

The

Shiloh Visitor

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



January 2009

A monthly newsletter from Shiloh Baptist Church

Our Church Family Has a Great Future!!

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DOWN MEMORY LANE



Mary Burnley
and
Stanley Owens,
circa 1939

J. Stanley Owens served in many capacities at Shiloh. Here are but a few of them:

- ☐ November 17, 1946—Stanley Owens was elected superintendent of Sunday School.
- ☐ December 27, 1959—An ordination service was held for

Stanley Owens, as newly elected deacon.

- ☐ April 4, 1961—Stanley Owens requested that the Brotherhood pay part of the cost of the boys attending the R. A. Camp. He brought to the attention of the church that there was a great need for a boat at the R.A. Camp, on the Piankatank River.
- ☐ October 9, 1962—Mr. Reynolds brought up the matter of providing a platform area for use in presenting the Christmas program. It was suggested that the church pay and Mr. Reynolds, with the assistance of Stanley Owens, would fabricate the platform.
- ☐ May 18-24, 1964—Stanley Owens would bring the message at the evening service.

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Transition Team Update from the Leadership and Decision Making Sub-Group

What is Your Gift? and Are You Using Your Gift?

submitted by Bonnie Bowen

Who are your church leaders? Other than the pastor, are your church leaders Sunday school teachers, the youth leader, or your music director? Who is a leader? The definition of a leader is “one who leads or guides.” When Christ called leaders, He called those who were *willing* to go and serve. How willing are you to serve? Do you have *feelings of inadequacy*? Do you feel you do not have a skill or talent? Do you feel you must first “get right” with God and then develop a skill to serve? God is not looking for perfection. He is simply seeking those who have a heart for service and are *willing* to spend extra time in service for His kingdom.

Studies have shown that members, who are plugged in to serve, feel connected to the church family. Members want to serve Christ, desire to be involved, desire to be of service to the church and would like to be needed and inclusive in the body of believers. Members also want to establish their place in the church and be accepted. When members feel connected and accepted by the church, they feel they are a part of the family.

The Mission Statement of The Leadership and Decision Making Sub-group of the Transition Team is: *To identify, select and disciple members into leadership roles.* We will soon be seeking members who are willing vessels to teach a class. We are seeking *equipped, effective and energized* individuals or couples who feel the Lord’s leading them to teach. We are all disciples that have a calling, but do we know how to disciple. We want to draw on the collective wisdom of our spiritual leaders to help others discover what God has in store for them. We are seeking members who are ordinary, but extraordinary in their obedience to God and who can shepherd a small group of people, to help make them become great disciples. Matthew 28:19-20 states what we call the “Great Commission”: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” In the original Greek, the only specific commands in these verses are “go” and “make disciples.” We are to make disciples while we are going throughout the world and about our daily activities.

The Vision of the Leadership and Decision Making Sub-group’s is: *“To be a spirit filled, evangelistic church where all members have an opportunity, and are encouraged, to utilize their God given talents for the work of the Lord.* With this mission and vision in mind, how do members utilize their talents for the work of the Lord? We believe members should have a desire to know what their talents are and then serve and exercise the use of their talents. Perhaps God is speaking to you to teach a class at Shiloh.

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In the Spotlight...

A Tribute to Mary Burnley Owens

by Cindy Miller



Mary Burnley Owens directing Shiloh's annual Children's Program, December 21, 2008

Nobody honors the birth of Jesus Christ better than a child. Shiloh's Children's Christmas Program Director, Mary Burnley Owens, has just completed another Christmas season, helping children worship our newborn Savior. Steeped in tradition, Miss Mary Burnley never lets up. She turned 87 in April and still directs the children's programs after more than 60 years and is already planning next year's program, assigning parts, and asking for commitments.

None of Mary Burnley's plays are modern; some are almost a century old, but the message is the same. It's spreading love and joy to each girl and boy as they recount the birth of our Savior.

"As long as the children want the program and I am physically able, I'll keep on doing it," she says. "I love to work with the children; if I can be important to just one child, then it is all worth it. I never give up on my children, young or old. The children keep me young and keep me going. I'm planning on doing these programs until I'm 100."

Mary Burnley began the children's programs about 63 years ago when her daughter Joan was little. No one can count the number of children who have gone through her programs; but she can name the child, what they recited, and when. For most of those years, she

produced Children's Day programs each summer. One summer, Suzanne Allensworth [Headley] and I were little sunbeams. My grandmother made our little yellow sunbeam dresses out of paper Mache on an old peddle-type sewing machine.

