

# The Shiloh Visitor

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

A monthly newsletter from Shiloh Baptist Church

March 2011

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

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## PRAYER OF A THANKFUL HEART

### DOWN MEMORY LANE

## The Year 1998 ...

In the October 6, 1998, minutes, Luke Miller noted that the general fund balance had grown by \$22,000 since the previous year. Tom Sherman reported a request for use of the facilities for the rehearsal and wedding of Kerry Soderlund and Donald Childers on March 19 and 20. John Storke gave a year-end report of six burials. Lorene Sherman and Jackie Wheeler reported they had attended a media conference at Eagle Eyrie that would help churches in the association establish or update existing libraries. A workshop was scheduled for November 7 at Shiloh for that purpose. ❄

In our lives, our attention is too often focused on the things that have gone wrong. We seem to feel the hurts in our lives more acutely. Our minds seem to dwell on everything that doesn't go right. Have you ever heard two people who seem to be bragging about how the circumstances in their lives are worse than anyone else they know? In the midst of our hurts and tragedies, if we would notice, are blessings too numerous to mention. But we often don't acknowledge or appreciate these blessings because we are so focused on soothing our wounds. Appreciation is the feeling within us that can lead us to thankfulness. Thankfulness requires appreciation. Appreciation requires thoughtfulness and awareness.

Think with me for a moment about realities we need to be aware of:

- We need to be aware of how little control we have over our life.
- We need to be aware of the blessings that God bestows upon all mankind.
- As Christians we should be aware of the great promises and care God gives toward His children.

“Give thanks to the Lord,  
for His love endures forever.”  
2 Chronicles 20:21(c)

Faithfully, Pastor Mike

*Thank you Lord  
for this day,  
May I glorify you  
in every way.*

*Thank you for  
the food we eat,  
For the clothes  
on our backs,  
the shoes on our feet.*

*Thank you for  
all the memories  
of good times,  
That bring a smile  
to my face when  
they cross my mind.*

*Thank you for  
my friends and family,  
Even on the days  
when it tests my sanity.*

*Thank you for  
your mercy and grace.  
For the joy in my heart  
that can't be replaced.*

*Thank you for your  
promise and protection,  
With you in my life  
can triumph over  
any affliction.*

Amen

(Tanya Brow)

# In the Spotlight...



## In Memory of Vera Witter "Hodge" Bleasdale

by Cindy Miller



**Rev. John and Vera Hodge  
with Carolyn, Ted, and Bill (baby)**

Exceptional, a unique church for the physically and mentally challenged in Rutherford County. Vera taught private piano lessons and volunteered in her church and community. Throughout her life, she had many opportunities to travel abroad. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Rev. John Hodge; her second husband, Donald Bleasdale; and her daughter, Carolyn Louise Magee. She is survived by her two sons, Ted Hodge and his wife, Janice, of Louisville, Kentucky, and Bill Hodge and his wife, Linda, of Black Mountain. She had nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In 1944, the newly married Hodges came to Shiloh. Vera recalled those days in this 1995 interview:

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We were in Greenville, South Carolina, when John was called to Virginia for a trial sermon the weekend he was to graduate from Furman College, but he gave up going to his own graduation in order to see if the people at Shiloh would call him; they did. We moved to this huge parsonage, and John carried me over the threshold. It was a nice, big roomy house with two floors. It had two woodstoves, one in the dining room and one in the kitchen. One time the pipes froze, and that was a mess. John said he wondered why they put the pipes on the outside of the house so we had a harder time in the winters, but summers were really nice.

We had a big yard and space for a cow, chickens, and pigs. We had a cow that gave good, rich milk. Years later when John was called back for a special service, he spoke about that thick cream and the best milk cow he ever had. We even made butter and sold the butter. We also sold eggs. Teddy was the one who collected the eggs. He got a little money for that. This is when he started tithing on his own. He had heard his dad speak about tithing so he always took the tithe out to put in the collection plate.

John had said that when he left his father's old farm, where they couldn't grow anything decently, he'd never garden again. But when he came to Virginia, he had a beautiful garden with good soil that had been used by the previous preacher [Rev. Clifton Storke]. Everybody remarked

that John had about the best corn in the neighborhood.

Several times, I remember Teddy disappearing. Once, he got caught on a barbed wire fence near the farmhouse next to us. John heard him crying. He went to see about him, and Teddy's clothes were hung on the barbed wire. Another time, he hid in the henhouse. When I opened the door, that little fellow had gotten up close to the wall and had it so that his head wasn't showing. Then there was the time he caught his head in the rungs of the banister. John pulled and yanked and was finally able to pull his head out without having to saw the banister. Carolyn once fell down those stairs but didn't get hurt.

I used to walk a lot, pushing Carolyn in the baby carriage. I remember visiting the White family, a large family who never got out much, and invited Mrs. White to church. I said: "Please get your children in Sunday School. If you don't, they never will want to go to church. They need to be in Sunday School." So they began to attend.

While we were at Shiloh, there was a cyclone. It was the day before Easter. I was hanging the clothes out. It didn't look like it was going to be too bad a storm, but it came ripping through. It didn't hit our parsonage but swept the roof off the old Shiloh Church and landed it on the backside of the church. Luckily I got back to the house before it swept me away.

John started praying: "Lord, help me know how to lead these people because something is going to have to be done. The church is so old. Show me; should we have a new church?" Right away, John said, "The Lord told me we are going to have a new church." So he went before the congregation and told them this. At first they shook their heads and said: "Oh, we can't possibly tear down the walls of the old church." John kept saying that God told him that they needed to build a new church and finally persuaded them. He helped haul the cinderblocks and worked hard to get it accomplished. The congregation was so proud of it when they got through. An interesting thing was that this Mr. Willie Grigsby, the man who

~ continued on page 3~

opposed building a new church the most, gave the pulpit furniture to show that he was finally convinced that it was the best thing to do. In fact, he and his wife were the people John and I stayed with when we first visited for the trial sermon.

