

Ash Avenue Baptist Dispatch

ISSUE # 156

JUNE 2011

From Eure Pastor's Desk

by John D. Eure

While on a mission trip in Serbia, I was shown an emblem of a shield on several souvenir items. On each shield were four letters in the Cyrillic alphabet. The letters stood for the Serbian national motto which is, "Only Unity Saves Serbia."

In the last century, Serbia spent most decades under Communist rule as part of the nation of Yugoslavia. Prior to this, it had approximately 3/4 of a century as its own country. Until the 1870's it spent almost 500 years under domination of the Ottoman Empire (Turks). So the motto is well understood when placed in context of the nation's history of oppression.

As followers of the Lord Jesus, we understand that we can only be saved by Him as we individually submit ourselves to Him. The Church is the collective body of those individuals who have surrendered to follow Him. So we know that Jesus saves us, but it is unity in His Holy Spirit that preserves the Church.

Unity in the Church is vital to its witness to the world. Yes, individual believers should bear witness of

Christ living in them, also. But the witness is tested and challenged as individual followers come together. The world watches to see how those with different personalities, financial status, educational levels, and experiences could possibly come together as *one*. Jesus' prayer in **John 17:23** calls on God the Father to bring His disciples (the 12 and all believers) to complete unity so the world would know He was sent by God and that sinners were loved by Him, too.

Not only is the witness and the Church's mission validated to the rest of the world, but those in the Church benefit from unity, as well. Paul's blessing to the church in Rome linked God's Spirit of unity with endurance and encouragement. Within the body of Christ we need to spur each other to be faithful to the character the Holy Spirit is molding within each of us. And we need to encourage one another to be faithful to the work He gives us. We accomplish this best when we work beside others rather than letting them carry the work alone. We cheer each other to persevere when we can learn to go directly to brothers and sisters

with issues that concern them, rather than grumbling about it to others. (And this is biblical, too... see **Matthew 18:15-17**).

Also, in **Ephesians 4**, Paul reminds the church that unity within the body should reflect oneness with God and the transforming Gospel of Jesus. God isn't divided and neither should we be. If there is discord in the Church, it did not come from the Lord. Even if we're right, but don't handle an issue in the way of Jesus, we become wrong in our attitude and approach. In **verse 13**, Paul reveals the purpose of this unity... it is to know and experience the fullness of God and maturity in Him.

In our Christian walk, we may know much about the Lord. We may even feel close to Him individually. But to be what He wants us to be, we must mature. We see things from different angles. Are we willing to come together with the puzzle pieces God has given us in order to see His grand masterpiece? We can only do that as we submit to Him and each other.

Vacation Bible School, 2011:



**Friday, June 10th, 5:30-9:00pm-Youth VBS/ImpactVA project
(supper provided)**

Saturday, June 11th. 1:00 to 4:00pm- Youth VBS/ImpactVA project

Sunday, June 12th-VBS Block Party-5:30pm

VBS Monday, June 13th through Friday, June 17th

Supper, nightly 5:30-6:30/Classes, nightly 6:30-9:00pm

Sunday, June 19th-10:45am- VBS ceremony before Worship.

One of the exciting new minis-



June

- 6/5 Jimmy Allen
Gene Comer
Jerry Crenshaw
Daniel Wilborn
- 6/12 Dennis Stewart
Wes Bosiger
Tom Hahn
Mike Sizemore
- 6/19 Don Williams
Victor Crump
Dickie Fallen
Don Gainey
- 6/26 Ricky Brogden
Jim Chandler
Fred Flinn
Mike Harris



**AABC Offering
Report as of 5/22/11**

**Budget offering
received...
\$ 79,337.25**
**Budget offering
needed...
\$ 82,587.75**
**Offering deficit:
(3,250.50)**



- **During SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**The June Nursery Coordinator:
Janice Martin**

Assistant: Faye Beck

- **During WORSHIP**

**The June Nursery Coordinator
is Liz Williams. If you are unable
to assist on your assigned date, please contact
her one week prior to that date.**

Volunteer Assistants:

**June 5th- Joe & Donna Boutwell
June 12th-Seth & Wendy Bowen
June 19th-John & Sandra Lewandowski
June 26th-Jan Smith**

- **June Children's Church Leader:
Chris Powell**

**** Please note:**

**Children's Church will be held
on just the 2nd & 4th Sunday
of each month.**

WMU News

**6:00pm Thursday,
June 2nd**

**Combined get-together of
Nonie Gravitt, Eva Saunders,
& Sisters Serving Christ
under picnic shelter**

**10:30am Saturday,
June 18th
Devotions
at Woodview**



June 22, 2011

**First day
of Summer**



ImpactVA

**Culpeper Edition
June 26th-July 2nd
A construction-based
Mission project
for Youth, grades 7-12**



**Jason & Jessica Snead
3210 Gann Avenue
South Boston, VA 24592-5008**

To my Church Family with hearts of love
that have overflowed into my life.....

I thank you dearly with tears of joy to know
I have such faithful brothers and sisters.
When I was hungry you fed me, when
I needed prayer you prayed, when I
needed to be comforted you called
and inspired me.
Your actions have made my heart sing.

My **Lord** is with me but to have you also
walk with me in my difficult times makes
me know you are all closer than just "a
friend". I thank you with my whole heart.
Your actions have lifted me.

May the Lord's richest blessings be yours
today. The Lord smiles on His servants
who do His good will.
From my heart, I love you all
and I miss you dearly.
In Christ,
Linda Parker



June 14th



**Sunday, June 19th
and EVERY day!**

Thanks Dad!!

****Disaster Relief Training****

Friday, June 3, 2011

6:30pm until 8:30pm

-and-

Saturday, June 4, 2011

7:30am until 5:00pm

Location: First Baptist Church, South Boston

****Cost: \$25.00** (includes a disaster relief t-shirt, disaster relief hat, id badge,
Virginia Disaster Relief pin, printed material & meals.)

****Cost: \$15.00 For an updated ID** (If you have **not** been on a Disaster Relief
Mission Trip in the past 3 years).

****There is no charge for updated ID if you have been on
a Disaster Relief Mission Trip in the past 3 years. **Contact the VBMB to update.****

Registration required. Call Jeanette Hildebrand 1-800-255-2428, ext. 7260

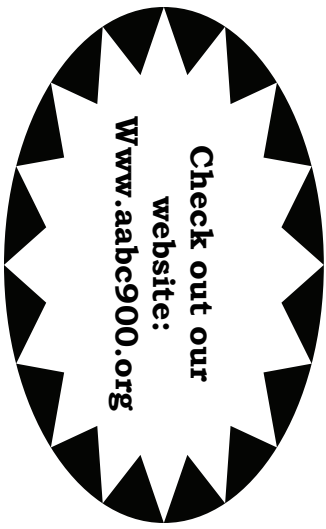


**Properties Contacts for June
are**

Mike Harris & Mike Sizemore

**Deacons of the Month for June
are Bill Haley & Calvin Owen**

**Need to use the church van this month?
If so, contact Ricky Brogden for availability.**



**Ash Avenue Baptist Church
900 Ash Avenue
South Boston, VA 24592
(434) 572-2006**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTH BOSTON, VA
PERMIT NO. 44**