Many people I know, who have played a part one time or another in Mary Burnley's programs, return each year to pay respect to Mary Burnley and reminisce about days gone by. I grew up with Mary Burnley's four children, Joan, Marjorie, Bobby, and Pill and shared the stage with all of them. My children and grandchildren have also been cast in that spotlight. Mary Burnley keeps track and makes sure the different generations share the same parts, and you can be sure she knows everybody's lines and is right there to help them when they stumble.

Mary Burnley has occupied herself with show business most of her life. In the late 1930s, she had a radio program called KGKK, King George Kiddie Klub, composed of a group of local children of all ages who performed secular music for one-half hour every Saturday morning at the WFVA radio station in Fredericksburg. Then World War II came along with gasoline rationing that ended the program. She recalls other performances, such as a production for the Rescue Squad in Dahlgren: "We had them rolling in the aisles. Marjorie had performed a pantomime, imitating an opera singer. The man sitting by Stanley had tears coming down his eyes, he was laughing so hard."

Her family performed in productions, as well. Husband Stanley faithfully worked with her through the years, not just on stage but in all factions of the church until his death in 1987. She recalls one Sunday when her whole family sang the song, "Let's Have a Little Talk with Jesus." "They never asked us to sing again," she said.

Mary Burnley's parents were Robert Alexandria and Hattie Newbill Peed. She grew up in the old Oakland Baptist

Church in Owens. She married Stanley December 16, 1939. They would have been married 69 years this past December, and son Bobby honors that sacred day every year by bringing her red roses. She had three brothers: Robert [Ned] Alexandria, Jr.; Edward Owen Peed; and John Gordon Peed who died at 4. She regrets not having a sister but considers Hazel Jones more like a sister than anybody.

Mary Burnley has worked in the nursery for as long as I can remember and has held more babies than anybody at the church. She said, "I held a many a one in that rocking chair. That's all I do now; I can't walk around with them anymore, but I can still sit in that rocking chair and hold them. Until October 2008, I had the Band triplets. I've held all three of them in my lap at once. I had to hold onto a couple of them by their britches to keep them from sliding."

Mary Burnley still lives in the house she and Stanley built in Colonial Beach in 1946. She says, "I never had a big house and not a lot of stuff, and nobody has been happier than I have been." She's a retired bookkeeper from Texaco, after working for 57 years. She lives with her dog, Katy Lynn, and her almost human cats: Amelia Lucille, Bedelia Jane, Cecilia Grace Jesse Marie, Sammy Jo, and Kelly Jo from Texaco. Kelly Jo hitched a ride under Mary Burnley's car hood one night from the Texaco station. Even the cat knows

Mary Burnley is a good deal.

At the close of the December 2008 Children's Christmas Program, Jim Jensen recited the words of Margaret Fishback Powers that reflect how Mary Burnley Owens wants to be remembered: "One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child." ❧

"I love to work with the children; if I can be important to just one child, then it is all worth it. I never give up on my children, young or old."

Down Memory Lane

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- ❑ May 16, 1965—Stanley Owens stated that the R. A. boys would have a campout at Kirkland Grove on the 15th and 16th of May and extended an invitation to any adults who would like to attend.
- ❑ March 7, 1967—After Easter Sunrise Service, a breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes and syrup, and coffee and tea was served. Stanley Owens, assisted by his wife, and many other members of the church had charge of the cooking and serving.
- ❑ January 5, 1971—Upon motion by J. Stanley Owens, seconded and carried, the church voted to secure a Schoefield Bible for Richard A. Headley, a ministerial student from Shiloh who will graduate from the seminary at Wake Forest, N. C., about the 15th of the month.
- ❑ May 1, 1980—Stanley Owens was elected to the Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy due to the death of John R. Quesenberry.
- ❑ 1982—Delegates to the Rappahannock Association were Stanley Owens, Mary Burnley Owens, Galen Rothrock, Margie Rothrock, and Delma Fore. ☞



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

☞ **WWW**—The children doing a wonderful job memorizing scripture and reciting those verses on Wednesday evenings. The children are excited and the adults are encouraged during this time. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, there is a spot for you.

- ☞ **Camp Piangkatank**—mark your calendar
 - June 28-30 Mini Camp/Discovery (ages 7-9)
 - July 26-31 (co-ed, ages 10-14)

YOUTH MINISTRIES UPDATE

We are going to have a parent meeting on January 11 from 5:30-6 p.m.

It is very important that you are present so you will be informed about the following:

- ☞ **Mission Trip**—Bluefield, VA—June 28-July 4

I will reserve 15 spots. We will discuss fund raising options. We will also need adult chaperones. Cost approximately \$300.

