

Galatians 6:10 *“Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith.”*

July 3, 2011

Remember in your prayers:

- **Marguerite Thompson** is home and recovering from her stay in the hospital. Her operation appears to be successful and her home health care will continue. There is no change in the condition of **Billy Norris'** (Bunny Richardson's father). **Rhonda Knowles** continues to need our prayers. **Laura Andrews** will have surgery on her hip July 25th. She will be in a body casts for six weeks.
- **Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xabien Hall, Paul Odom, Conard Rice, Barbara Addington** (is not doing well), **Lea Cooper**, and **Marvin Dryer's mother**, as they battle cancer.
- **Heather Flowers**, and **Laura Russo** who are away at college. **Robert Langley, Jeremiah Hughes** & all of our **servicemen** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel**; especially those who labor under hardships.

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Summer Bible School** Monday- Friday 9:30-11:00 AM; July 18-22, 2011

Area Gospel Meetings:

No announcements this week.

TO DISPLAY OR NOT TO DISPLAY?

They both were women. They both were royalty. They both were fair to look upon. They both were called upon to display themselves before reveling men on feast days. But, that's where the similarities end.

One woman refused to display herself and lost her position as queen. The other danced and "pleased" the king, causing him to cut off the head of a righteous man. One woman has served through the centuries as an example of purity and modesty; the other as an example of lasciviousness.

Queen Vashti, wife of the Persian King Ahasuerus, was commanded to show off her beauty in front of the nobles and princes of the Medo-Persian Empire--all of which were drunken. She refused to come and was deposed from her throne (Esther 1:9-12, 19).

The daughter of Herodias danced before King Herod, his lords, the high captains, and the chief men of Galilee. Herod was so "pleased" with her lasciviousness, he swore that she could have anything she wanted, up to half the kingdom. After a conference with her mother, she asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod reluctantly and sorrowfully kept his oath (Mk. 6:21-29).

Today, all women have the same choice - to display or not to display. "Daughters of Herodias" are all around us in the world - especially now that it's summertime. More than tans are being flashed. Bodies are being placed on public display. Where are the "Vashti's"? Surely they can be found among those professing to be God's children. But, alas, so many times, this is not the case!

Christians, both women and men, should dress "modestly, with shamefacedness and sobriety" (1 Tim. 2:9). Ask yourself just one question, "If in a pinch, with no time to change clothes, would I be ashamed to wear the clothes that I wear in other public places to worship services?" If the answer is yes - soul searching is in order. To display or not to display? To be a "Vashti" or a "Daughter of Herodias"? Only YOU can decide!- **by Alan Jones**

The Banner of Truth

Black Creek church of Christ
1235 Alliance Rd; Alliance, Alabama
436-4477

“You have given a BANNER to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the TRUTH. “ Psalms 60:4

Editor:

Van Cooper

Schedule of Services

Lord's Day

9:30 A.M. Bible Classes

10:25 A.M. Worship

5:00 P.M. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 P.M.

Elders

Philip Jacks 436-3055
Truman Wallace 483-7016
Van Cooper 491-9695

Deacons

Keith Chaney 491-1596
Roger Key 491-3723

Evangelist

Sammy Bynum 368-3511

Who We Are: The Black Creek Church of Christ is simply a group of Christians dedicated to serving God. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and it is to be our sole guide. We are committed to preaching the gospel of Christ, which is man's only hope for eternal life.

We are interested in helping anyone who is searching for the way to God. We welcome the opportunity to privately study the Bible with you. If you would contact us, we would be happy to meet with you. In addition, you are invited to visit one of our public assemblies (information is above). At our public Bible studies, we have classes for adults and children of all ages. If we can help you in knowing more about God and His Word, then please visit, call, or write us.

(Visit us on-line at (WWW.blackcreekchurch.com)

What Are You Getting Out of Congregational Worship?

There is a great movement in the religious community to make public worship periods more meaningful and less boring. In an effort to make a broader appeal to potential worshippers and draw more members, some have resorted to all types of innovations to appeal to the masses.

