



# THE VISION

September 2016

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”*

*Amen. Matthew 28:19-20*

### How to Keep the Blessings of God

This summer started out with bearable temperatures and cooling rain showers. In June, during Vacation Bible School, the weather started heating up and drying out. Then hot August hit us in the middle of July with heat indexes reaching 107 degrees!

Naturally, GPBC's very first Sports Camp was conducted during those sun-filled and very humid evenings. Even though we were hot and sticky feeling; we worked together as the Body of Christ praising our Lord for His great blessings!

Now that we are coming to the end of summer vacation, the air will be changing to fall and school will soon be underway. I encourage everyone to join me in praying for God's blessings upon the new school year...and upon our church family. I want to share some thoughts I learned from Rick Warren on how to keep the blessings of God...

1. **Purity**—If God is going to bless us continually—year after year—we have to be consistent in the little things. We cannot take for granted our quiet time, our moral integrity, or our personal relationships. It's easy to be so focused on other people that we completely take for granted our own personal purity.

Moses was ready to lead the Israelites out of captivity, but he also had to remain pure in keeping his own family spiritually focused upon God. This teaches us that God will not excuse us for impurity in our personal lives. Whatever setting we find ourselves, stay true (pure) to the teachings of God's Word.

2. **Maturity**—God blesses us in ministry when we keep growing and we grow by being pruned. God will prune us in order for us to grow richer, fuller, and mature for His kingdom's work. We mature through studying God's Holy Book, the Bible. We also grow by coming to GPBC's times of Bible study and worship. God's way to maturity is through pruning us by means of studying the righteous life of Christ.

Jesus tells us in **John 15** that the only way to be fruitful is through pruning. When we prune plants in our garden, we are not cutting off the dead wood; we are cutting away parts that are alive. For our ministry to keep the blessings of God, He may require us to prune some very good things from our life and from our ministry. Remember...pruning causes thicker more vibrant growth!

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\*\*\*PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT  
804-642-2555 IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES OR BY EMAIL:  
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**The Alma Hunt Offering  
for Virginia Missions Emphasis  
**September 11-18**  
**Make It Count!****

Baptists have a reputation of living out their convictions and making the most of every chance to share the good news of the gospel at home and around the world. As Virginia Baptists, we make it count together by cooperating in sharing Christ and meeting human needs. The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions and its corresponding projects help us to make our lives and ministries count as one witnessing body in Christ!

The state missions offering is named after Alma Hunt because she was a giant in Christian missions and specifically in the work of the Woman's Missionary Union. Her life was a mirror of her love of Jesus and her desire was that ALL would know Him. In the spirit of Christ and in the legacy of our past together, let's continue to make it count.

The goal for the Alma Hunt Offering for GPBC is \$1,200. Your gifts make it count for new churches, for Virginia Venturer (missionaries), for leadership development for women and girls, for mental health education, for our churches and much more! This offering allows us to be the church facing the realities of today's world. Together we will make it count!

Alma Hunt Offering materials will be available in your bulletin during emphasis week and also on the WMU table in the Narthex. Please pray about giving to help us meet our goal and perhaps as in last year's offering—surpass it!

**EMPHASIS DATES**  
September 11-18, 2016

**OFFERING GOAL**  
\$1,167,500

**MAKE it COUNT**

*"Make the most of every chance you get."*  
EPHESIANS 5:15-17

Alma Hunt  
Offering for Virginia Missions

Find out more:  
[AlmaHunt.org](http://AlmaHunt.org)

**Deacon of the Week**

- 9/4—Jimmy Diggs
- 9/11—Buddy Hogge
- 9/18—Gary Mangrum
- 9/25—Bill Breeden

**Nursery Workers**

- 9/4—Beverly West
- 9/11—Pauline Littell
- 9/18—Tracy Williams
- 9/25—Rebecca Joyce

**September Tellers**

- Buddy Hogge
- Ted Fisher

**September Ushers:**

- Sonya Anthony
- Stan Gandee
- Seth Gandee
- Jamie Moore



**SEPTEMBER**  
**WORKERS**

**Sun. Sch. Nursery**

- Sharon/Howard Warren

**Older Children's Church**

- 9/4—Sarah Saunders
- 9/11—Jennifer/Derick Hall
- 9/18—Madison/Seth Gandee
- 9/25—Charlene/John West

**Younger Children's Church**

- 9/4—Kristen Eifes/Tracy Williams
- 9/11—Jennifer Podbesek/Sonya Anthony
- 9/18—Denise Gandee/Mallory Wagner
- 9/25—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells

*I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in her fertile fields and boundless prairies, and it was not there; in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. Not until I went to the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.*

—Alexis de Tocqueville, 1805—1859

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3. **Unity**—If we look at the book of Acts, we will see that 10 times in the first five chapters Scripture says that the church was ONE. When we have the unity of Acts, we will have the power of Acts and the blessings of Acts. God can overlook a lot. He can use a church without buildings, without staff, without programs, and without great music. But God *will not* excuse a lack of unity. God blesses unity. Always be about building up the Body of Christ through unity!

God wants to bless us. He wants to open up the floodgates of heaven and rain down His blessings upon His children of faith. God will bless us when we: guard the purity, maturity, and unity within our schools and churches!

Pastor Bud Goude

**DECISION AMERICA TOUR 2016**  
**with Franklin Graham**

Will you come and pray with Franklin Graham, myself, and other Virginians as we gather at the Capitol in Richmond on October 12th from noon—1:00pm?

These are uncertain times for sure. America’s walls of Biblical morality are crumbling! Our religious freedoms are under siege, secularists want to see God removed from everything, and sin is being flaunted.

Surely we need to lift our voices in one accord and invoke the hand of God to act on behalf of our nation. We can’t sit idle but must take a bold stand like Nehemiah (Neh. 1:7) for God to transform this land.

So far, tens of thousands have come to their state Capitols to stand together in fervent prayer for this nation as part of the Decision America Tour. The Gospel is shared and 4,500 people have made decisions for Christ! Come be a part of what God is doing to draw us back to Himself. If you’d like to volunteer at this event, a training session is being offered on September 7th. Please contact Sharon Warren 757-879-0862 for more information, to sign up for the prayer rally, or to volunteer. God bless you as you Pray for America.



**Are You Interested In Living**  
**A Healthier Lifestyle?**

Several of us have decided that we have not honored, as God would have us to, the wonderful bodies He gave us. How about you?

September 6th from 10:00am—noon, all ladies desiring to begin a journey towards a healthy lifestyle that’s attainable and sustainable are invited to join us in the Youth Room.

This study will be ongoing and examine the components of: FAITH+FOOD+FITNESS+FOCUS+FRIENDS. Loosely modeled on “The Daniel Plan” by renowned authors Rick Warren, Daniel Amen, MD and Mark Hyman, MD, we will learn simple ways to steward our temples (bodies) for God through conquering cravings with healthy replacement foods and discovering exercise we enjoy. We’re praying our efforts will result in more energy, weight loss, clearer thinking, healthier eating, but first and foremost, a closer relationship with God and others.

Hope to see you there. For more information, please contact Sharon Warren 757-879-0862. Blessings!

**Note from  
the office**

The secretary’s office hours have changed to the afternoons (12:30—3:30pm) beginning August 24th.

We hope this will not cause any inconvenience.