- ☞ **Sweetheart Banquet**—Feb. 14 at 5 p.m.

If we want to do this event, the proceeds will go toward youth missions again. Is there someone who would want to oversee the organization aspects? If not, I will.

We will need the following leaders and teams:

Advertisement, Decoration, Entertainment, Food, Serving, Clean-Up

If you are interested in being a leader let me know. After we have leaders in place we will fill the teams.

- ☞ **Sr. High Christian Leadership Conference**—Eagle Eyrie—March 13-15
I would like as many Sr. High teens to attend as possible. We will have a keynote speaker as well as different breakout leadership sessions. Anyone interested will need to pay a deposit. I will try to give those attending a 50% scholarship. DO NOT let finances keep your teen from attending. We will need a female chaperone for us to attend—the cost for this chaperone will be covered.

- ☞ **Acquire the Fire**—Baltimore MD—May 8-9

If you want to experience something like no other, then you will want to be a part of this event! Spiritual Challenges, Concerts, Videos, and Drama. You will grow spiritually from all areas!

- ☞ **Summer Camps**—More info to come

Transition Team Update

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Beginning in the spring of 2009, we will be offering one class per quarter. God equips the members of his body to build up the church. How has He equipped you? Has God equipped you to teach, direct, or guide? Are you willing to discover a talent that you may not be aware that you have? The Spiritual Gifts class is designed to give our congregation the tools to help members discover their spiritual gifts and employ them for God's kingdom. Classes that are under consideration to be offered are: How to Pray, Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts, Discipleship, Evangelism, Marriage Enrichment, and others to be determined.

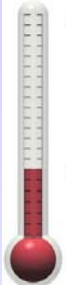
The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has been busy for months revising and updating our Constitution and Bylaws to ensure it is current and correct with changes the church has voted to institute. The Leadership and Decision Making Sub-Group have reviewed these documents and the various committees will review them soon. The attorney who is working with the Leadership Sub-Group is anxiously awaiting a copy of the revised constitution, so he may begin his arduous task of reviewing the terminology for legal purposes. All church members will have an opportunity to review the revised edition of the Constitution and provide their contributions. Once the committees complete their task and the entire Transition Team reviews it, it will be brought before the church for a vote of acceptance.

Along with the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws, Scott Soderlund researched, studied and discussed with us, for months, a new church structure. Our church in the past had no structure in its organization. All programs and committees were operating and functioning in many different directions, because they did not fit under a designated heading. Under the revised Constitution and Bylaws, each committee has a purpose, a task, and a method to accomplish said task. This committee put in many hours and months praying, talking and discussing God's methods.

The Transition Team continues to covet your prayers as we seek God's leadership and direction as we work toward our task. ☞



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



Debt-free!

\$462,458

\$650,000

Mortgage Update

by Amy Parker, Treasurer
and Chris Chalkley, Assistant Treasurer

Month	Building Fund Donations	Mortgage Payments	Extra Principal Payments	Mortgage Balance
August	\$3,028	\$4,980		\$644,329
September	\$9,105	\$4,980	\$6,681	\$636,534
October	\$3,510	\$4,980	\$5,820	\$629,229
November	\$4,981	\$4,980		\$628,142
December	\$170,573	\$4,980	\$164,000	\$462,458

As of December 23rd, the balance on Shiloh Baptist Church's mortgage stands at \$462,458, a significant reduction of 28% since the end of August. There are two primary reasons for the accelerated reduction in debt. First, the church voted at the December 14th business meeting to cash in our General Fund certificate of deposit (basically a rainy day fund) and apply it towards the mortgage principal. Valued at over \$26,000, this CD was closed without penalty December 23rd with the proceeds going entirely towards debt reduction. Secondly, the church established a process at the September business meeting in which any money in the Building Fund in excess of a three-month mortgage payment reserve (approximately \$15,000) would be applied towards extra principal payments. To date, three such payments have been made totaling over \$150,000. Like the CD transfer, these payments go immediately and completely towards the mortgage principal only,



REACH
BUILD
RELEASE

thereby greatly reducing the amount of interest the church will pay over the life of the loan.

These principal payments are made possible by your generous giving to the Building Fund. Remember the Building Fund is dedicated solely to paying Shiloh's existing mortgage. To support Shiloh's debt reduction goals, please remember to designate donations specifically for the Building Fund. Once we meet our \$4,980 monthly mortgage obligation, we'll continue to apply "excess" Building Fund balance (i.e., over and above the 3-month reserve) towards additional principal-only payments.



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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. Address all comments and submissions to:
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