



The Shiloh Visitor

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



July 2009

A monthly newsletter from Shiloh Baptist Church

Glorifying God by ... Reaching, Building, Serving

Transition Team Update

by John Busic

Last December I wrote a newsletter article comparing the Intentional Interim Ministry / Transition Team process to a long car trip. Well Church, this “trip” is essentially over! There are only a few remaining wrap-up tasks that should soon be completed and we have already begun the process of looking for our new pastor. I’d like to take this opportunity to review the reason why we went on this “trip” in the first place. Next, I want to review some of the major highlights of the “trip” and finally I want to emphasize that this “trip” is just one leg on the journey that God has planned for Shiloh.

Why did we start this trip?

A couple of years ago our church went through a difficult period, and our pastor at that time resigned. We then voted to call an Intentional Interim Pastor. The main goal of the Intentional Interim Program is to help churches work through any issues/concerns that could contribute to an unhealthy church environment prior to calling the next pastor. A Transition Team was established to help lead the church through this process. There were six main tasks that were conducted by this team along with help from the entire congregation. These six tasks were:

- ❖ Conflict Management
- ❖ History
- ❖ Leadership and Decision Making
- ❖ Identity/Mission/Vision
- ❖ External Relations
- ❖ New Clergy Commitment

Major highlights from this trip:

Conflict Management was addressed first with the entire Transition Team working together. From this task came a Wednesday Evening Bible Study based on Pastor Paul Shepherd’s “Can’t We All Just Get Along Series”. We also developed the “Conflict Resolution Plan” which is included in the new Constitution and By-Laws. On March 2, 2008, we planned a special service where Pastor Jim Ailor came and preached the Sunday Service and held a special conflict management training session after a luncheon. In late January 2008, we divided into sub-groups to address three additional Intentional Interim Program Tasks: History, Leadership and Decision Making, and

Identity/Mission/Vision.

The History Subgroup completed extensive research on the history of Shiloh Baptist Church through reviewing minutes, records, and interviewing members. They compiled their research and made posters detailing church history with the focus on the past 50 years. On September 7, 2008, they also presented the research with a special History Sunday featuring a special speaker and presentation, barbecue lunch, and then wrote a final report with recommendations for both the Church and the Pulpit Committee.

The Leadership and Decision Making Sub-group developed and conducted surveys with all existing committee members to better understand the committee responsibilities and to get suggestions on improvements. They compiled survey responses, conducted a detailed examination of the current leadership, and then provided that information to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. They researched church incorporation, held multiple information meetings and led the church through our own incorporation process which culminated at our last business meeting where the church voted to incorporate as well as to adopt the new Constitution and By-Laws.

The Identity/Mission/Vision Subgroup developed and conducted two surveys: “Impression Survey” and “Involvement and Satisfaction Survey”. They compiled all the survey responses, presented them to the congregation, and documented responses in a report. They researched, developed, and presented a Draft Mission/Vision Statement to the church for feedback and input. They then revised the Mission/Vision to reflect the feedback received from the church and that Mission/Vision was voted and approved in the March Business meeting. This sub-group also conducted a demographic analysis (see survey results on page 3) to help us better understand and minister to the surrounding community.

The History Sub-group also conducted the External Relations Task. As part of this task the group researched our relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Assembly of Virginia, the Fredericksburg Area Baptist Network, and our local external missions conducted within Shiloh Baptist Church. The group then developed presentations about each of these four relationships, and presented them to the church on four consecutive Sundays.

~ continued on page 4 ~

In the Spotlight...



Vacation Bible School ... Way Back When by Cindy Miller



VBS, circa 1955

In the early 1950s, Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a summer ritual, and we attended every year religiously through high school. Mr. Sam Marshall was the Superintendent of VBS for my entire childhood and beyond. He even chauffeured us in his big old green car to the church. He was Jean Rowe's great uncle. Shirley Storke also was a VBS teacher during my entire childhood and beyond. For those of you who never knew Shirley: "You missed a real treat." The mold was broken when she was born. Back in 1997, I asked Shirley what she remembered about VBS at Shiloh. Here's what she said:

Vacation Bible School started at Shiloh over 60 years ago. We started out on a small scale. We had parents pick the children up in their cars and bring them to church. Our crafts were things we always made ourselves. We didn't have much money. At snack time, we set up tables out in the yard and served Kool-Aid and homemade cookies. On the last day, we'd have hot dogs, potato salad, and ice cream. Having

ice cream was a big thing in those days. Sam Marshall was the director of Vacation Bible School for many years. We had a lot of adult participation. We've come a long ways since grandma's days. Now, we've graduated to snack time in the fellowship hall. It has gotten better every year."

Now snack time and other activities have expanded to the Family Life Center, and Shirley would be proud that we've continued the legacy of looking out for kids, "training a child in a way he should walk." It's still as much fun for kids today as it was back then. It is a break from regular school and Sunday morning services. But in the 1950s we didn't get that break from the schoolteachers. Shirley, along with all the other teachers, followed us to VBS and made sure we received nonstop learning. Miss Dorothy Scott, our 5th and 6th grade teacher at Shiloh Elementary, just a half mile away, taught at VBS every summer. No opportunity for mischief here.

