virginia. He said he could always tell when a person was lying. He also learned from John Kent, his first sergeant at the time, that the more people cussed and the more they ranted and raved, the nicer you’d become. That was really hard to do, but I tried my best to do it. “So the meaner people would get, the nicer I would try to be—unless,” he quickly added, “they tried to touch me. Then Trooper Nice Guy was over!”

“I suffered two heart attacks. I had one major heart attack in 2001 and another minor one in 2002. I never smoked and thought I was taking good care of myself. My doctor said you can either die or get out of police work. The state police felt the same way and I retired in 2004. When I retired, Gary Butler offered me a job selling waterfront land. I did that for several years and really enjoyed it. Gary taught me a lot about sales and people. I still use a lot of the sales strategies he taught me to this day. Currently, I am a contractor, working for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, conducting background investigations that enable people to obtain security clearances for federal jobs. That keeps me really busy. I began doing background investigations in 2008.”

When asked how his health is now, Gil said: “I play golf, try to walk on the treadmill, and lift light weights three or four days a week. I spend a lot of time with my wife, my daughters, and friends. As long as I keep exercising and doing what the doctor says, I’m okay; but you never know. God’s in control of it all.”

In addition to golf, working out, and spending time with family, Gil is a self-admitted news junkie; but on Sunday mornings, he’s right there at Shiloh, serving as an usher, the first kind face a visitor sees, representing the best of Shiloh.



## Children & Youth by Mark Morgan

### Children

Our children’s **Easter Eggstravaganza** is scheduled for April 16 beginning at 11:00 a.m. This special event is for the whole family but the activities will be for children in grades 6 and below. The children will enjoy crafts, an age appropriate movie, and an Easter egg hunt! Lunch will be served as well; all activities are **FREE!** Invite your friends to come enjoy this Christian celebration with you!

We are still in need of individual pre-wrapped candy that can be placed inside plastic eggs. Please place in container near office.

**AWANA™** will not be held on Easter Sunday, April 24. The last AWANA will be on Sunday, May 1. We will have the Grand Prix as well as our AWANA store and end-of-the-year celebration.

### Youth

The third “**Mars Hill**” youth event will be held April 9 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Round Hill Baptist in King George. Teens are encouraged to bring their friends to this new outreach event. There will be a time of fellowship, food, worship, preaching, and activity.

On Sunday evenings, the youth are studying Christ’s last week on earth. We will have a special showing of *The Passion of the Christ* on Sunday April 17. We will begin the movie at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. Teens will need a permission form, filled out by their parent, to be able to watch the movie.



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

### Church Resource Center



Stop by and visit Diana Moore and Barbara Yancey at the Church Resource Center. They will be glad to help you with any of your reading needs. The center is also a great source for you to conduct research—whether it is church history or any church event or if you just want to browse through an endless number of books, videos, and photo albums.

### Photos Needed for Law Enforcement and Memorial Day services

If you have ever served as a law enforcement officer or in the military, please provide a photo to Cindy Miller, 540-775-9434, as soon as possible so we can recognize you and your service to our community. If you've submitted a photo in previous years, please disregard.



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REACHING

BUILDING

SERVING

### On Shiloh Web Site

*Building Shiloh* (video presentation)  
Photos of April 3 Note-Burning Celebration



*He is risen*



## Easter at Shiloh

Easter Eggstravaganza, April 16, 11:00 a.m.

**Easter Services, April 24**

**“Who Do You Say That I Am?”**

An Easter Cantata by Lloyd Larson

During 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunrise Service, 7:00 a.m. (breakfast)

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Rev. Mike and Earlene Jessee

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