When a congregation of God's people examines means and methods to make our worship together more meaningful, the examination should start within the individuals who participate in those services. If a congregation practices only those things authorized in the scriptures, and we still don't have the experience we think we should take away from our worship, I suggest we start looking inward for answers. We think the worship is boring. Have we become so overly entertained by the world that our worship seems lacking in comparison? We come away saying to ourselves that we got nothing out of the service. Please let me know what scripture teaches that the thrust of our worship is to please us and meet our needs. Oh, that should certainly be a byproduct. Have we become weary of worshipping God like the children of Israel as mentioned in [Isaiah 43:21-24](#)? When we do, we will bring tainted sacrifices like they did.

Are we making God weary of our sacrifices? Have we become so bored, we are going through the motions of worship? Worship was

never intended to be boring. The very word, worship, should evoke powerful emotions within us. We should come before Him with thanksgiving, praise, humility, love, and reverence. We should be excited when we offer Him our grateful praise. All this can be lost in a mindless, unprepared period of routine with its shallow, self-centered worship. If this is our attitude, our worship together will certainly be boring.

Some try to create an artificial sense of excitement and energy by having a fast paced song service and high energy, feel good sermons. Some services dull our sense of real worship by tranquilizing us with quiet, muted colors, organ music, and a sermon delivered in a smooth, calming "preacher voice." We try to replace a deep reverence for God, our creator, and the deep feelings elicited by the lessons we learn with hand clapping and arm waving.

The answer is the humble heart of one with great needs and who is prepared for worship. This soul is one who has a great appreciation for God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and for all their gifts. A soul who follows God's worship values will have meaningful and exciting worship experiences. "*Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed*" ([Revelation 15:4](#)). Only God is worthy of our worship; because of all His righteous acts. His willingness to provide salvation from our sins through Jesus' sacrifice should excite us to the point we enthusiastically engage in worship to Him.

Are you bored with our public worship? Do what is recorded in [Lamentations 3:40](#), "*Let us examine*

and probe our ways, and let us return to the LORD" (NASB). Ask yourself; is worship about me or about God? By **Ron Adams**

Train Up a Child

Christians should understand the importance of raising children in accordance with the teaching of Scripture. Proper consideration of God's word on the subject of parenting can result in much long-term good in the lives of our children. This truth is clearly supported by the teaching of the Proverb writer: "*Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it*" ([22:6](#)).

In this simple statement, parents can find valuable insight into many facets of childrearing. First, we see the importance of *training*. Training is a process that involves instruction in God's word, encouragement in righteous living, and modeling of behaviors that are consistent with our spiritual profession. In every endeavor of life, it is understood that training is critical to success. Parents who want their children to become disciples of Jesus will spend *much time* engaged in training them. Children grow up quickly; therefore, we must follow closely Paul's admonition "*making the most of your time*" ([Ephesians 5:16](#)). We *make the most* of our time when we invest it in the spiritual development of our children!

The Proverb also emphasizes that a correct standard of conduct is to serve as the basis of instruction for our children. Parents are to train up each child *in the way he should go*. What is this way? It is God's way!

This illustrates the importance of Bible study in the home. There may be some peripheral benefits to be derived from study of modern psychology and childrearing methods. However, God has given us "*everything pertaining to life and godliness*" ([2 Peter 1:3](#)). This certainly includes how to raise our children! Parents must study God's word so that they may themselves be familiar with the proper standard of conduct. Then, the fruits of this study should be shared with children so that their precious minds gradually become saturated with the truths of Scripture.

Finally, this simple Proverb stresses the desired outcome of every Christian parent. That is, that our children become faithful servants of God. The Proverb writer not only encourages us to train up our children in the ways of God, but assures us that if we do so, "*when he is old he will not depart from it.*" Certainly, as with all proverbs, this is a general statement of truth that doesn't necessarily hold in all cases. As free moral agents, our children may someday choose to rebel against God – the Bible does not teach the impossibility of apostasy. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to know that the chances of our children becoming faithful Christians are increased exponentially if we will take it upon ourselves to follow the Bible's teaching on parenting.

Parents, let's get busy and train up our children to the glory of God! By **Mike Waters**