Shirley's VBS memories go back farther than what is stated in the church

minutes. The earliest mention was in 1946: "Pastor John B. Hodge stated that the offerings of the Daily Bible School amounted to \$12.88." It wasn't until July 1947 that Vacation Bible School was phrased as we know it today, and it went back and forth from Vacation Bible School to Daily Bible School for years until they settled on VBS. It wasn't so expensive then either. My

In those early days (the practice goes on today), we all lined up in front of the church, divided by school grades, and waited until Mr. Marshall bellowed his "Good morning, boys and girls," our sign that VBS was underway.

grandmother, Maude Edwards, another schoolteacher (I've got to tell you, we were surrounded), expended \$1.00 for her class.

In those early days (the practice goes on today), we all lined up in front of the church, divided by school grades, and waited until Mr. Marshall bellowed his "Good morning, boys and girls," our signal that VBS was underway. Ray Tubbs, many years later, may have topped Mr. Marshall with the bellow. I remember the crowded rooms—only a few Sunday School rooms in those days, and it was hotter than blazes. The girls wore dresses or sundresses—not shorts. Nobody I knew had air conditioners then, much less the church. After the opening assembly, Mr.

Marshall dismissed us to our respective rooms, where our teachers taught us the lessons and helped with the crafts they cleverly thought of (no VBS kits then), Snack time was Kool-Aid and cookies, our consistent snack each day summer after summer. We didn't always get the homemade cookies Shirley talked about; sometimes they were the store bought, hard coconut cookies. Yet we were thankful for all we received.

When Friday came, we assembled in the sanctuary, as the kids do today. Mr. Marshall presented the signed certificates, and we were dismissed for our picnic. The men of the church had built the tables, which were much too tall for many of us to reach. The tables were placed under the old oak trees on the grounds where the newest part of the cemetery is now. They kept the tables there for the upcoming protracted or revival meetings that always took place the first week of August. The young mothers of the day didn't work outside the home and were always there keeping a watchful eye over us and parceling out our allotted portion of the food. These mothers were there summer after summer: Julia Lumpkin, Elsie Berry, Shirley Storke, Mary Burnley Owens, Hazel Jones, Dorothy McGinniss, Mary Yancey, Maude Allensworth, Alice Howland, Miss Kate Owens, my grandmother, Miss Louise Allensworth, Bet McGinniss, Elizabeth Bunce, Elsie Mae Copen, Florence Coates, Marjorie Grigsby, and others who influenced us throughout our lives.

In 1964, Mary Yancey, Tom Yancey's mother, was elected VBS superintendent ending the long reign of Mr. Marshall. Superintendents who followed her were Mary Lee Ellis, Sylvia Storke, Phyllis Stephens, Chris Meade, Laurie Sullivan, Carl Brown, Ellen Butler, Pat McGinniss and Connie Norris (co-directors), Mary Lee Ellis, John Storke (Shirley's grandson), Don West, Brenda Hastings, Elizabeth Lee, David Mitchell, Ray Tubbs, and for the last two years, Mark Morgan.

We are thankful for all these good servants; they have served the Lord well during VBS, and a little of Shirley Storke lives on in all of them. &

Identity Sub-Group Update

by Diana Moore

The Identity Sub-Group of the Transition Team would like to thank the Shiloh members who assisted in the distribution of the Community Survey. We would like to share a few of the responses from both community members who attend church and those who, at this time, do not.

What do you think are the greatest needs in this community?

- Bring people to Christ
- Assist those in need
- Show Jesus through our deeds and love for all

Why do you think most people don't attend church?

- Think they don't need it
- Feel unwelcomed when they enter the church
- Experienced unjust judgment, gossip, discord
- See Christians as arrogant and hypocritical
- Have work or family conflicts

If you were to look for a church to attend, what would you look for?

- Well grounded Bible based church
- People seeking to do God's will
- Diversity in the congregation
- Active involvement in community outreach programs
- Emphasis on unity in Christ
- Youth, children, and music programs
- Friendly, welcoming atmosphere
- Where all who enter are equally forgiven, accepted, respected, and loved
- Pastor and service that encourages spiritual growth
- Grace filled church open to anyone

What could a church do for you?

- Provide opportunities for growth in my walk with Christ
- Provide safety and encouragement
- Renew, refresh, educate and inspire my soul
- Make me feel wanted and needed
- Provide a family of believers who help and support each other

What advice can you give to a church that really wants to be helpful to the people in the community?

- Be prepared to help as needed and look for opportunities to help
- Keep a welcoming spirit and share what the church has to offer
- Preach/minister to us, not at us
- Let Christ's love shine through
- Pray



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Transition Team Update	1
In the Spotlight	2
Identity Sub-Group Update	3
Calendar	Insert

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

Transition Team Update ~ continued from page 1~

The New Clergy Commitment task was done with the assistance of the Pulpit Committee. This task included developing both a church profile and a pastor profile along with a plan for introducing the new pastor to individual church members once he begins his ministry here at Shiloh. These tasks were recently completed and will be valuable to the Pulpit Committee as they continue to search for our new pastor.

The Journey Continues.....

We are thankful that this Intentional Interim / Transition Team “trip” is coming to an end, but our journey as a family of believers at Shiloh Baptist Church continues. God has a wonderful plan for our church as we focus on our mission of “Glorifying God by Reaching, Building, and Serving”. I charge you, along with myself, to keep this mission as our focus in all that we say and do and to allow it to guide all of our plans and activities. At the beginning of this article, I mentioned that there are a few wrap-up tasks that remain for us as a Transition Team. One wrap-up task is for us to work with the rest of the church to develop strategies that will help us focus on our mission. Please pray about this and come participate in church-wide meetings to discuss how best to execute our church mission here in this community. Let’s all Glorify God together as we strive to Reach, Build, and Serve! ☩

God Bless,
John Busic