My parents came over in 1952 from India just before Bill was born. My mom was so afraid he would be born and there wouldn't be any water. She kept telling John: "Be sure you have some boiling water in case the baby comes. We don't want anything to happen to Vera, and it is a long ways to Fredericksburg."

Teddy and Carolyn attended the old Shiloh School, which had two teachers who weren't well. When they let the children out to play, the children had to be within their teacher's eyesight, which limited the span of where the children could play. Also, Teddy complained to his daddy. "I don't understand why they don't let us use toilet paper. We don't have toilet paper in our bathroom." So John was really worried and went to the Board of Education and said: "These children are not getting what they are supposed to. They are supposed to get toilet paper, and they are not getting it." So he finally got it settled, and they got toilet paper. The reason why they didn't was that kids were stuffing it in the toilet. They were used to the school's outhouse and thought they could treat the new bathroom the way they did the outhouse.

The first television we knew of in the church community belonged to the McGinnesses. We used to go down there and watch it. Well, I was thinking that it would be wrong to get one, kind of worldly maybe; but then when my own father who was very religious, decided to get one, I said: "Well, if Daddy can get one, we ought to be able to get one." The children just clapped their hands when they found out. John wasn't sure if he wanted to get one or not.

Shiloh was John's first church in Virginia, and I want to say, he made a wonderful preacher, father, husband, and anything else you can think of. We're all proud of John B. Hodge because he made "good." It was hard for him sometimes to go into the wealthy homes that he had not been used to. I would tell him: "John, you go ahead and don't worry. Just be yourself, and everything will work out all right. They'll love you the way you are."

The Shiloh years were very sweet years. We had 11-1/2 years there and fell in love with the people. Shirley Storke was a special friend, as well as many others. I can't name them all, but they had us in their homes; and we always had parties for the children. We held G.A. and R.A. meetings in the parsonage, too. The children have happy memories. Bill was almost 4 years old when we left there. He doesn't remember a lot, but he has heard it from us. So when I look back on the Virginia experience, I'd have to say frankly that the Shiloh years were the best even though we were treated nicely in other areas.

*"I am sure that Mom has been crowned with glory and honor and has joined our father and sister because she knew what it was to love. My hope is that all of us might find a smile coming to our face as we think of my mother who never lost those childlike qualities that Jesus affirmed and as we think of a God who loves us."*

—Dr. Ted Hodge



## Children & Youth by Mark Morgan

### MINISTRY UPDATES

**Family Skating** at Stan's was fabulous! The kids really had a great time—and the adults too! There were over 80 in attendance. We concluded the night with the Cha Cha which, I think, the adults enjoyed more than the kids! Thanks to everyone for your support and participation in this outreach event.

Our **VBS Information and Kick-Off Meeting** will be held on March 13 at noon in the FLC. If you are interested in helping with VBS this year or want to know more about VBS and the opportunities to serve, then come to this event. Our meeting will last about an hour and lunch will be provided.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> **"Mars Hill"** youth event will be held on March 5 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at New Life in Colonial Beach. The teens are encouraged to bring their friends to this new outreach event. There will be a time of fellowship, food, worship, preaching, and activity.

**Planet Wisdom** youth conference is March 18-19. Contact Mark Morgan if you want to attend. This year's theme is focused on the character of God. Check the church web site for event specifics. To learn more about the conference, go to [www.planetwisdom.org](http://www.planetwisdom.org) ✨



P.O. Box 232 · Jersey, VA 22481  
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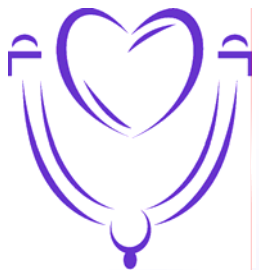
**SAVE  
 THESE  
 DATES!!**

**APRIL 3**  
 Note Burning Celebration

**JUNE 20-24**  
 Vacation Bible School



**REACHING BUILDING SERVING**



**The  
 Shiloh  
 Visitor**

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

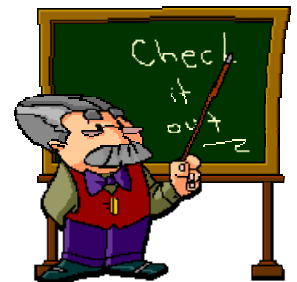
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**Church Resource Center**  
*by Diana Moore and Barb Yancey*

We have had several wonderful donations recently. The Rowe family donated a large print Bible and the Lehman family donated an assortment of very interesting books. Gail Davis brought in Jan Karon's latest in the Father Timothy/Mitford series "In the Company of Others". She also provided another bag of inspirational paperbacks. Terri Morrison donated two books that discuss how to develop a closer relationship with God.



The self-help and self-improvement resources that have been on display by the choir room and in the library have been popular so we will continue that theme though March. Remember that there are many more available—more than we have room to display!

Our library assistant and computer whiz, Wesley Morrison, has moved to Pennsylvania. We miss him and wish him the very best in his new life. Our other dedicated helpers have been processing books at home. A special thanks to Terri, Alexandra, AshLynn, and Brook Morgan, and also DeeDee Dean. There are many opportunities available to help in the library. If you are interested in donating even one hour of your time, it would be greatly appreciated. Let Barbara or Diana know. If you would like to serve on the Church Resource Center Team, notify a member of the Servant Mobilization Team. ✨